

Detroit Food Policy Council – September 13, 2011

5:30 – 7:00 pm

In attendance: Cheryl Simon, Patrick Crouch, Phil Jones, Ashley Atkinson, Kami Pothukuchi, Charity Hicks, Dan Carmody, DeWayne Wells, Malik Yakini, Pam Weinstein, Olga Stella, NeferRa Barber, Owiso Makuku, Sharon Quincy,

Guests: David Lewis, Amanda Musilli, Lynna Kauchek, Ray Stone, Giancarlo Guzman, Sarah Fleming, Lila Cabill, Michelle Jackson, Lisa Oliver, Allison Burket, Mary Lou Malone, Red Elk, Mary Beth Willey, Nate Maccabees, Tavia Benjamin

Minutes

- Minutes reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report (see report)

Based on feedback from the last meeting the fringe benefit line item was increased by \$10,000 annually to accommodate employees with families. The workers compensation line item was accurate and did not change.

ACTION: Budget was approved by consensus.

DFPC Coordinator Report (see report)

- Services agreement with The Greening of Detroit was renegotiated. **ACTION:** The services agreement was approved by consensus.
- Nominating Committee Report given by NeferRa Barber. Patrick – Can we outline a process to abstain from voting for or against ourselves if board members are up for re-election? NeferRa – yes.

Discussion on Whole Food Market

Whole Foods (Red Elk) – Happy to take questions. Malik – How did relationship come into being? Red Elk- The City of Detroit initially approached Whole Foods Market. After the first meeting with the City, Whole Foods organized additional meetings, tours, and conversations with their stores and employees and became very excited about opportunity of building store in Detroit. The Detroit store is planning to open early 2013. They have a signed lease with Ram Real Estate and are now working on construction and design plans.

DEGC (Olga) – Alberta Tinsley Talabi hosted an initial meeting with Whole Foods in 2007. She and a number of church and community members were very interested in bringing Whole Foods to Detroit. Patrick – How does Whole Foods store relate to Green Grocer Program? Olga – The Green Grocer Project came out of work DEGC did in 2007 and 2008 and has been in place since May of 2010. Number one goal is to work with existing grocery stores. Since its launch, they have met with over 20 grocery stores and worked with 12 stores on 30 different issues. There are 5 projects (renovations and improvements) in the works including Metro Food Land in Grandmont Rosedale. DEGC has also worked with 3 new sites, Lafayette Foods, Ye Olde Butcher Shoppe on Woodward, and Whole Foods. Next thing we will be working on is workforce development opportunities including how to benefit from Healthy Food Financing Initiative. Michelle – Who is we? Olga – The people who are running the project at the DEGC. DEGC is also conducting 5 focus groups with community members. Michelle – What neighborhoods are you working in? DEGC - Indian Village, Grandmont Rosedale, Lafayette Park, Eastside – VanDyke and Gratiot. Pam – What is DEGC? Olga – DEGC is a non-profit organization with a

board of over 60 people started more than 30 years ago. We were started as a staffing agency to provide staff support for public entities such as downtown development authority, planning and development, etc. Money comes from donations, grants, fees, etc. We have 35 staff, 11 working on business development, 11 project management-building things, and rest provide administrative support.

How will Whole Foods try and be affordable to Detroit residents? Red Elk – We carry some really expensive items. However, our bulk and staple items are reasonably and competitively priced. WF is trying hard to dispel myths that their food is too expensive by leveraging buying power. Frankly, we are excited about working in Detroit to prove that everyone, no matter what his or her income, can afford to eat healthy.

Patrick – Disappointed City in not at table tonight. Where are the incentives coming from and what role does City play in making decisions about how those incentives are funded? Malik – Was the Detroit Food Security Policy reviewed or considered in making decisions about the kind of stores to court? Olga – The City has not played a large role in bringing WF to Detroit. The incentives are mostly coming from Federal New Market tax credits. There may be incentives coming from the state but the applications don't come out till early October. The City of Detroit is not provided any incentives to WF.

Charity – Do revenues go to Texas? Red Elk – Yes, profits go to investors and share holders. Charity – How much of revenue goes to local communities? Red Elk – About 5% of profits are contributed back to the communities where we do business. There are other ways we invest in communities including jobs, training, etc. Charity – What did WF make last year. Red Elk - Total annual sales were \$9 billion. David – Total profit typically 1-7% of total sales. Red Elk – Base starting wage is \$9.50 per hour with benefits and profit sharing. 70%-80% employees offered full-time plus benefits. That is much better than what other grocery chains offer.

Lottie – We have local businesses that have chosen to do business in Detroit. Wonder about sustainability of those stores. WF will also aid in the gentrification of neighborhoods that is happening in the City. How is the Green Grocer Project challenging fast food? Olga – Profit margins for grocery stores are not good. Independent grocers' profit margin is about 1%. We are meeting with local grocers to help improve that. WF is just one piece of the puzzle. There is a lot of information about what Detroiters want. There are a wide variety of people here and people in Detroit overwhelming want to eat healthy. Lottie – Argument that there is nobody in the city with the skills or interest to do this work is an old excuse. Olga – No other grocer in Detroit is willing to source healthy and organic product mix or change product mix. We are willing to work with anyone in the City who wants to work with us.

Lila – Where is the real support to change Detroiters capacity to do this work? What is your interest in developing capacity and addressing and removing barriers to success? I don't hear it. Corporate welfare is prevalent. Olga – We have been working with 12 other grocery stores. All stores we've worked with are on our website). There are 40 different groups working with businesses in the city and it is not very well coordinated. The DEGC is working with groups to try and help coordinate these services. Process is too confusing for most business owners and entrepreneurs. We believe most economic growth that is going to happen in the city is in small businesses. We have to invest in them and coordinate services. Lottie – City should create an environment (based on it's own food security policy) that promotes small business development.

Nate – Thinks this has been a productive conversation. WF is coming into a city that has been wounded. Justice will win out. What are some of WF concerns and fears about store building here? Red Elk – Build a store and no one comes. Whether product is fresh, service is good, and

people will return. WF has to earn trust by building relationships. That people won't give us a chance and dismiss us because we're from Texas. We try and grow leadership from area. Nate – Can you think of any specific concerns about working in Detroit? Red Elk – Same as what I just articulated. Things are magnified because of what media come out about Detroit. We want to be in Detroit and feel fortunate that we have convinced our leadership to locate in Detroit.

Malik – The executive committee is recommending that the DFPC work with WF to facilitate a Community Benefits Agreement with WF. There are similar agreements including one between WF and a community in Boston. The process could be hammered out in the Food Justice Workgroup. Patrick – Would WF be willing to work on a CBA? Would WF leadership (those who could approve such a document) be willing to work on a CBA? Red Elk – Yes. We are happy to have those conversations. Phil – One of the first steps would be to get a better idea of people's concerns and what we want.

ACTION: DFPC Council supported initiating a process to negotiate a CBA with WF by consensus. Olga concerned that process isn't clear.

Work Group Reports

Healthy Food Work Group met last night. Among others, Up South Foods and Peaches and Greens attended. There was much agreement that buying in large quantities could be beneficial for many. Phil – We need assistance in populating work groups. Lists and sign-in sheets need to be returned to DFPC office and included in database. Need to set some goals. Notes need to come back to DFPC office. Community Food Justice – Great interest in working with No Disrespect Campaign and Whole Foods CBA. School and Institutions – Nutrition and education should be one of work group's focus. Betti Wiggins interested in creating a co-op program for HS seniors. Need to make sure that charter schools don't get left out of conversation.

Urban Agriculture Workgroup – Meeting postponed due to miscommunication about location.

Lynna - Not receiving email notices. Phil and Cheryl will remedy.

Dan – Retreat would be a good time/place to inventory and combine groups for example Green Ribbon Collaborative and Healthy Food Access Workgroup.

Reports from Governmental Representatives

Executive Branch Report - (no report - first meeting)

Legislative Branch Report – (No report. Kathryn was not present)

Department of Health and Wellness Promotion – (Sharon)

Major staffing changes happening at Department. Loretta Davis from Wayne County is the new Director. No general managers and no deputy directors have been appointed. Generally, there are many vacancies that need to be filled.

Report on Program Manager Progress

Dewayne Wells – Subgroup received Charity's response. Subgroup met and reviewed two outlines on August 18. Overall there is high level of congruence of reports, at least up until May 11th Executive Committee. Subgroup findings include there were a number of entities that came in and out of hiring process. There was also turn over in executive committee. That turn over created some challenges and confusions. DFPC should create specific interview, hiring, and

human resource policies and practices. Subgroup will compile a list of HR trainings available and recommend. Offers in writing and not in email and outline any conditions for that offer. All other information should be in writing.

ACTION: There will be a report issued. The Executive will review the report and begin to implement recommendations. If either Charity or DFPC wishes to pursue formal mediation the subgroup will help to facilitate.

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 5:30-7:30PM at the Eastern Market Corporation.

Public Comment

- None.

Announcements

- Giancarlo Guzman – United Way Hunger Summit event October 3, 2011.
- Michigan Department of Agriculture visit to Eastern Market on Friday, September 30
- Bioneers on October 14-16, 2011 at Marygrove College
- Earthworks Harvest Festival on September 17 at Gleaners
- DTown Harvest Festival on September 24 at DTown Farm
- Apple Gala to benefit Friends of Eastern Market, October 14
- Support HB 4409 and Act 131

Meeting Adjourned at 8:13 PM