

**Detroit Food Policy Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 19, 2010 5:00 p.m.  
Eastern Market Corporation – Detroit, MI**

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman, Malik Yakini

**1) Welcome and Introductions**

**Members in attendance:** Malik Yakini, Charles Simmons, Dan Carmody, Kami, Pothukuchi, Phil Jones, Pam Weinstein, Patrick Crouch, Minsu Longiaru, Charity Hicks, Ashley Atkinson, Marilyn NeferRa Barber, (phone), Taja Sevelle (phone), Charles Walker, Anntinette McCain

**Members absent:** Joe Gappy, Dr. Calvin Trent, Dwight Wilson, DeWayne Wells, Kathryn Underwood, Richardo Guzman,

**Public in Attendance:** Majora Carter, Melissa Dourghty, Michelle Jackson, Barbara Bloom, Rod Toneye, Jasen Dippel, Edith Steanhouse

**2) Approval of minutes from meeting on 12/15/2009**

Group read and approved by consensus the record of the 12/15/2009 meeting with the following corrections: none.

**3) The City Farm Project – Majora Carter**

Majora introduced herself to the Council and shared some of her personal and professional history working on Environmental Justice efforts in the South Bronx, NYC. She also discussed her plans to create Green Investments and Businesses that support them in Detroit. The idea is to build worker owned local greenhouses and create and market an urban produce brand. The business plan is currently being development and has been encouraged by the Kresge Foundation.

Q: What's the timeframe?

A: They are hoping to be working on the ground by March or April 2010.

Q: Urban Farming is interested in working with you. What are potential next steps for groups who would like to work with you?

A: Majora will call Taja to talk about projects in more detail.

Q: What other cities are included in your plan?

A: Detroit is pilot and the Majora Carter Group and is only researching other cities at this time.

Q: What is the size of the greenhouses that you are looking at?

A: Looking at 15,000 square foot greenhouses. Ann Feroock is being consulted on various greenhouse and hydroponic systems.

Q: Who will be the consumers of the products?

A: The Group is interested in generating volume and selling both inside and outside of City.

Q: How did you come to choose Detroit for your pilot project?

A: We followed Kresge Foundation.

Q: Will the greenhouses be new construction?

A: Yes.

C: If new construction, you need to consider job and employment opportunities for Detroiters.

Q: How many people would you estimate would be worker-owners?

A: We believe there will be 30 full-time jobs created for each structure.

C: 16-19 year-old youth should be considered for employment.

Q: Have you looked at or considered specific sites?

A: No. We are waiting for City to tell us what's available.

Q: Who are you working with from City?

A: Olga from DEGC.

#### **4) Selection of Members with Two-Year Term**

The Lottery was tabled until the next meeting due to poor meeting attendance. The Lottery will consist of 9 2-year term tickets and 9 3-year tickets being drawn from a hat. Members will draw tickets to determine if their term will be for 2 or 3 years. If a member is not present a ticket will be drawn on their behalf.

At this time Council members discussed how to address long-term absences for Council members. This topic was brought to light by Member Charles Simmons who will be on sabbatical traveling in Africa for an extended period in 2010. Despite some discussion about the negative impact of long-term absences on the Council's ability to reach a quorum and conduct business, the members present decided by consensus to draft an amendment to by-laws providing guidelines for extended leaves. Kami will be drafting amendment for discussion our next meeting.

#### **5) Recommendations on Selection of Fiduciary**

An ad hoc committee submitted a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DFPC and Gleaners Community Food Bank to the Council for review. The purpose of the MOU was to secure and begin to draw down the funds earmarked by the Detroit Food and Fitness Initiative to implement the work of the DFPC. Suggested changes from the group included:

- Remove the 'Community Action Plan Goals' section
- Add a 'Goals' section indicating that DFPC activities will support the Detroit Food and Fitness Initiative by working towards achieving our established mission and goals.
- Remove the 'Compensation' section

The ad hoc committee also presented a list of requested materials/answers from our potential fiduciary. These included:

- What is Organization's mission and values?

- What are potential administration fees?
- Can we review most recent financial audit?
- What other organizations have you acted as fiduciary for?
- What will be the process for financial reporting?
- What will be the check request procedures and expected turn around time?
- What is the process for hiring and supervising DFPC staff?
- What's included in your benefits package?

Our committee also anticipated the following questions from a potential fiduciary:

- How much advocacy/lobbying do you plan to do and how will that impact our 501c3 status?
- What is the DFPC's projected annual budget?

The Ad Hoc Committee, with Olga taking the lead, was tasked with requesting that The Greening of Detroit provide answers for these questions and drafting a fiduciary contract. It was decided that we are requesting a Contract and not a MOU or MOA. The Ad Hoc Committee, with Kami taking the lead, will also research advocacy and lobbying guidelines set by the federal government for 501c3 organizations.

## **6) Prioritizing Our Work**

Malik stated the agreed upon goals of the DFPC. These include:

- Advocate for urban agriculture and composting being included as part of the strategic development of the City of Detroit.
- Work with City departments to streamline the processes and approvals required to expand and improve urban agriculture in the City of Detroit including acquisition of land and access to water.
- Review City of Detroit Food Security Policy and develop an implementation and monitoring plan that identifies, priorities, timelines, benchmarks, and human financial and material resources
- Produce and disseminate an Annual City of Detroit Food System Report that assesses the state of the city's food system including activities in production, distribution...
- Recommend new food related policy as the need arises
- Initiate and coordinate programs that address the food related needs of Detroiters
- Convene an annual Powering Up the Local Food System Conference

Malik facilitated a discussion about proposed next steps in working toward implementing these goals. Patrick pointed out the clear deliverables as he saw them including producing and disseminating a report and sponsoring the food system conference. The group discussed incorporating the work of the Urban Agriculture Workgroup and the need for an updated, all-inclusive food system asset map for the community and identified prior documents and initiatives that could be revisited to help create this map. These include:

- Grocery Initiative (United Way); Charity
- Mott Group/Fair Food Network Map; Dan
- Detroit Food and Fitness Map; Ashley
- Detroit Green Map; Charity

Once these documents are sent to Ashley she will work with her intern to update and compile the information into a comprehensive document for review at the next meeting.

Malik asked that all Council members review the Detroit Food Policy Document and DFPC Goals thoroughly in preparation for the next meeting. Ashley indicated that her intern could also work on compiling a grid indicating where each Council member's interests lie for each of the DFPC goals.

### **7) Report from Urban Agriculture Workgroup**

There has been no new activity since our last meeting and there was no news to report.

### **8) Meeting Schedule**

Ashley will be sending out a meeting doodle within the next week to gauge the best day and time for DFPC meetings in an effort to set a schedule for the 2010 calendar year.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM at Eastern Market Corp.

### **9) Announcements**

- February 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am, Behind the Kitchen Door (ROC Event)
- February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30pm, Speaker from Holyoke Mass. at WSU
- June 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, US Social Forum at Cobo
- Garden Resource Program Applications Ready and Distributed
- February 16<sup>th</sup>, 6-8PM, GRP Winter Potluck and update on food related policy initiatives for Detroit (Malik or another representative from the DFPC will provide brief update)
- WSU Cities and Food series open to public
- February 25<sup>th</sup> Good Food Summit
- February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9-12PM, Ernesto-Small Business Development sponsored by Eastern Market
- February 6<sup>th</sup> Race Food and Resistance at Nsoroma (Undoing Racism in March)
- February 19<sup>th</sup>, Urban Agriculture Presentation at University of Michigan Dearborn

**10) Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:14Pm