

Detroit Food Policy Council – November 9th 5:30 – 7:00 pm

In attendance: Malik Yakini, Dan Carmody, Charles Walker, Patrick Crouch, Taja Seville, Phil Jones, Charity Hicks, Nefer Ra Barber, DeWayne Wells, Antoinette McCain, Pam Weinstein, Kathryn Underwood, Minsu Longiaru

Guest: Natasha, Lila Cabbil

Michigan Citizen Articles and Last Month's Notes

- **Action Item – We'll need to approve last month's (October)'s minutes in the future because we don't have a copy of those notes with us today**
 - **All Council Please** do look at the October minutes when you receive them to check if you have your article submission due to the *Michigan Citizen*
 - **NOTE:** If October minutes are not sent out, Malik will send everyone an email list to remind them

Report from the DFPC Hiring Committee

- Reviewed 31 applicants who submitted resumes. 8 semi-finalists were selected using the job description and through a committee consensus. Interviews were conducted with all 8 semi-finalists, who were scored according to a rubric. 4 finalists were selected and recommended to the DFPC Executive Committee. DFPC Executive Committee is in the process of investigating candidates to inform their final selection of the top candidate.

Office Development, Fiduciary, Lease, Bank Account

- Ashley Atkinson is responsible for doing some of the purchasing of the new staff person's office equipment – computer, telephone (DFPC will need a separate telephone line)
- Lease was signed and in effect as of October 15th
- Fiduciary agreement with Greening was signed at the last meeting
- Separate bank account (First Independent) was opened for the Detroit Food Policy Council today (Charles Williams is the only signer; 3 additional signers will be added – Malik, Kami, and Ashley. Treasurer's signature will be required on all checks; one additional signer on each.)

Committee Reports

Powering up the Local Food System: (Phil Jones)

- Conference committee met yesterday (Phil and Malik)
 - We'll need to increase the frequency of the conference committee meetings → frequency TBD
 - Proposed budget for conference, *extremely preliminary* → \$300,000. Started to make a spreadsheet template.
 - Goal: Make sure that all spending for the conference is transparent.
 - Do we need to do a separate audit of the conference if the budget is so high?
 - 'Ask Letter' has been developed for fundraising purposes. Goal is to send it out within 7-10 days. (These letters have various levels of financial donations, opportunities for joining a conference committee, and also targeted towards specific funders). Phil Jones is planning on sending out the letters. Patrick Crouch and Dwayne Wells are also available to help with this.

- *Want a copy of the letter?* Email Phil Jones, Conference Coordinator
- Kellogg may have \$30,000 in funds for the conference.
 - Malik spoke with Linda Jo Doctor, Detroit Program Officer. She clarified that the Kellogg allocation is \$120,000 for the Food Policy Council and \$30,000 for the conference. Malik is in the process of requesting additional funds from Kellogg.
 - Good Food → may have \$800 in funding
- Conference committee will need to figure out future meetings, how to engage people, and also how to work with the Executive Director
 - **Action Item: *We need help* → Can DFPC get anyone with finance expertise to help with the conference?**
 - *Charity Hicks* will assist Phil Jones in identifying fundraising and grant opportunities for the conference
 - Approaching City Councilors, senators, and politicians to see if they can contribute discretionary funds
- Proposed Date for Powering Up the Local Food System Conference → March 2011
- **Next Conference Committee Meeting – 11/16, Eastern Market, 6-8 pm** – any and all DFPC members who wish to have input into the conference *are encouraged to attend this meeting*. Participation in the conference committee is the way to shape this process.
 - *Question* – Taja – What are the objectives of this conference with the resources we are planning on allocating to it?
 - Introduce DFPC to the public
 - Introduce the DFPC report
 - Launch the task forces and identify community leadership who can engage with the Council.
- Description of Conference
 - 3-5 Pre-Summit Public Forums with subject matter TBD. Opportunity to engage the public and identify potential leaders. Considering: SW, SE, Cntrl, NW, NE. Or East, West, and Central, if 3 pre-summit fora.
 - Summit itself – 2-day event
 - Day One
 - Rolling out the report
 - Task Force
 - Leadership summit with community and grassroots org
 - Day Two – Citizens Food Summit open to the general public
- **Action Item: *Kathryn Underwood* will provide an updated synopsis of the conference**
- **Priority Action Items: (suggested by Malik)**
 - **Location visited (Cobo Hall) → Phil, all venue info available by next Tuesday or Wednesday**
 - **Send out the save the date invites**
 - **Secure necessary funds**

Food System Report

- Kami not here (excused absence) we don't have the committee's report. No update.

Policy Committee Update: (Dan Carmody)

- Attendees: Malik Yakini, DeWayne Wells, Dan Carmody

- Recommended top-four short-term action areas that will form the bases of the four task forces that will be rolled out at the Powering Up the Local Food System Conference
 - Access to Quality Food in Detroit
 - Citizen Education/Food Literacy
 - Urban Agriculture
 - Economic Injustice within the Food System
 - Rationale: We feel these are the areas in which we have an emerging body of community work that can help inform DFPC's work and that can also result in engaging the most people
- *Question: Kathryn Underwood → What about the particular action items?*
 - Policy Committee response → The action items will be decided by the task forces dedicated to each topic
 - We can use the summit and pre-summit meetings to update the public on existing work that is happening in each of these four areas (Patrick) as well as engage the community and have them contribute their knowledge to these efforts (Lila)
- *Announcement: Dan Carmody → CS Mott Group is planning a 'Making Good Food Work: A Conference on Local and Regional Food Distribution' Conference that is going to be happening in Detroit. We should make sure that we coordinate with this effort.*
- *Announcement: Malik Yakini → Can the Undoing Racism in the Food System group sponsor a 2-day training the week before the summit, that could somehow be linked in terms of publicity to the Powering Up the Food System Conference? This could extend it into a week of official activities structured around the summit. Just to put on the radar screen. More formal proposal to follow.*

Government Report-Backs

- Mayor's Office
 - Taja Seville – I didn't receive any comments electronically about last month's report. If you have any comments, please send it to my email address. I am more than happy to forward any comments to the mayor's office.
 - *New Email Address:* gc@urbanfarming.org
 - Charity Hicks – What is the mayor's position on the DFPC?
 - Taja Seville – It's not really something that there's a lot of dialogue about. The city is most concerned with urban agriculture and its lack of a land use policy. Budget cuts and personnel changes have resulted in less of a focus on food policy.
 - Phil Jones – Should the DFPC present to the mayor so that he knows what we're doing? It seems like we need a better understanding of each other.
 - Taja Seville – I can look into this.
 - Charity Hicks – Rightsizing, land-use and government operations are being transformed. Is food policy being considered along with all of this?
 - Taja Seville – Yes, particularly in terms of health care implications and costs. Right now the city has pressing issues and is on the brink of bankruptcy. So there are a lot of fires to put out. Although food policy is an important issue, it has been really hard for the city to prioritize and focus on food policy. City officials are looking at ways to bring in federal funds and investment into the city. They're behind on their financial goals. Exacerbated by census, lack of voter turnout, and junk bond status. Mayor's Office vision is to avoid

bankruptcy, try to bring in extra funding, and also to make personnel cuts and changes.

- Lila Cabbil – How relevant is food policy to the city of Detroit? (Charity Hicks) *Within the Mayor's operational and programmatic vision for the city's executive office, where does the Detroit Food Policy Council fit in, in terms of the development of food policy in the city of Detroit?*
 - **Action Item – Malik Yakini – Can you please submit your question in writing to Taja and cc the Council so we can fully understand the question?**
 - **Action Item - Taja Seville – I will pose these questions to the Mayor's office**

City Council Report Back (Kathryn Underwood)

- We have some MSU profs who are helping us with a draft code and policy. Once this draft is available, we will circulate it for public comment.
- We are also trying to work out with the state of Michigan about the right to farm act. The best thing would be for the City of Detroit to receive an exemption under this act. We're meeting with potential allies and opponents.
- At the beginning of the year, we'll work on setting up a meeting with the Detroit City Council and the DFPC. It works better in terms of the City Council's calendar. City Council is cramming to get stuff done before they go on resource.
- Can we include a panel at the conference on the science and economics of urban agriculture? E.g. soil quality, applications of pesticides, etc.
 - City Planning Commission is drafting the language for the ordinance
 - This includes outdoor markets, etc.
- Written reports on DFPC's work to City Council? I've been waiting for DFPC to get past some of its internal structural work to report to the City. Once that that work has been taken care of, I'll be doing written reports to City Council.
- **Action Item – Kathryn Underwood – At the next Food Policy Council meeting I'll bring all the materials from the Urban Ag Work Group so we can share with the entire DFPC where we are in this process**
- **Action Item – Malik Yakini**
 - **In the future, can we have written reports from each of the government representatives? (Mayor and City Council and Department of Health and Wellness Promotion)**
 - **Can the government representatives explore with the Mayor's and City Council's office the possibility of securing additional funds for the conference? In the absence of funds, which may be not available, perhaps we can get other forms of in-kind assistance? Use of city facilities, PR assistance, staff members assigned to work on the conference? As conference gets closer, we can do a specific ask, but let's put it on the radar now.**
- **Action Item - Charity Hicks – Grass Tops Piece**
 - **We want to make sure that all of the local, federal, state and policy makers are part of the summit as well.**

Department of Health and Wellness

- Bill Ridella (excused absence) → no report available

Next Meeting

- **Tuesday, December 14th, 5:30 pm, Eastern Market Corporation** (2964 Russell Street)

Announcements

- Antoinette – I'd like to email the DPS Wellness Policy to the DFPC. It would be helpful to have DFPC's input on this.
- Dan – Eastern Market is on Detroit 187
- Charity – Consortium is working on a People's Rightsizing Framework. MWRO is holding a People's Movement Assembly to engage the community on the rightsizing issue.