**GC Meeting Minutes**

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| **Date/Time/Location** | 9/19/16: 4-6pm, Public Works building |
| **Facilitator** | Mary Lou Kemph |
| **Note Taker** | Nicole Hinebaugh |
| **Time Keeper** |  |
| **Attendees** | Kiera Bulan, Steve Duckett, Mary Lou Kemph, Janna Gower, Casey Epstein, Darcel Eddins, Brandee Boggs, Jillian Wolfe |

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| **Consent for Last Month’s Meeting Minutes** | Yes |

**Minutes**

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| **Agenda Items** | **Discussion** | **Conclusions/Action Items** |
| * 1 .( 4:00--4:07) CHECK-IN AND SET NEXT MEETING DATE --7 MIN. | * Mary Lou, Brandee, and Darcel will be absent in October. | * Skipping meeting in October. Next GC meeting will be Nov. 21st, 2016 from 4-6pm. |
| * 2. (4:07--4:12 ) APPROVE LAST MINUTES FROM GC MEETING OF August 15, 2016 AND APPROVE AGENDA FOR TODAY--5 MIN. | * Amber is not coming today. | * **consent** * **skip Amber’s section** |
| * 3. ( 4:12---4:22 ) INTRODUCTION OF ABFPC NEW COORDINATOR ---10 min.---KIERA | * Relocated from Maine, have social justice and urban agriculture experience with a Community Land Trust and ran a nonprofit working with ag farmers in Wisconsin. Also worked at a direct market farm. Moved to Maine then and have been doing consultation with farmers, etc. * Partner is working with WWC as a new faculty member. * Have two small children. |  |
| * 4. ( 4:22--4:37 ) UPDATE FROM AMBER---15 MIN | * *Skip this section. Amber is not coming tonight.* |  |
| * 5. ( 4:37---4:47 ) APPROVAL OF ABFPC GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT--10 min. | * Question about why Policies and Procedures is separate from our Governing Docs. Answer that it was determined that Policies should be separate, because they are updated more frequently. * Original blue book of policies and procedures is at the BC office. | * Add updated Governance Doc to the Blue Book. * Jillian will update Blue Book with other newer policies and updates. * Kiera will bring Blue Book to all GC meetings. * Jillian will update our policy doc regarding bringing cluster proposals to GC meeting. * Kiera will help to make Gov. Doc table of contents linkable to content. * Request for all policies and the Gov. Docs to contain words “approved “ with date of approval. Jillian will add to the Gov. Doc. |
| * 6. ( 4:47--5:02 ) BRIEF UPDATES FROM EACH CLUSTER TO WELCOME KIERA---15 MIN | * Water Cluster: water is a primary natural resource here, in Asheville, very clean and abundant. Want to see surface water managed wisely, and to promote local control of the water. Concern about Raleigh attempting to take control of city’s water supply, and about it being eventually privatized. Asheville is currently in a lawsuit about this. Also working on defluoridation of city water supply. Working on trying to secure an agricultural rate for water that is separate/different from residential and irrigation rates. * Access Cluster: work with a lot of organizations that are working on Access issues such as Healthy Corner store initiative with YES to get adequate refrigeration into corner stores to increase produce supplies. Working with Just Economics around transportation issues: Bags on the Bus policy. Working on Double Up Food Bucks Program to try to get it started here locally. Also support Ujamaa Freedom Market, Urban Ag Alliance, and Community Garden Network. * Policy Mobilization Cluster: hasn’t been active in a while. Was active previously with FAP and some UDO changes. Now it is an ad hoc working group which comes together as needed when policies come forward from clusters. Question: would it be helpful for us to have some link with someone with political influence as part of that group? * Land Use Cluster: started by looking at public land parcels, and how it could be used for food growing/production. Large parcel in Mills River which has some issues. This issue got somewhat derailed by a Fruit and Nut Club action, and now Amber is managing an Adopt-a-Spot program with Greenworks which takes these reins. Also talking with Eric Bradford about identifying county owned parcels for public growing. Also working on Edible Mile discussion to include edibles on French Broad River West Greenway, which will be managed by Greenworks. Met with Suzanna Dennison from SAHC Farm Link to look at privately owned land for lease outside of city limits (larger parcels) to look at developing urban ag opportunities there. Working on facilitating promotion of that program. Not sure if they’re looking at ag easements. * Farmer Support Cluster: look for ways to enhance farm profitability and enterprises. 3 active growers on the committee, and 6-7 folks who come on regular basis. Have surveyed conventional growers to determine what the roadblocks are to selling in a local market, selling organic food, etc. This was related to the FAP, and was looking at increasing amount of acreage being grown and sold locally. There was some interest from conventional growers about expanding CSA outreach, and others who weren’t interested in expanding/changing. Not terribly surprising, because large farms are often high capacity-producers. Working on developing some policy language related to benefits of having farms that is understandable to the general public. Local average age of farmers is similar to national level: 58-60 y/o. Have been attempting to lower the age of farming/farmers for some time now. Would be good to know if this has been successful here. Seems like a lot of the farmers who are selling at the Farmers’ Market are younger. USDA’s definition of a farm is only one which has a higher specific number of acres for use, and amount of production. Smaller growers don’t really count to the USDA or to the Organic Certification. ASAP does count numbers related to smaller growers, and Buncombe County’s Sustainability Plan also uses those numbers. Have reached a point of saturation with tailgate markets, looking more toward CSA’s for farm expansion supports. Question: what kind of support do our urban farmers have? Answer: pretty much none. Farmer Support Cluster does provide some technical support to smaller growers, but amount of time spent with farmers is commensurate with the amount of food they produce, so smaller farmers don’t get a lot of time. Many family farmers grow up learning what the resources are, but newer farmers don’t necessarily have that information. This is why it is important to change the policy so that smaller farmers can receive more support. But OGS has a Home Grower Outreach program which can help any and all growers at any level. * Farm My Yard: Land Use looked at this program, but couldn’t find anyone to house it locally. Would work well for OGS to house it, but they don’t have capacity right now, | * Add Policy Mobilization ad-hoc group to next agenda. * Jillian will check to see if GC email listserv has precedent for adding coordinator. |
| * 7. ( 5:02--- 5:12) IDENTIFYING SUPERVISORS FOR NEW ABFPC COORDINATOR----10 min | * Brandee and Nicole have offered to take over this role. * No questions about this role. * Reminder from Darcel about communicating with coordinator through supervisors as far as adding items to Kiera’s workload, however, coordinator will have time each month as part of workplan to communicate with clusters. | * Request for update at next meeting about cluster communications with coordinator. Brandee/Nicole will send an email out to everyone regarding cluster communications with coordinator within next month. |
| * 8. ( 5:12--5: 22 ) BRIEF DISCUSSION OF CONTENT FOR ABFPC FACE BOOK PAGE/ ADDING CLUSTER MINUTES TO WEBSITE --10 MIN--JILLIAN | * Tracy Kunkler asked for a single username/password for an email for all FPC folks to use to access Circle Forward training now and in future. * Discussed in August about adding all cluster reps as editors to the facebook page, but haven’t yet talked about content. Right now we have notices of events around town. But that info is already getting out there via other nonprofits, etc. So, what do we want to post? Policy stuff, event stuff, job postings, articles, etc. * Cluster minutes to website: add to agenda in November. | * Brandee and Nicole will work on answering this question from Tracy with Kiera. * Agreed that we can all post anything that is in line with our mission and values as an organization and that moves our work forward. Mary Ellen is current administrator. Casey emailed ME, haven’t heard back yet. Needs someone else to do this. Need to be aware of who we are when we’re commenting on other posts. * Darcel will reach out to ME to make Brandee an admin. * Cluster minutes to website will be added to agenda in November. |
| * 9. ( 5:22--5:42 ) REVIEW OF REQUEST FROM FNC TO ADDRESS SUGGESTED CHANGES TO FOOD ACTION PLAN---20 MIN---Jillian | * Fruit and Nut Club presented verbally at SACEE. SACEE’s response was mixed: FNC didn’t have a formal request, and SACEE followed up with questions, but said that everyone needs to go to the Tree Commission with these issues. Mary Ellen typed loosely presented list with Gabi and Justin from FNC and gave to ABFPC. * Suggestions from Fruit Nuts re: City Food Action Plan -- seeking approval  1. agreed upon way of identifying and protecting new and existing edible plantings. This includes leaving tree guards in place while mowing and weed whacking. 2. revising caliper requirements for trees and shrubs toward rules that allow for smaller, more affordable plants to be planted 3. helping establish personal relationships between park maintenance staff and BFNC/public foods volunteers, through exchange of contact info and perhaps a party or two 4. help develop awareness, understanding, and pride of the public edible plants as a significant, unique feature of Asheville, perhaps through a public edibles awareness day 5. clarify rules and regulations around signage in parks and revise them to be reasonable for citizens/volunteer groups to be able to put up educational signs 6. prioritize food plants highly in landscaping budgets 7. revise mission statements of Parks and Rec and Public Works to prioritize edibles 8. support city and community efforts to grow field nurseries of edible tree and shrub species on city land for later planting in parks  * Was determined previously that this would be sent out to all the clusters and let clusters look over it. However, this seems no longer necessary as there is now a process in place to evaluate the FAP, and this could possibly be part of that process. * Gabby would like an email that states that we’re following up on this process through the coordinator. | * Jillian will send email to whole FNC that those 8 items will be considered during portion of FAP revisions which include outreach to clusters and public. |
| * 10. ( 5:42--5:47) ---CLOSING ROUND--5 min. | * Some frustration around excess information being shared. * Mercury going direct on Wednesday. * Excited to get together with Kiera and Brandee to get some details hammered out. * Some additional frustration shared about process, but not a big deal. * Good meeting, and good things accomplished. Thanks to Casey for his support and work. * Thanks to supervisors for stepping into roles. |  |

**Next Meeting**

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| **Date/Time/Location** | November 21st from 4-6pm |
| **Facilitator** | Janna Gower |
| **Agenda** | Access Cluster will present |