FPC General Meeting 7/28/14 – Minutes by Cathy Holt

Present: Laura Cheatham, Christina Hall: Health & Education; Karen McSwain & Tara Adinolfi, Farm Support; Cathy Holt & Melanie Brethauer, Water Cluster; Susan Garrett, Land Use; Brandee Boggs, Access; Darcel Eddins , Policy Mobilization; Mary Lou Kemph, Land Use; Katie Peterson & Olufemi Lewis, Access; Emma Topor, interim rep for Policy Cluster; Marielle Angell, Pollinators. (Nicole is on maternity leave.) Alphie Rodriguez, guest speaker.

Next meeting: 8/25

Facilitator: MaryLou Kemph

1. Check-ins
2. Minutes approved
3. Intern: Laura has taken on a lot of Emily’s responsibilities. She reported watching the facebook page and posting relevant content, and monitoring the email account. Has met with MaryLou and Darcel, people from WWC and in progress with UNCA to build relationships with those schools to bring in interns for fall or at least spring. Two applicants already, their applications to be reviewed and interviews set up soon.
4. Fundraising Committee has not met. We need a paid position. Darcel connected with Christie who is doing FP work on the state level. Alphie will explain more. Laura volunteered to set up meeting with Karen & Emily.
5. Update on next MotW: Brandee & Darcel. They have been in contact with Gardens United (PVA) and they’ve agreed to FPC use of PVA Peace Gardens, Sat. August 16th: a family potluck picnic. Darcel’s not able to do more outreach on it but will keep in touch with Gardens United. Time suggested: 2-6pm. Melanie will do facebook outreach. Everyone should bring their own plates, forks, etc. There are tables, chairs there, Katie will bring more. Darcel suggested bringing games for kids, Marielle and Darcel will bring some. Suggestions (alphabetical) for what to bring will go on facebook page. Olufemi raised the issue that there is a Hillcrest Family Reunion the same day; churches are involved, maybe Terry Bellamy. So date will be changed to Sunday, Aug. 17 or Aug. 23.
6. Strategic Priorities postponed until Emma can be present. Please print out and bring to next meeting.
7. Proposal for updating the Food Master Plan – presented by Susan Garrett. (See document) Updating would occur annually. March is when clusters would present their action plans following a several month process starting in October.

Comments: Perhaps good idea to align with the time schedule of the city. We need that in writing. Timeline needs to be extended; part II #3, change final Cluster Action Plans submission date to April. Strategic plans can be longer than one year, perhaps better to create a 2-year plan rather than go through and revise the whole plan each year. Also, we only represent half the community, compared to the MotW where the plan was first approved. Penalty to clusters of being considered defunct for not submitting an Action Plan - too severe so final paragraph now deleted (part II #6). How often will the City change its Food Action Plan in response? Agreed that re-doing the whole plan each year is too much. Our action items, we are behind on. Every four years after this, revise the whole plan, with cluster input every two years. We don’t want to task the City too often with changes to the plan. Focus instead on what they’ve already passed and encourage action on that; make sure it’s been embedded in the Sustainability Plan. There are clusters now that did not exist when first Master Plan was formed. Admin. Intern might assist on the revision of the plan. Revise priorities annually with community input every 2 years. Susan to send the revised version out via email for consent.

1. Alphie Rodriguez : Community Food Strategies of the Center for Environmental Farming (www.cefs.ncsu.edu) out of NC State. State is partnering with mature FPCs across the state. Reaching out to several western counties. Asking:
2. December, probably in Forsythe county (Winston-Salem), there will be a Local Food Issues forum; want 2 representatives from Asheville-Buncombe to sit in on planning calls, 2 hrs./month, max of 10 hrs. Give top 2 priorities (Susan will help). All are invited to participate in forum (financial assistance possible). Want rep names soon and meetings will begin in next month. Results will affect CFS priorities and support provided by the state. Laura, Brandee & Olufemi volunteered to be reps. People signed up for the role they want to take.
3. Participate in organizational assessment, via a grad student, to begin in October; Susan volunteered. Funding needs…
4. Karen’s proposal – internal communication among clusters, for more cross-pollination. Create a listserv of active cluster members in order to send out meeting minutes to everyone active in a cluster. We also need more depth from each cluster so 15 min. for one cluster per meeting instead of shorter reports from each one. Have a MotW of only active cluster members twice a year, sharing in depth updates (NOT a public forum). ID areas of potential collaboration among clusters during breakout sessions.

Comments: This proposal needs to go to all the cluster members, since some may not want the (listserv) meeting agendas & minutes. Fear of flooding inboxes. A communications intern could help by posting agendas on website, allowing the public to also see them? We also have the option of requesting particular clusters send us their agendas/minutes, as Susan does with Policy Mobilization. Much support for the in-depth updates. Move cluster updates to beginning of general meeting, and have 2 clusters report? Have one cluster rep give a written update each month? Historically, it was hard to access the website and get stuff on it, but it is easier now; there could be meeting agendas, minutes. Karen will update and send out the proposal via email. At least once a year, hear from all clusters.

1. MaryLou requested that everyone read and print out the agenda and all proposals before the monthly meeting to conserve time.