

Meeting Minutes

Date/Time/Location	9/28/15, 4:00pm-6:00pm, Public Works Building
Facilitator	Jillian Wolf
Note Taker	C. Nicole Hinebaugh
Time Keeper	Melanie Brethauer
Attendees	Laura Cheatham, Melanie Brethauer, Mary Ellen Phillips, Darcel Eddins, Mary Lou Kempf , Tara Adinolfi, C. Nicole Hinebaugh, Jillian Wolf, Emma Topor, Cecil Bothwell, Jonathan Ammons

Consent for Last Month's Meeting Minutes	
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Minutes

Agenda Items	Discussion	Conclusions/Action Items
1. (4:00-4:10) CHECK-IN AND SET NEXT MEETING DATE---10 MIN	Fluoridation article received the most comments of any article in the MtnX in the last 2 years. Everyone is very happy to have rain.	
2. (4:10-4:25) ST LAWRENCE COMMONS PRESENTATION - 15 MIN - CECIL BOTHWELL	A group has been pushing since 2007 for a green space at the Basilica property. Chamber has done drawing of what a 10 story building in that space. Did a phone poll of 1,300 ppl (ppl who have registered to vote and those who voted): 86% of respondents wanted to see a green space in that area. Parking area could be a tail-gate market in the spring. Needs 3 more city council votes for this. Could be a tourist attraction. BCTDA might be contacted to determine if they are interested in putting money into this. Raised beds could be put in place easily and cheaply there to do demonstration gardens. Curious about how well a market would do in that area. Wanting to look and see how the Grove Arcade market is doing/has done. Noted that this is in a food desert, especially for the apartments close by. Having a food park there could be part of the city's commitment.	Add to next month's agenda to discuss what the ABFPC can do to advocate around this work.

	<p>Question about accessibility of a farmers’ market there. Cecil says that we need to have more public discussion around the options for this property. Would like to see the ABFPC join the public comments about this space, offering ideas, etc. A letter to city council also wouldn’t hurt (from Land Use).</p> <p>Time-frame for this decision: after the election, after January.</p> <p>Current lease is month-to-month, and could be vacated with a 30 day notice.</p> <p>Asheville Design Center is working on ideas for how to “activate” that space.</p> <p>Cecil’s main point is not to sell this space. Space has been saved 3 times from development. Current plans are likely to sell to highest bidder, but not likely a hotel due to negative public opinion about that right now.</p> <p>That property is valuable, and it would be unlikely that affordable housing would be built there, even with a RFP process.</p> <p>No other council members are in favor of saving this property, but 3 candidates are in favor. Marc Hunt: green place would be nice, but shouldn’t hold up a deal for a sale.</p> <p>Downtown Master Plan states that there should be parks within 2 minutes walk of each other. This is the only property that fits that description available in this area of the city.</p> <p>Question: is there a way to make zoning recommendations to assist with this? Good Question. Not sure, need to check into this.</p> <p>Jillian will take this info to the Land Use cluster to see if cluster wants to invite Cecil to come and speak.</p>	
<p>3. (4:25-4:30) APPROVE LAST GC MEETING MINUTES OF AUG 24, 2015; APPROVE AGENDA FOR TODAY-- 5 MIN</p>	<p>No objections to last month’s minutes. No objections to agenda.</p>	
<p>4. (4:30-4:45) COORDINATOR UPDATE & DISCUSSION - 15 MIN - MARY ELLEN</p>	<p>Hours have been increased to 30/wk. Will be taking on more administrative duties, such as website, etc.</p> <p>App Foodshed Conference: people were really interested in learning about the ABFPC, and</p>	<p>Mary Ellen should make appointment to meet with Terry Van Duyn to discuss FPC</p>

	<p>was one of only functional FPC's represented there, due to strong foundational work. We're engaging city and county government, and no one else at the conference really is right now, so many folks wanted to learn about our work in this area.</p> <p>Abby Piner with CEFS (statewide FPC support): what's happening on the state level? Need to know what we can do locally to make that impact statewide. Some models in CA that have done this about passing policy on state level, and then cities can just adopt it. Noted that Terry Van Duyn is interested but doesn't know much about Food Policy work. Would like to know more.</p> <p>Had a great meeting with city staff: starting process of going through SACEE and then through Legal, and then city council for an urban farmers' bill: water rates, leasing for city-owned land, tax rebates. City staff had thought we were talking about large parcels of land, but now are going to go back over their books and will look at what smaller parcels are available.</p> <p>All communications with city staff should be by email and asking for written criteria around parcels so as to keep a written record, and avoid tail-chasing. Also, ask who needs to approve these opportunities.</p> <p>Questions for candidate forum: sent out to group. Would like to see question about would they be willing to fund the FPC. Some concern that the city isn't likely to fund us, b/c they think they're broke. Interest in seeing fluoride added in some way into one of the four questions.</p>	<p>work and political advocacy.</p> <p>Requested that anyone who would like Mary Ellen to meet with someone or come to a cluster meeting should let her know in an email.</p> <p>Do we as a council want to be in NC Sustainable Food Network (CFSA)?</p> <p>Tara will send email to introduce Mary Ellen to Rochelle.</p> <p>Mary Ellen should talk with Brownie Newman, although he is not currently responding to requests from Mary Ellen.</p> <p>Another request for those who have relationships with Brownie Newman to arrange an introduction, or go to his office or to a county commissioners meeting and make contact.</p> <p>Request for GC members to look at these questions and get discussion/recommendations done by google doc by evening of Oct. 1st.</p>
<p>5. (4:45-4:55) UPDATE FROM HEALTH &</p>	<p>H&E cluster has been struggling the last 6 months. Had to cancel several meetings, and only have 3 strong returning members including Laura. Held</p>	<p>GC needs the names and contact info for the remaining cluster</p>

<p>EDUCATION CLUSTER - 10 MIN - LAURA</p>	<p>election to replace rep, but outcome didn't work out. Having only one rep is very difficult for Laura. Feeling like staying engaged at cluster level is becoming difficult. Lots of debate about Policy vs. Programming. Most people who are coming regularly are interested mostly in programming. Laura would like to resign as cluster rep. Could still come to GC meetings as AFP rep, and could take notes if GC would like. Getting ready to take on a second job. Feeling a bit overwhelmed. Have done well this year at engaging with community and learning about opportunities available, and have strengthened cluster operations, so some things have improved. Discussion: remaining cluster members aren't interested in being reps and would ideally be absorbed by other clusters. History of FPC has always been that when there is energy to have a cluster then it exists, when there isn't then it doesn't. Laura hasn't had chance to tell cluster yet, but is going to email them for a meeting in next couple weeks to alert them and either get closure or allow folks time to step up in rep role if they would like. Water cluster noted that some of their work is around Health and Education, and so if the remaining participants are interested they could come to Water cluster. A reminder that the Health and Education cluster has always struggled. It's possible that new folks may be interested in reviving or renewing the work of the cluster. Seemed to be a lot of energy around getting local foods into the schools. This deals mainly with statewide policy work. When hours become less overwhelming Laura she might be interested in coming back to the Access cluster.</p>	<p>participants so that we can stay in touch or absorb them elsewhere. All GC reps should update email records for participants.</p>
<p>6. (4:55-5:00) FLUORIDE LETTER UPDATE - 5 MIN - MELANIE</p>	<p>Article was published in Mtn. X with the letter FPC wrote to city council. Good timing with the candidates' forum coming up. Has generated a lot of discussion. 3 more people asked to join the Water Cluster probably as a result of the article.</p>	

	<p>Will be a 20 minute documentary movie about fluoride in the water called Our Daily Dose: Oct 21st at 6:30pm at the Mill Room. Green Sage is providing food. Panel of experts afterward, including filmmaker.</p> <p>Cecil noted that a beer-makers' panel was hosted recently in which a question was asked about a market niche regarding fluoride-free beer.</p> <p>Cecil also noted he needs 3 more votes to pass anti-fluoridation in council.</p> <p>Council is feeling more favorable about it, but is worried about the court issue over our water.</p>	
<p>7. (5:00-5:15) GC POINT PERSON ELECTION - 15 MIN - LAURA</p>	<p>Sent out description, received a lot of feedback about this being part of the Coordinator duties. Reactions: those duties are clearly part of the Coordinator duties, so unclear as to why we are even having this discussion. Mary Ellen should take on these duties.</p> <p>Is Mary Lou still the back-up person for the point-person? Laura could provide support to Mary Ellen while she transitions into taking on these duties.</p>	<p>Mary Ellen will determine with supervisors how this transition will happen.</p>
<p>8. (5:15-5:35) PROGRAM & POLICY IN THE CLUSTERS - 20 MIN</p>	<p>Has been a lot of discussion about this in the clusters. Would be useful to have something in writing regarding our roles with the FPC around policy and programming.</p> <p>Varying philosophies around this: many FPC's do programming (often funded, and meeting unmet needs), and several clusters are interested in doing programming. It also attracts members. Could also look at the GC doing specifically policy and advocacy, and the clusters could do programming if they'd like.</p> <p>In Governance Agreement draft doc there are committees listed as options: advisory, ad hoc, standing, and clusters.</p> <p>In LA all members are on council, and there are committees instead of clusters.</p> <p>What if we had more cross-sector and community stake-holders double linking with the General Council, and GC not be limited to cluster reps.</p> <p>Reactions: we began as a Food Policy Council for the purpose of effective policy advocacy in order to have a place at the policy and decision-making table and so as to take the burden off of the orgs</p>	<p>Would like to see a few people come into the Governance group in order to create some definitions around policy and advocacy and also programs and projects and bring back to GC at next meeting.</p>

doing work in the food world. Very few funders fund policy and advocacy. Darcel very much against doing programs in FPC, and if ppl want to do programs they should be directed toward the orgs doing programmatic work.

Nicole and Emma feeling that policy should be central and primary to our work, but that if clusters identify needs and gaps and have energy to address those needs then they should be allowed to do so if they so choose. Would be good to look at policy and advocacy first at cluster level, but can move toward programmatic action if no one else is doing the work.

Jillian feels that there is often a grey area in which the FPC could be supportive to other orgs and work happening at the cluster level with some action items outside of policy and advocacy.

Tara feels that we are fairly clearly defined as a policy and advocacy org, and that we shouldn't do programming just because it's popular, or because we want to be able to attract more people. Feel that there are plenty of nonprofits around town doing a lot of the work that needs to be done. Networking and greasing the wheels to support the work of others is part of policy and advocacy.

Mary Lou feels that we need a better definition of what advocacy means and what it could look like. Might be useful to attract folks to clusters and bring clarity to our work. Need to become more involved in work happening in community in order to know what kinds of policy recommendations need to be done.

Mary Ellen noted that because we're not part of the city gov't we don't have any opportunity to see policy implemented through programming. If we're going to be working with nonprofits then we need to have them sitting at the table. Need to think about how we are going to be strategic about seeing policy be implemented. Recommendation to see clusters provide presentation.

Melanie likes idea of GC being only policy, and clusters having more flexibility to implement projects if wanted. Important to know that programming and projects are two different things.

	Laura would like to see a few people come into the Governance group in order to create some definitions around policy and advocacy and bring back to GC. Need to have better structure in place in order to identify needs of community and support implementation of solutions.	
9. (5:35-5:55) CLOSED SESSION -- MEMBERSHIP POLICY - 20 MIN - JILLIAN/LAURA		
10. (5:55-6:00) CLOSING ROUND - 5 MIN		

Next Meeting

Date/Time/Location	10/26/15, 4-6pm, Public Works building
Facilitator	
Agenda	