

General Council Meeting 2/25  
Public Works Building

Attendees: Mary Lou Kempf (facilitator), Carlye Gates (notetaker), Darcel Eddins, Brandee Boggs, Karen McSwain, Brittany Wager, Katie Murray, Bradley Jones

Next meeting: Monday, March 25th 4-6p Public Works Building

Introductions and Check-In

Updates from clusters

- Education - newly reestablished cluster following the recent Meeting of the Whole; in a process of re-grouping and identifying the direction(s) the cluster will go, based on the priorities as assigned in the local food action plan; some folks interested in adult education, others more interested in educating children through school gardens, etc; seems the emphasis will be on educating consumers and specifically schools, children, parents; is hopeful to have a facilitator who is not part of the cluster facilitate the cluster meetings; there is a concern about the lack of communication amongst clusters; perhaps a google group should be formed?
- Legislation and Policy - lots of new people joined following the Meeting of the Whole; a few months ago, this cluster worked on both a city and a county piece - is now picking the county piece back up now that new commissioners have been elected; any decisions/proposals will of course come through the General Council; currently having conversations with commissioners; working on fiscal agreement with Carolina Farm Stewardship; we have 2 agencies willing to give us funding if we can secure a fiscal sponsor; this conversation is being continued
- Access - had a few folks join after the Meeting of the Whole; currently engaged in a "strategic planning" process; a few months ago, we identified the obstacles/challenges to food access in this area, next meeting, in March, we will begin brainstorming about how we will address these obstacles and become more solutions oriented; currently refining our focus and clarifying our direction; have been working with Green Opportunities to learn more about the \$800,000 grant they received to address food security issues in order and to strengthen partnerships within the community so that the grant could be successful
- Land Use - had at least 30 people attend the last cluster meeting after the Meeting of the Whole; one part of the cluster is more interested in working with the department heads in the city and the other is wanting to be more hands-on - assess the current land uses, what's happening in terms of community gardens, etc- how land is being used
- Farming - new cluster formed at the Meeting of the Whole; several individuals were initially in the Local Food Flow cluster but felt there was a need and opportunity to develop a cluster specifically for commercial farmers; concerned that the local food action plan did not receive a lot of input/support from commercial farmers; March 11 will be a Farmer Listening Session to discuss Vision 1 of the plan
- Asset Mapping

Election of new facilitator: Mary Lou! Yay!

Discussion of new representatives

- important to have 2 representatives from each cluster for checks and balances purposes
- we will keep the reps as they are for the next 3 months; if a cluster feels the need to rotate, they have the ability to do so when they see fit
- still a lot of confusion/uncertainty about what the current clusters are and who the reps are - again, need for better communication within the council

How can we support new clusters?

- by providing information on how the council works, how it has evolved, be available to answer questions, etc
- continue with outreach - website, social media, etc

Additional agenda items

- Clarifying how this council works - the work of the clusters is intended to stem from the input of the community at the Meetings of the Whole; their input informed the priorities outlined in the local food action plan; the priorities were then assigned to the clusters that were most suitable to address the priorities; while the priorities should then inform the work of the clusters, it is up to the cluster members and reps to identify an "aim" or "action steps" for what the cluster will do in order to work towards/achieve those priorities; outreach for the council is done through events, partnership development, green drinks, facebook, mountain express, meetings of the whole

Action Items

\*Mary Lou has agreed to contact Dayna to verify that we have the correct contact information for all reps and that everything is up to date and also to check in about the website, process for posting minutes, etc.

\*Bradley will check with David to confirm whether there is a 2nd person who can serve as the rep for Asset Mapping

\*We are beginning to see the need, and value for capturing how the food policy council works and how it has evolved over time on a concise document, esp for people who are just joining us

Next Agenda:

-continue conversation about CFSA as fiscal agent

-opportunity to share current events, what's happening in town that may be of interest to council

-fleshing out how to hold space for others' ideas (i.e. people that only show up once, people that have new ideas that perhaps aren't part of the local food action plan), etc