**Health & Education Cluster**

**Minutes 9/15/2014**

1. **Check-in & introductions**. Members in attendance: Laura Cheatham, Timothy Sadler, Cristina Hall, Liz Marascio, Courtney Cox, Ginny Parker, and Grace Raper (intern from UNCA).
2. **Initial ideas**: Look into whether or not Boulder has a food policy council, potentially bring people from the Boulder food movement to share lessons learned (Tim suggested Will Allen).
3. Set **next meeting time for Monday, October 20th at 5:30-7:00pm**. Cristina to email Lindsey at Handmade about the space.
4. **Review of Minutes from August 18th meeting**. Minutes approved.
5. **Ideas/suggestions**: Changing our name to Healthy Food in Schools Cluster.
6. Laura provided **overview and history of Food Policy Council**. The Food Policy Council seeks to bring together groups in the community to connect resources to know what’s going on. General Council is made up of two representatives from each cluster. How to move policy forward to address food issues in the community. The current clusters are: Access, Policy Mobilization, Pollinators, Land Use, Asset Mapping, Farmer Support, and Health & Education. The focus of the Health & Education Cluster has fluctuated over time. Our governing structure is dynamic governance, which is made up of reaction rounds and consent rounds to help facilitate participation and decision-making.
   1. Potential agenda item for next meeting: Brainstorming/focusing on what the Health & Education Cluster would like to pursue.
   2. Other food policy councils have separate clusters for Community Health & Education and School Education.
   3. Reactions: choosing short-term goals (1 year) under the umbrella of the “Health & Education Cluster”. Possibly focusing on school lunches and education with students
   4. Current status of Health & Education Cluster: Have initial list of community resources but this is currently on hold as the cluster determines its focus. There might be other interns and students from UNCA as additional support.
7. **Update from Laura about General Council**:
   1. Laura working to recruit other interns from UNCA.
   2. **Next MotW (public meeting of the Food Policy Council) is scheduled for Friday, October 3 at the Pisgah View Peace Gardens** from 4:30 – 7:30. This will be a potluck style dinner and Bring Your Own Plates and Utensils.
   3. Reminder to Like the Asheville Buncombe County Food Policy Council Facebook page.
   4. The General Council meets the 4th Monday of every month from 4-6pm at the Public Works building on Charlotte St.
   5. This December 4 & 5, the Food Issues Forum will take place in Winston-Salem. Six food policy councils across the state will be learning and sharing. Three to four delegates from the Food Policy Council will be supported (financially). At the next General Council meeting, they will identify two top priorities that will help shape what is discussed at the statewide meeting. Suggested to have one organizational development/capacity-building priority and one community-focused priority.
   6. Discussed strategies for each cluster to narrow down their focus and priorities. (Laura handed out Land Use Strategic Plan for reference).
   7. Funding Committee just submitted a proposal for $4,000 from the Culture of Health mini-award. We will find out sometime next week. On September 26, the Culture of Health Event will take place at UNCA from 4-6pm. This is a public event and everyone is encouraged to come and support and celebrate the Food Policy Council and other organizations in the county that provide the basis for the Award.
   8. General Council will be updating the Master Food Health Plan this coming January.
8. **Each council needs to come up with a strategic plan by the end of October / beginning of November**. Susan from the Land Use Cluster provided a template for each cluster to use in their planning process. It feels appropriate for the Health & Education Cluster to choose just two goals to work on for the upcoming year.
9. **Discussion about the cluster’s focus**. Should we focus on policy connected to healthy food in schools?
   1. Laura suggested looking at current policies surrounding local and healthy food in schools. What are the barriers? What do we need to overcome?
   2. Tim shared that getting healthy food in schools is a five-year process (minimum).
   3. Ginny brought up concerns about focusing on healthy, local food in school lunches. What is healthy? What is local?
   4. Idea to promote support for low-income neighborhoods to have access to better quality foods. Laura mentioned that the Access Cluster tackles a lot of these issues.
   5. Ginny expressed concern about narrowing the cluster’s focus too quickly. Laura agreed and stated she thought it would still be a good idea to complete the Community Education Resource List 1st as a baseline to identify what’s not being done in the community around education and school if we decide to pursue the focus of food in schools.
10. **Quick review of the Food Master Plan**.
    1. For homework: Identify long-term goals and top priorities that align with the Health & Education Cluster or identified gaps that the cluster could focus on.