



Neighborhood Innovations Work Group

Meeting Minutes

Monday January 11, 2010

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Food First Offices

398 60th Street

Oakland

Attendance

Hank Herrera, Nathan McClintock, Shereen D'Souza, Brad Burger, Sara Weihmann, Jamie Nash, Alethea Harper

General Discussion

- The CFSC will be looking at two or three organizations that are using the *Whole Measures for Community Food Security* tool as case samples. They may like to use a food policy group.
- American Babylon, by Robert O. Self, and No There There, by Chris Rhomberg, were recommended by Hank and Nathan as good reads on the political history of Oakland

Agenda Item 1: Goals for the Year

1a. Use of *Whole Measures for Community Food Security* tool

- Discussion:
 - Do we need a separate committee to identify what needs to be addressed at the state and local level?
 - It would be interesting for community groups to use the tool to see where there are gaps in work being done in Oakland
 - Hank said that the tool was initially designed for groups to assess their own work, and hold themselves accountable
 - Should another column be added for 'How important the criteria is to the food system' and another column for how easy it will pass or 'Political Momentum' behind it? A weighting for each item will help identify which 'values' to track.

The OFPC is incubated by:

Food First

- Action:
 - Create a Survey Monkey version of the *Whole Measures for Community Food Security* tool. Jamie will have an editable version of the *tool* by Jan 21st
 - After the Council meeting on January 21st, each member should complete the tool by their next group meeting. Each group can add/subtract something from the tool so their particular interests are represented
 - We can use the *Whole Measures for Community Food Security* tool for both assessing how well the OFPC is following its own goals, and rating Oakland food policy. Hank will explain how the tool can be used in both ways at the Council meeting January 21st
 - If/when we use this with community groups, we'll need to create a digestible version including an introduction to the tool

- 1b: Workshops and dialogues to initiate
 - Discussion:
 - What about surveying all of the organizations doing work related to the food system in Oakland and somehow mapping their work? Ask community groups to use the Whole Measures tool to indicate what they're working on.
 - Action:
 - Surveying organizations may take the form of interviewing people at different agencies to find out all of the goals of all organizations. Ask them about barriers to getting policy passed in/affecting Oakland. Make this information public and possibly use Google maps to track.
 - This proposal will be discussed at the Council meeting January 21st

- 1c: Neighborhood Groups to work with
 - Discussion:
 - We should remember that a neighborhood organization may not represent all groups in the area, and may be associated with a gentrifying agency, so this work group should use them but also look beyond them
 - Church groups: i.e. PICO in Oakland
 - La Clinica, schools, PTAs, community centers, Native American Health Center
 - Suzan Bateson may have a base list of Oakland organizations
 - OFPC could keep tabs on what different organizations are doing, and keep lines of communication open
 - Need to have an answer when someone asks how they can get involved with the OFPC. We could work on pulling together materials/training for people to learn how to advocate for policy change; refer to materials from CFJC and PolicyLink to start this. Could we form chapters in various neighborhoods?
 - Action:
 - PUEBLO may be suited to help identify neighborhood groups and "key informants" to contact. This will be discussed at the Council meeting January 21st

Agenda Item 2: Structure of work group

- 2a: Expansion of work group
 - Discussion:
 - Have experts come in for a particular project in the form of a neighborhood advisory committee or focus group.
 - Should we be tapping into existing neighborhood organization meetings to get the word out about OFPC? Could PUEBLO help identify people for a neighborhood advisory committee?
 - We need to be aware of turf issues among Oakland organizations—this will help with funding too and communication
 - PUEBLO should be used for helping find key informants within Oakland organizations, since they have experience in that
 - Action:
 - On January 21st the work group will discuss the possible role of advisory committee.
 - PUEBLO's possible activities for the Council will be discussed at the Council meeting January 21st
- 2b: Youth Involvement
 - Discussion:
 - Stipends for youth was brought up as a draw to get them involved with the OFPC
 - Action:
 - It is a good idea to have 1-2 youth on the work group
- 2c: Select a Chair
 - Action:
 - Brad volunteered to be chair for first 6 months, and this position will rotate among members.
- 2d: Regular Meeting times
 - Regular meetings will be the 2nd Monday of every month 4:30 – 6:00 pm at Food First's offices. Next meeting will be Feb 8.

Minutes submitted by Jamie Nash.