



City Innovations Work Group Meeting Minutes

Friday January 22, 2010

9:00 – 10:30 am

Offices of Public Health Law & Policy

2201 Broadway, Suite 502

Oakland

Attendance

Heather Wooten, Margot Lederer Prado, Christopher Waters, Trina Barton, Nathan McClintock, Alethea Harper

General Discussion

- Roberta Klugman is interested in the event we're starting to plan, talking to Margot about it. Would love to see permanent exhibit on food and agriculture at the Oakland Museum.

Agenda Item 1: Zoning Recommendations

- 1a: Farmer's Markets (Heather)
 - Need specific definitions for all our topics. Consider logistics like parking, bike parking, compost, etc. (Heather has this available as an appendix)
 - Provide specific geography to suggest for each special use – where in the city should these things be encouraged?
 - Note what percent of nonfood items for sale help make farmers' markets attractive to consumers
- 1b: Fast Food (Heather)
 - Ban fast food near schools, parks, and playgrounds
 - Need to bring this up to wider audience; controversial because it bans ALL fast food, including potentially healthy things
 - Maybe we should instead *encourage* healthy things rather than *banning* unhealthy things. Tie to the possible launch of fresh food financing via the CDC grant.
- 1c: Grocery (Heather)
 - Guidelines on percent of total square footage for various types of food are placeholders – we should figure out what those square footages are in conversation with various stakeholders
 - Incentivize grocery in underserved neighborhoods with specific zoning strategies
 - Talk to Margot's colleague about expanded tenant improvement program – this would go in a redevelopment document

- Need to separate out items that should be addressed through redevelopment, not zoning
- 1d: Urban Agriculture (Heather)
 - Include a set of site operation standards, i.e. where on a site can compost be
 - Split this section into three: private, community/civic, and commercial/industrial
 - Do we need to weigh in on marijuana farms?
 - Need to be careful with soil testing for community gardens; Margot will ask a hazmat guy what bare minimum tests should be conducted that would raise red flags to indicate that additional testing might be needed
 - Is there some type of public map that shows all historic uses of a particular site?
 - Margot has a grant application for a community-wide assessment of toxins
 - Margot wants to include a chapter on urban gardens in the brownfield resource guide she is drafting
- 1e: Processing/production (Margot)
 - Margot will submit her recommendations by email
- 1f: Restaurants/cafes (Chris)
 - There may already be better zoning code on the books, similar to what Chris outlined here
 - The Business Assistance Center is the first place many people go, but they don't seem to be equipped to be helpful. People want someone there who can make the process easier, not just give information on how the process works.
 - Let's create the handbook on food businesses and zoning we talked about last time, including everything for a prospective business owner to consider, including how wide a sidewalk must be to accommodate sidewalk seating, fire exits, etc
 - Push for implementation of Chris' idea of a "survey and quote" process – a worksheet to fill out on all questions asked by a planner, and price estimates for all permitting
 - Have a dedicated food planner who knows people in the health department, etc
 - Have a focus group of sophisticated café owners to share their stories and say what kind of guidance would have been helpful to them, then produce a how-to guide. Margot will see if other places have done this already, perhaps Seattle or Portland
- 1g: Mobile Vending (Margot)
 - Margot will submit her recommendations by email
- We will send our zoning recommendations to the whole OFPC after we meet with the planners

Agenda Item 2: Whole Measures for Community Food Security

- Each work group member will complete the tool in time for our next meeting
- Alethea will work on a version of the tool either in survey monkey, or as an excel workbook that is protected against accidental changes

Agenda Item 3: Scan of local policies and agencies that affect the food system

- Heather can give guidance to the intern team working on this scan (by suggest data sources, etc). We will set up an initial phone call for orientation, then follow up by email for further questions

Agenda Item 4: Discussion items

- 4a: Create a brochure on food businesses and zoning?
 - Discussion:
 - Action:
- 4b: Create a chart of important City timelines?
 - Discussion:
 - Action:

Agenda Item 5: Announcements and Reminders

- Margot will check Devan Reiff and Neil Gray's schedules to see when they could meet, then circulate possible meeting dates to the work group

Minutes submitted by Alethea Harper.