



Meeting Minutes

Work Group: Regional and State Work Group

Date: 03/09/10

Time: 05:00:00 PM

Location: Food First office, 398 60th St., Oakland

Attendance

Alethea Harper, Aaron Lehmer, Alex Fisher, Asiya Wadud

General Discussion

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Agenda Item 1: Approval of minutes

- **Discussion:** Aaron was the only member present, so we put off approving the minutes from the last meeting (since he did not attend).
- **Action:**

Agenda Item 2: Zoning for Urban Agriculture

- **Discussion:** A simple flow chart for planners without zoning expertise would be useful as a means to streamline the zoning process. It would also be helpful to have a similar chart that streamlines the process of establishing a cafe.

Two sections will exist, one that covers backyard agriculture and one that covers commercial urban agriculture.

The process of issuing permits should also be clearly illustrated.

As zoning laws are only updated every 30 years, it would be ideal if these new zoning changes could make it onto the books.

- **Action:**

Agenda Item 3: Agency and Policy Scan

- **Discussion:** Alex Fisher (Food First intern) has been working on the county level of the policy and agency scan. We are currently looking for Council members to offer guidance on the policy/agency scan work and offer any suggestions as far as agencies/ policies that have been omitted.

('Particularly shocking' policies are in bold.)

Aaron Lehmer is particularly interested in the production end of policy scan. Aaron suggested BCBC and MTC be added to the scan.

- **Action:** Alex will add BCBC and MTC to the county level policy/ agency scan

Change the page layout so that the scan is in 'landscape orientation' rather than 'portrait'.

Aaron will review the policy scan.

Agenda Item 4: Whole Measures

- **Discussion:** The below items were deemed areas that we could begin to conquer as the Regional- State group:

Justice and Fairness

1.B

Demonstrates a decrease in food insecurity (hunger, obesity, diet-related disease).

Strong Communities

1.C

Supports community resilience to social and environmental threats like food insecurity, violence, disease, illiteracy, and fuel and energy shortages

3.C

Strengthens the connections between food and spiritual legacies within a culture such that the values associated with community food are reinforced.

4.B

Includes and improves access to local government agencies that can support the stability of local/ regional food infrastructures according to the community's interests.

Vibrant Farms

1.B

Develops policies that encourage success in small and mid-scale farming ventures.

2.C

Supports farming as a profession that encourages personal sustainability and includes an ability to retain and attract new farmers.

3.B

Listens to community members' stories of their food and farm legacy so that communities can shape their future from lessons of the past.

Healthy People

1.A

Ensures that all community members have access to fresh, nutritious, and culturally relevant food for all people in communities, neighborhoods, schools, and institutions.

2.B

Decreases inequities across race and class that contribute to food insecurity and compromise health.

4.A

Provides safe settings and opportunities for people to directly experience the land in ways that promote health and wellness.

4.B

Promotes equity around access to land and resources needed for public access and personal food production.

4.C

Unites and inspired neighbors to grow and to share food and food cultures.

Sustainable Ecosystems

1.B

Eliminates pesticides, genetically modified organisms, and other contaminants that disrupt ecosystems and human health.

3.B

Protects and improves biodiversity in human systems of agriculture and aquaculture

4.A

Provides safe settings and opportunities for people to directly experience the land in ways that promote health and wellness.

- **Action:** The scale might be changed to a more intuitive scale the next time we complete the Whole Measures exercise.

Questions

- Do all groups need to have the same priorities, or can we diverge a bit between the groups?

Action Items

- Aaron will review the policy scan

Alex will add BCBC and MTC to the county level policy/ agency scan

Alex will change the scan to a 'landscape orientation' from a 'portrait orientation' (so that the information is easier to read).

Minutes submitted by Asiya Wadud.