



Meeting Minutes

Work Group: Regional and State Innovations

Date: 05/05/10

Time: 03:00:00 PM

Location: Phone Conference

Attendance

Diane Woloshin, Aaron Lehmer, Suzan Bateson, Asiya Wadud

Agenda Item 1: Approval of minutes

- **Discussion: Update on the Oakland Climate Action Coalition's Draft Plan**

Heather has been working on zoning for urban agriculture and is writing language to change the code. It would be good for those who are not planners to understand the process and know how we can be helpful.

The Oakland Climate Action Coalition draft plan was unveiled on Earth Day and there are a number of food systems recommendations.

(One recommendation is to conduct a study of available public land that could be used for agriculture, which is what Nathan McClintock has done.)

Movement Generation's Justice and Ecology Project and California Food and Justice Coalition are both looking at the policy included in the draft plan and making recommendation to the city; specifically, they are looking at community kitchens.

Also, greater assessment of vacant lots (that could potentially be used for urban ag) is being considered by the Oakland Climate Action Coalition.

There will be two community workshops Thursday, May 6; 1515 Clay Street; 3:00 pm.

Agenda Item 2: Policy Recommendations

Basically, our job is to come up with regional level policy innovations in concert with our strategic plan. We should have all the policies fleshed out by the OFPC meeting on May 20.

I. Justice and Fairness

“Ensures that schools and other public institutions serve healthy and delicious meals to all and gives preference to purchasing food from local farms.”

Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act has a July target to move the legislation forward; though this is federal legislation there is something that we can do to connect the dots at the state and regional level.

For example, Oakland could pass a nutrition policy that mandates a certain percentage of food served at city organizations needs to be purchased locally, and a certain percentage needs to fall within certain nutrition guidelines.

This would not include OUSD food, as the city does not have jurisdiction over OUSD food.

Another potential policy recommendation would be that Summer Food lunches be more nutritious, though this would be at the federal level as well. There could be something that we could do at the state and regional level as well, especially regarding access to summer food (which is under the Health and Human Services' jurisdiction), i.e. additional summer food sites.

(Diane Woloshin will work on creating policy recommendations for Justice and Fairness)

II. Strong Communities

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

At the moment, there are so many disparate committees that it would be helpful to have one, unifying voice when working with the City (in addressing food policy issues). As the OFPC becomes more representative of the City of Oakland, it can be that unifying voice.

(Aaron will take on Strong Communities policy recommendations)

III. Vibrant Farms

“Develops policies that encourage success in small and midscale farming ventures and urban agriculture; decrease exposure to hazards; and support fair labor practices.”

(This could be Abeni's area of expertise. Asiya will follow up with Abeni.)

IV. Healthy People

“Utilizes a broad range of public investments and tools (such as land use planning) to increase access to healthy food and decrease inequities across race and class that contribute to food insecurity and compromise health.”

Place Matters study completed that looked at land use and transportation issues-- where grocery stores are located; corner store conversion; tax breaks for putting grocery stores in low income communities; requiring new developments to have grocery stores.

Land Use: policies examined include multi-use and transit-oriented development.

Folks in the South Bay are piggy backing on SB375 legislation and exploring how they can work in zoning for urban agriculture.

(Diane will work on this set of recommendations.)

V. Sustainable Ecosystems

“Implements steps to eliminate artificial pesticides and fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, and other contaminants that disrupt ecosystems and human health.”

This could be tied into procurement, i.e. would one really be able to source locally and organically on a large scale and able to do so affordably?

(Suzan will tackle this priority.)

VI. Thriving Local Economies

“Help promote affordable local and regional sustainably grown, harvested or produced food within the food system, and promotes local businesses to distribute and promote these in every community, especially underserved communities.”

CAFF , People's Grocery and Bay Localize will be convening a meeting at Mills that could be a perfect starting point to engage the community in a discussion about thriving local economies. This meeting could inform the policy recommendations. With that in mind, Aaron will present the recommendations after the meeting (which will take place May 24th).

Action Items:

Asiya will follow up with Abeni re: the Vibrant Farms policy recommendations

Diane will work on the Justice and Fairness recommendations

Aaron will complete the Strong Communities recommendations

Diane will take on Healthy People recommendations

Suzan will work on Sustainable Ecosystems recommendations

Aaron will take on Thriving Local Economies

All drafts should be emailed to the group by May 14 so that we have time to review and amend them by the May 20th OFPC meeting.

The phone meeting worked very well, and it's preferable to an in person meeting.

Minutes submitted by Asiya Wadud.