



Meeting Minutes

Work Group: Public and Private Partnerships

Date: 03/04/10

Time: 05:00:00 PM

Location: Food First Office; 398 60th Street, Oakland

Attendance

Robin Plutchok, Jenny Huston, Daniel Kramer, Alethea Harper, Asiya Wadud, and Alexandria Fisher

General Discussion

- Procurement; Sourcing of organic, local produce; Whole Measures

Agenda Item 1: Approval of minutes

- **Discussion:** Minutes approved
- **Action:** No action taken

Agenda Item 2: Procurement

- **Discussion:** Jenny Huston pointed out that currently there are few pathways for smaller purveyors; procurement is geared towards several large purveyors. The possibility of a clearinghouse was mentioned, i.e. a clearinghouse of all possible purveyors who wish to distribute to the City of Oakland. Given time and resources, it was suggested that we create a survey to distribute to purveyors.

Questions to Consider:

- **How do we create new paths for all purveyors, no matter the size, to have access to distribution in the City of Oakland?**
- **What is CAFF doing around procurement and how best should we collaborate so that we do not 'reinvent the wheel'?**
- **Is collaboration with CAFF a realistic possibility?**
- **What role do we as a council play in the discussion of opening the doors to small purveyor procurement?**
- **What do vendors need on the policy front?**
- **What is the ultimate goal of the survey?**

- **Action:** Jenny will be in touch with Josh at CAFF to check in regarding the progress of their procurement discussion.

Begin work on a procurement survey and present the survey to CAFF to gauge the viability of working collaboratively.

Agenda Item 3: Viability of sourcing of organic, local produce

- **Discussion:** There is a misconception that organic, locally sourced produce would be more expensive for the City of Oakland to source. Purchased wholesale, though, organic, local produce can be just as (if not more) affordable than conventionally grown fruits and vegetables.
- **Action:** All present should begin thinking of questions to add to the procurement/ purveyors survey

It could be useful to develop a graph that measures the price of produce throughout the seasons. For example, how much does an apple cost in January as opposed to an apple in June? What is the difference in price of an apple grown in the Central Valley and an apple grown in Washington State? This information could be useful in statistically proving that locally sourced produce can be affordable for large public institutions in Oakland.

Agenda Item 4: Whole Measures

Discussion

In general, it is more valuable to look at individual scores rather than summary scores.

Discrepancies in the data can sometimes be attributed to statistical outliers. For example, we can assume that an extremely high score for a statement we all know to be untrue is the result of a statistical error: "Ensures that schools and other public institutions serve healthy and delicious meals to all and gives preference to purchasing food from local farms".

If this is not a statistical error, the score might suggest that recent attention paid to school lunch is being mistaken for actual healthy meals being served in Oakland public schools.

This discrepancy in appearances and the reality of school lunch in Oakland could also suggest that there needs to be increased education around school lunch in Oakland schools.

- **Discussion:** Additional Observations:

We need to develop a clearer understanding of 'spiritual legacies'
Importance scores in the Vibrant Farms category are all quite low. This could be because Council members strictly considered Oakland farms (City Slickers, People Grocery, etc.) in answering this series of questions. Regional farms may have not been considered.

'Sustainable Ecosystems' suffers from the same confusion as 'Vibrant Farms', which might explain the low Importance Scores.

According to the Importance Scores, council members think the people's wellbeing and health should be the primary concern; justice and fairness are secondary.

How would the score for 1.B on Sustainable Ecosystems ("Eliminates pesticides genetically modified organisms, and other contaminants that disrupt ecosystems and human health") change if the question specifically addressed GMO food?

Ultimately, we agreed that these statements took priority:

Justice and Fairness:

4.1

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

4.2

Sustains stores in every community that sells healthy, high quality, affordable foods.

Strong Communities:

1.3

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

3.3

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

4.2

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:

2.1

Develops and implements policies that protect farmers and farm worker rights.

2.2.

Ensures fair wages and safe working conditions that limit and eliminate exposures to hazards for all farmers and farm workers without discrimination.

Healthy People:

1.1

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

2.2

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

Sustainable Ecosystems:

2.1

Values ecosystem elements and understands their function in producing food and supporting life (foodshed).

Thriving Local Economies:

3.1

Promotes local and regional sustainably grown or harvested agricultural products within the food system, and promotes businesses to distribute and promote these.

- **Action:** Members agree that we should focus on tangible goals that arise from the Whole Measures tool, i.e. changes that the Public-Private partnership group can begin to tackle.

At the OFPC meeting on March 18, all work groups should be ready to report which items, specifically, stood out from the Whole Measures tool.

Minutes submitted by Asiya Wadud