



Welcome and Updates

Legislative Updates

Director Cidlowski updated the group on the status of several pending pieces of legislation, including:

- Healthy Students Amendment Act
 - Reminder that DC Greens will be hosting testimony writing sessions later this month.
 - The public hearing will be taking place on 11/16/17 at 11am in Room 412 of the Wilson Building.
 - DCFPC has advocacy guide available online; letter to be discussed later in meeting.
- East End grocery legislation
 - Committee markup taking place on 10/5/17 where Councilmembers will discuss edits to the legislation.
 - DC Greens talked about the Grocery Walk, which will be taking place on Saturday, 10/14/17, to raise awareness of the lack of accessible full-service grocery stores in Wards 7 and 8.
- Cottage Food Act Regulations
 - These were officially released in September and can be found online <http://lms.dccouncil.us/Legislation/PR22-0432?FromSearchResults=true> here.
 - Dreaming Out Loud talked about workshops, for new cottage food entrepreneurs, that they will be conducting in partnership with WACIF and with support from DSLBD.
 - Dates/times are (tentatively): 10/25/17 from 5:30-8pm at Kelly Miller Middle School (301 49th St NE) and 11/1/17 from 10am-12:30pm at Malcolm X Opportunity Center (1351 Alabama Ave SE).
- [Residential Composting Incentives Amendment Act](#) of 2017 (B22-0501)
 - The bill was introduced by Councilmember Cheh on 10/3/17, no hearing has been scheduled yet.
 - This bill establishes a rebate for District home owners who purchase and install a home composting system and fulfill other obligations of the District's Home Composting Incentive Program. Rebates are contingent on the availability of funds.

Funding Announcements

Director Cidlowski shared several grants that have recently opened, including:

- OSSE Farm Field Trip grants (opens 10/13/17): <http://grants.osse.dc.gov>
- USDA Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive grants (large programs/organizations, potential \$100,000-\$500,000 awards, closes 12/13/17): <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/food-insecurity-nutrition-incentive-fini-grant-program>
- EPA Local Foods, Local Places (closes 10/25/17): <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places-2017-2018-application>



DC Food Policy Council Meeting Notes 10/4/2017 Full Council Meeting

2

- USDA Value Added Producer Grant (closes 1/31/18):
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>
- Nature Works Everywhere grant from Nature Conservancy (closes 11/3/17, awards up to \$2,000): <https://www.natureworkseverywhere.org/grants/>

A question was asked whether we will have meetings to talk about applying for some of these grants jointly; suggestions for how to coordinate on this are welcome. Perhaps we could hold a fundraising hackathon?

Upcoming Events

Director Cidlowski shared that the Sustainable DC 2.0 Plan Working Group Kick-off Meeting is coming soon.

- The event will be 10/18/17 from 6-8pm, at four physical locations and online via Facebook Live:
 - Lamond-Riggs Library (5401 South Dakota Ave NE)
 - Dorothy I. Heights/Benning Library (3935 Benning Rd NE)
 - DC Office of Planning (1100 4th St SW)
 - Francis Gregory Library (3660 Alabama Ave SE)

Presentation: Update on DCFPC Food Economy Study – Dominic Modicamore and Tracy Jefferson, ICF International

ICF gave an overview of the food economy study's methodology, expectations, and major project tasks, then shared some of the data from the study tasks which have been completed:

- So far, ICF has done high-level analysis of NAICS (industry classification) codes to get broad data on the District's food economy. A few early findings include:
 - Food manufacturing: small sector in the District, but coffee/tea and perishable prepared food manufacturing seem to be growing
 - Beverage product manufacturing: also small, but breweries have shown significant growth
 - Grocery and related products wholesalers: overall sector decline, but growth in fish/seafood wholesale and general line grocery merchant wholesale
 - Farm product raw material wholesale: small sector overall, but some growth
 - Beer/ale product merchant wholesalers: large growth, although wine product wholesale has declined
 - Food/Beverage stores (vending): large growth (47%) industry-wide in just 15 years
 - Biggest growth in baked goods, other specialty food, convenience stores, supermarkets, and other grocery stores
 - Food service/drinking places: largest sector in the city, and also exhibits the most growth
 - Boom in restaurants: both limited- and full-service have doubled employment since 2001

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- Bottom line: main drivers of sector growth are restaurants and grocery stores

Questions:

- Are the survey Responses going to be linked to geography or different demographics. The information comes from employers' payroll data, and we'll have a map of where different businesses and groups are located, but the tax data doesn't tell us much about demographics.
- We want to see more insights into the bigger picture/linkages and want to see the context of larger transformations of the food system.
- What's the difference in a bakery or a baked good store? A store is more focused on retail, while the bakery more focused on production.
- Who owns the businesses in the city, and does that matter to you in terms of your community, equity, and inclusion.
- How will this help us get grocery stores in ward 7 & 8? This study is not focused grocery access on that directly, but will help to better support and grow local food businesses in the city as whole.
- How are participants selected for interviews. Based on recommendations from the Business working group and other community members.

Next steps will be a deeper dive, running an economic model for the city and the surrounding region, and will lead to development of strategies for fostering growth. This will include a series of survey and interviews with business owners in various sectors. A handout covering the four general categories of draft survey/interview questions was available at the meeting.

Vote by the appointed members of the Food Policy Council: Healthy Students Amendments Act, draft letter of support to City Council

Director Cidlowski gave a general overview of DCFPC's existing advocacy guide for the HSAA, and noted that we have not yet received confirmation whether DCFPC is allowed to submit letters of support to the Council as an official Board and Commission of the city. Even if DCFPC can't submit the letter, individuals are free to take the text and use it as they will (send as individual advocates or as representatives of their organizations).

Director Cidlowski then summarized for FPC members the draft letter to the Council and opened up the discussion for members of the DCFPC, then the community.

- Tambra: Would like to see diversity/inclusion type language on pg. 2 where the letter talks about including the right voices. Diversity and inclusion, youth language, and community engagement language. Also plain language to enhance readability would be appreciated.
- Dir. Cidlowski: Agreed, if we want to vote tonight we need to suggest specific text language changes now.



- Alex A: There are things not related to food in some points, such as references to physical activity in bullet 2. Feels like a bit of overreach and we don't know enough about these subjects. I would suggest removing those elements outside of food issues.
- Tambra: Should we suggest metrics or baselines so people can't use loopholes?
 - Dir. Cidlowksi: If we wanted to, would be worthwhile to look at the original legislation to make sure we aren't being duplicative.
- Paula: Does our suggestion about the sodium standard match up with USDA requirements?
- Dir. Cidlowksi: We can vote on the letter as is, vote by e-mail after making amendments, or decide not to vote.
- Alex M: With the hearing 11/16, seems it would be a missed opportunity not to vote.

Caesar moved to proceed on amendments by e-mail, which received general consensus from council members present and was seconded. Director Cidlowksi asked that council members e-mail suggested changes to her by morning of 10/5 so that she could send amended text out for vote via email, and noted she would also seek confirmation from the mayor's office regarding DCFPC ability to send the letter.

Update: The letter was amended over email and voted to approve the text of the letter by email on 10/6. MOTA determined that DCFPC is not permitted to submit the letter as a whole body.

Director Cidlowksi noted that she received confirmation from the Mayor's office of Talent and Appointments and the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability that DCFPC can host a non-partisan candidate forum, so there are other forums available for DCFPC advocacy even if letter can't be sent.

Presentation: Food Learning Locator Tool, Katie Jones & Morgan Maloney, Bainum Family Foundation

The Food Learning Locator (<https://foodlearninglocator.org/>) is a tool which has been developed by the Bainum Family Foundation as part of their Food Security Initiative.

- The tool is designed to help people find community education and job training program sites in the DMV area for food education programs.
 - The tool currently lists 100+ programs and ~390 program sites, and the data is set to be refreshed regularly (first time this November, and then every February and August).
 - Programs listed range from small community-based organizations to organizations which are spread across the whole region.
 - Map is currently more focused on DC than the surrounding areas, but this is due to which organizations responded to Bainum's survey. They hope to expand as organizations learn about the tool and want to advertise their organization's work.



- The tool has advanced/specific filtering, so that people can find a specific type or program and/or programs in a given area of the city; it also lists details and contact information for each program and program site.
- They intentionally left the Bainum name off the tool because they are open to eventually partnering with other organizations or allowing them to take over the tool in order to scale it beyond the DMV area in the future.
- Share the tool with others! It is only useful if people know about it. If you know anyone whose program should be listed on the tool, let Bainum know so they can be included in the next data refresh.

There were several questions for the presenters, including:

- Is there an end date for this tool, or will it receive perpetual funding?
 - For now, the idea is perpetual funding. This may be revisited if no one is using the tool, but plan to keep it going and even scale up.
- How do you update the data?
 - Programs can submit their own information through the site, and then they will have a conversation with Bainum staff (to ensure their program fits the purpose of the tool) and be updated several times a year.
- Will there be a rating system?
 - No, and this was done intentionally. Bainum wanted to keep it a sleek, simple information sharing tool for now; other functionality may be evaluated later if it is deemed relevant.
- Concerned that not everyone has an iPhone/computer/wifi – what about those with barriers to access, is there a low-tech option?
 - Added the mobile option because it has a higher penetration across the city, but recognize the validity of this question. Hope to work with organizations that *do* have access to the tool to find other ways to reach the people who don't have it personally. At WIC clinics, for example, a nutrition counselor might help connect people to the tool. Bainum would love to hear other ideas people may have for getting the word out about the tool.

Working Group Updates

Each working group gave a quick update from their September meetings.

- Local Food Business & Labor Development
 - This group talked about the food economy study (similar to tonight's presentation), and potential interviewees for the next phase of the study.
 - Tonight, Jonas reminded the group of the importance of the study; in addition to being a good tool to compel urgency from representatives, it is something DCFPC was essentially mandated to do.
- Food Equity, Access, and Health & Nutrition Education
 - Had the presentation from Bainum on the food learning locator, and talked about research on policies for food education



DC Food Policy Council Meeting Notes 10/4/2017 Full Council Meeting

6

- Sustainable Food Procurement.
 - Last meetings have been joint with the Good Food Purchasing Program coalition to talk about implementing those standards at DCPS, and also looking ahead to HSAA.
- Urban Agriculture & Food System Education
 - Talked about food system education (first time the group has been able to focus on this aspect of working group task), especially education being necessary for a variety of stakeholders, not just youth/students.
 - Also briefly talked about the urban agriculture legislation implementation.

Wrap-up and next steps

Director Cidlowski announced the dates for the next meetings:

- Next DCFPC Public Meeting – December 6th
- Working Group Meetings –
 - Sustainable Food Procurement – November 7th
 - Local Food Business & Labor Development – November 6th
 - Food Equity, Access, and Health & Nutrition Education – November 8th
 - Urban Agriculture & Food System Education – November 14th

She also encouraged those present to attend the 10/18 Sustainable DC meeting, and noted that we may try to combine some meetings with their food working group moving ahead.

Update: These working group meetings have been canceled so food community members may participate in the food/health working group meetings in November.