



## DC Food Policy Council, 2/7/18 Full Council Meeting Meeting Notes

*Members in Attendance:* Laine Cidlowski, Jeremiah Lowery, Alex Moore, Paula Reichel, Alex Ashbrook, Caesar Layton, Tambra Raye Stevenson, Chris Bradshaw, Joelle Robinson, Philip Sambol

*Ex-Officio Members in Attendance:* Dan Guilbeault DOEE, Lauren Adkins DSLBD, Anthony DeLorenzo DGS, Amelia Peterson-Kosecki DOH, Marie Whittaker DMPED

### Updates & Announcements

- a. DCFPC 2017 Annual Report
  - Released last month as part of the US Conference of Mayors meeting. You can access through the [DCFPC website](#), or through the Office of Planning website. This is our first annual report, so it covers everything the DCFPC has done to date (including 2016). It includes numbers and specifics about our accomplishments, work, and larger initiatives.
- b. Sustainable DC 2.0 Planning Process
  - Sustainable DC is hosting meetings about the food and health sections of the updated plan. Food Policy Council members are meeting to discuss and recommend what we would say as a Council. Aiming for making specific recommendations and meeting with other agencies within the next few weeks. Important to see how food intersects with the rest of the city's sustainability efforts.
- c. Legislation
  - i. WIC Program Expansion Act of 2018
    - Will help enable more stores to participate in the WIC program. Would require DOH to create WIC advisory boards. Has been referred to the Committee on Health, but no date set yet. Looking for volunteers to create a summary of the bill and create an advocacy guide (people volunteered at meeting).
  - ii. [Healthy Parks Amendment Act of 2018](#)
    - Updates DPR's nutrition standards for what food can be served at rec centers, and expands the after-school meals program for at-risk students. Looking for volunteers to create advocacy guide (people volunteered at meeting).
- d. Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
  - Mayor Bowser signed DC on to this pact on January 25<sup>th</sup> as part of the US Conference of Mayors meeting, alongside the mayor of Madison, WI. City officials from Milan, as well as from the pact's governing board in Milan, were present. This pact is an international agreement among cities which sets targets and goals related to food and sustainability, and it gives DC the opportunity to seek funding for new programs and to compare to other cities around the world. Text of the pact can be found [online](#).
- e. Farm Bill
  - There should be a new federal Farm Bill this year. We have provided input through the Mayor's office about priorities for DC and areas of concern. USDA also came out with



a set of policy priorities (see powerpoint). We want to lobby senators working on the Farm Bill, so anyone interested in volunteering to help with that should let us know (still could use volunteers).

f. Food Economy Study

- We have taken the information collected so far and started to run it through the IMPLAN model to look at direct/indirect impacts. Some early findings include a mismatch between bread production/use (not getting it from the local economy - producing a lot, but exporting it), a continuing unmet demand for grocery stores (especially in certain geographic areas), and a finding that there tends to be a higher proportion of limited-service restaurant employees who live in the city than full-service restaurant employees, some of whom are coming in from outside the city.
- We are continuing to work on surveys and interviews. Encourage food sector business owners or managers that you know to take the survey!  
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCFood\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCFood_Survey)

g. DCFPC Oversight Hearing

- DCFPC has been asked to have its first oversight hearing. This will be March 2 at 11am at the Wilson Building. The Committee on Transportation and Environment is holding the hearing. We encourage people to come to testify and tell DC Council and the Mayor what you think the DCFPC's priorities should be. Since we are going first, either arrive earlier or submit testimony by e-mail. More details can be found on the [DC Council website](#).
- Appointed members are not required to be present to testify and will not be asked to prepare a testimony, although those present may be called upon.

**Presentation – Mark Scott, DC Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA): Mid-Atlantic Grocery Supply Chain Resilience Project**

- Mark presented on HSEMA's project to analyze the resiliency of DC's food supply chain. This project's goal is to understand what is needed to ensure the availability of food for DC residents in the case of a catastrophic event. (The PowerPoint is available online.)
- Welcomes feedback in terms of questions you think HSEMA should be asking. Mostly they have focused on retail outlets but may want to look a little broader in the future.
  - Suggested that HSEMA look at other factors such as emergency transportation fuel and banking systems (as these relate to food purchasing power and ability to use SNAP/EBT benefits).
- Have started to reach the conclusion that it's really an emergency management problem more than a food access/availability problem.
- Have not yet gotten far enough to know how they will be sharing findings and underlying data with the public (much of the underlying data was received from the DCFPC and the Office of Planning).
- HSEMA does not make policy recommendations; just trying to point out what's going on and work to see what can be done about it. Hoping to model what a disaster's



effects would look like (i.e., hurricane path leading to flooding, river surge, power outages, etc.).

- Community Discussion & Questions on the presentation:
  - How are you working with COG/affecting this grocery store chain model? HSEMA is working with Lindsey Smith at MWCOG on building the economic development side of the food sector, looking at major food distributors, and looking more at the farmer side of the supply chain.
  - Are you looking at food banking systems or food stamps and how they access food in case of a power outage? That's a good idea to think about as an emergency management issues.
  - How will you take the data you've captured here and turn it into action in low-income communities? We haven't gotten that far yet, we're just starting the process.
  - What about the long-term effects of climate change? We'll be integrating this with DOEE's climate mitigation and adaptation plans together with more short-term emergency management.

### **Discussion of Options for Working Groups + Vote**

- The appointed members of the council met in December for the second annual retreat. Re-evaluated working group structure and discussed the 2018 workplan.
- Healthy food access East of the River was decided upon as the top goals for the year for all working groups.
- One of the main takeaways from the retreat was the need to think how we can act more efficiently/effectively.
- The FPC can: provide memos, write our own legislation, push for legislation to come out, provide rapid response (advocacy guides, legislative feedback), do technical reporting, assess other food-related policies, conduct community engagement (listening/feedback sessions, convening events or partners), fundraise, work with councilmembers, ask other DC agencies or the Mayor for funds for our programs, and do PR/marketing.
- According to MOTA, the FPC cannot: submit letters as a group, hold candidate forums (because we are appointed by the Mayor), or do direct lobbying.
- The Director shared options for reorganizing the dates and times for the public working groups based on the feedback from the FPC retreat and the public FPC session in December 2017. Options included were shown in the powerpoint but included a variety of options for
- Vote called to use a decision-making rubric as a guiding tool (not dictating decisions). The draft decision rubric was provided for discussion and vote. The rubric will be posted on the FPC website but includes interest from the community, impact, scalability, equitability, politically and financially feasible, and measurable. The rubric will be used to determine which policy issues should be worked on by the FPC.
  - Vote called. The FPC voted to Approved unanimously with corrective typo edits.



- Discussion of new working group structure to replace last year's structure of bi-monthly full council meetings and working group meetings on the off months. Suggested to combine full council and working group meetings, having internal meetings for appointed members on the off months, with other ad hoc meetings as needed.
- Feedback from community members, some in favor of more and different meeting format, some opposed and wanting fewer meetings that are more impactful. There was a desire to hear more often from the FPC about things that are going on around food systems in the city, and to understand what is happening and why with further advance notice. There was some confusion in working groups with some people participating and being very well informed on the issues, and others needing more time and recap to get back up to speed. Many of the attendees have said that they've gone to some of the working group meetings, but don't consistently go to most of them.
- There was discussion of the best dates and times for meetings to be held.
- Vote called, 7 members in favor "aye", 1 opposed "nay", and 1 abstention.
- Discussion of whether there needs to be a fifth working group for nutrition, food system education and health issues, making the new list of working groups: 1) Local Food Business and Labor Development; 2) Sustainable Food Procurement; 3) Food Equity and Access; 4) Urban Agriculture; 5) Health, Nutrition Education, & Food System Education.
  - Vote called. Of 9 FPC appointed members present, 8 voted "aye", 1 voted "nay."

#### **Announcements & Next Steps**

- **Next DCFPC Public Meeting - April 11<sup>th</sup> (date shifted from normal first Wednesday date and time)**
- **Per the newly-agreed-upon schedule, the DCFPC will host bi-monthly public meetings which combine the working groups meetings and full council meetings (5:30-6:30 working groups, 6:45-8:00 full council), and will host other topic meetings on an ad hoc basis. There will no longer be individual working group meetings during the off-months, however there will be individual project meetings or conference calls to advance the goals and activities of the working groups.**