

District of Columbia Food Policy Council

August 7, 2019 6:00-7:30 pm

Meeting Notes

1. Introductions

- a. Director Ona Balkus (ona.balkus@dc.gov)
- b. Food Policy Council Public Members
 - i. In attendance: Beverly Wheeler, Joelle Robinson, Chris Bradshaw, Emi Reyes, Philip Sambol
- c. Ex-Officio DC Agency Members
 - i. In attendance: Sara Beckwith (DC Health), Christi Dorsey (DC Health), Dwane Jones (UDC), Sandy Farber Bandier (UDC), Kate Mereand (DSLBD), Beth Hanna (OSSE), Dan Guilbeault (DOEE)

2. Working Group Updates

- a. Urban Agriculture
 - i. Planning a listening session with DOEE for the new Office of Urban Agriculture; focused on synchronizing activities with agencies across the government including DCRA, DGS, UDC
 - ii. Discussed how the District can better support infrastructure funding for urban farmers
- b. Sustainable Procurement
 - i. Reviewed the 2019 strategic priorities for the working group; so far the working group has worked to 1) streamline institutional procurement through the GFPP; 2) promote self-operating kitchens with DCPS pilot this school year; 3) develop a processing central kitchen for the District; and 4) increase organics diversion
- c. Food Equity & Access/ Business & Labor
 - i. Reviewed the 2019 strategic priorities for the working group: discussed how to make the Locally Food Financing Fund a reality – started talking about what “local” meant and how we might define it
 - ii. Also discussed the food as medicine goal and how we might partner with other groups/stakeholders working in the space
- d. Nutrition & Food System Education
 - i. Discussed the Nutrition Educator Summit hosted by a coalition of community organizations (see the local spotlight presentation for more information); also talked about how nutrition education is a core part of food as medicine programs
 - ii. Reviewed the 2019 strategies priorities for the working group: 1) examine gaps and opportunities for improved nutrition education and 2) support local producers

3. Local Spotlight Presentations

- a. Community Advocates Update – Winnie Huston
 - i. This summer has been busy – the advocates are focused on trainings; Rev Towner will put on a grant training soon for the advocates
 - ii. Winnie has been focused on supporting other initiatives like Don’t Mute my Health, Senior Lyft programs, food as medicine groups

- iii. Upcoming event: Community Meal – October/November; we’re starting to think about the community dinner for the fall; laying the ground work for the policy conversation and start talking about the deep dive for the policies and building the bridge between communities and the FPC
- iv. Winnie’s email – winnie@dcgreens.org
- b. Don’t Mute My Health – Ronnie Webb
 - i. Don’t Mute My Health is a community campaign around healthy living in DC – from food justice to healthcare access to exercise to broader wellbeing – and they are launching the first phase of their campaign
 - ii. The campaign got its inspiration from the Don’t Mute DC movement – working to ensure we keep and preserve as much DC culture and leveraging the momentum from the Don’t Mute DC from a food justice perspective
 - iii. The goal is to be an organizing platform for issues that are impacting people as a whole; the group is looking to engage with all stakeholders including community members and organizations
 - iv. There are lots of events coming up: they are organizing rallies, events, basketball tournaments (see more in the announcement section below)
 - v. Follow them on Instagram: – Don’t Mute My Health on Instagram; citywide campaign
 - vi. Don’t Mute My Health website will launch soon
 - vii. Come talk to them – contact Ronnie at Ronnie.webb@gmail.com and Green Scheme
- c. Nutrition Educators Conference—Kristi McCarron
 - i. You can access the presentation slides ([link here](#)).
 - ii. The summit was held from July 22-23 at UDC
 - iii. The event was hosted by a core group of partners: DC Central Kitchen secured funding from the Bainum Foundation and partnered with YMCA, Children’s Medical, Mary’s Center, Common Threads
 - iv. The group conducted a pre-survey of nutrition educators – 44 responses; the survey found that educators wanted to focus on opportunities for sharing resources, evaluations, partnerships, and networking
 - v. The summit identified lots of opportunities for the FPC nutrition education working group
 - vi. Next Steps
 1. Collective outcomes and citywide agenda
 2. Coordinated evaluation and tracking
 3. DC Nutrition Education Day
 4. Neighborhood and Program-specific coordination – lots of people programming with close proximity
 5. Technical assistance programs
 - vii. If you are interested in learning more, contact: Laura Belazis (lbelazis@dccentralkitchen.org) and Kristy McCarron (Kristy.McCarron@ymcadc.org).

4. FPC Updates

- a. 2019 Food Policy Priorities Progress Report

- i. You can check out the 2019 Food Policy Mid-Year Progress Report ([link here](#))
- ii. We took a snapshot of our progress so far this year to celebrate all that the DC Food Policy community has accomplished and worked towards this year and think about the FY 20 goals and priorities for the city
- iii. Working groups will be updating their priorities in August/September and we will be developing the FY 20 priorities this fall
- iv. Everyone is invited to share their ideas for key priorities either through the working groups or through an online survey will be sent out to the listserv in September
- b. Food Economy Study upcoming release
 - i. We are in the final stages of designing the report and are excited to share it soon. We will share it with the listserv as well as highlight the findings at an upcoming FPC meeting
- c. Proposed Changes to SNAP Categorical Eligibility
 - i. The Trump Administration has proposed changes to the SNAP Categorical Eligibility program which allows local governments to enroll people who wouldn't usually qualify for SNAP but are participating in other programs
 - ii. The proposed change is predicted to impact approximately 3.1 million people across the country, including 500,000 children who won't have school meals
 - iii. The proposed change to SNAP Categorical Eligibility is important because it will impact how individuals can be eligible for other programs like school food, summer meals, Produce Plus, etc.
 - iv. The deadline to submit your comments against the rule is **Monday, September 23**. If you are looking for more information about the proposed change and its impact or want some sample language, visit the Food Research and Action Center's comment platform ([link here](#)). Make sure you make sure your comment is at least 1/3 original content – it can only be counted and addressed if it is unique
 - v. The Bower Administration will be submitting comments for DC and developing comments for other cities to sign on at the US Conference of Mayors
 - vi. If folks have input on what should be included in DC letter, please email Ona at ona.balkus@dc.gov

5. Policy & Legislative Updates

- a. Food-Related Legislation in DC Council
 - i. Check out our updated legislative tracker for more information about these food bills: <https://dcfoodpolicy.org/policy/legislation/>
 - ii. Have had a hearing:
 - 1. B23-0192 Cottage Food Expansion Act of 2019 (Hearing on 4/23/2019)
 - a. Amends the Cottage Food Act of 2013; removes the \$25,000 cap on revenue; expands the venue of where producers can sell their food to directly to consumers; eliminates the DC Health inspection before the business can sell their products
 - 2. B23-0131 Ward 7 & Ward 8 Restaurant Incentive Program Establishment Act of 2019 (Hearing on 6/3/2019)

- a. Establishes the Ward 7 and Ward 8 Restaurant Incentive Program within the Department of Small and Local Business Development to provide funding, business development assistance, incubation services, and technical assistance to those seeking to open a new restaurant or food establishment in Ward 7 or Ward 8.
 - 3. B23-0180 On-Site Services Act of 2019 (Hearing on 6/11/2019)
 - a. Requires qualifying housing providers to provide on-site services including food and nutrition services; establishes an On-Site Services program to provide funding to qualifying public providers and monitor services
- iii. Have not had a hearing:
 - 1. B23-0092 Grocery Store Development Projects Labor Peace Agreement Amendment Act of 2019
 - a. Extends the requirement for labor peace agreements to grocery store development projects.
 - b. Hearing was cancelled and hasn't been rescheduled.
 - 2. B23-0122 Cashless Retail Prohibition Act of 2019
 - a. Prohibits retailers from refusing to accept cash as payment, posting that cash is not accepted, or charging different prices to customers based on their payment method
 - 3. B23-0190 Healthy Beverages for Kids Meals Act of 2019
 - a. Requires that beverages included in children's meals offered by food establishments meet certain nutrition standards.
 - 4. B23-0231 Healthy Shelters Act of 2019
 - a. Establishes nutrition standards and requirements for meals served in shelters; ensures adequate meals in times of weather emergencies; encourages local foods to be served in shelters; requires that Department of Human Services be directly responsible for all contracts, reporting, and compliance regarding homeless shelter food services; establishes monitoring requirement for food services; permits the use of donated and recovered food at shelters; ensures nonprofit organizations are not competitively disadvantaged when bidding for homeless shelter food services; establishes grants for nutrition education, gardens, and play structures at family shelters; and requires shelters to provide employment services for residents experiencing homelessness
- iv. Newly introduced:
 - 1. B23-0360 - Continuing Nutrition Education Amendment Act of 2019
 - a. Creates nutrition education requirements for doctors, nurses, physician assistants, etc.
- v. Other important legislation highlighted at the meeting
 - 1. B23-0037 Care for LGBTQ Seniors and Seniors with HIV Amendment Act of 2019

- a. It includes LGBTQ seniors and seniors with HIV in the definition of groups of greatest social need for the purpose of allocating funds, including medically tailored meals and congregate meals
- b. If passed, it would make DC the first jurisdiction in the nation to provide these supports and protections to both LGBTQ older people and older people living with HIV.
- c. There is a support letter you can sign on to ([link here](#))

6. Announcements

- a. Thrive-to-Five Coordinating Council Applications, email dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov if interested
 - i. The coordinating council is focused on maternal, infant, and young child issues
 - ii. They are looking for parents and organizations to join the council
 - iii. If you are interested in joining the council, email dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov or complete an application on the Mayor Office of Talent and Appointment website ([link here](#))
- b. Next FPC meeting: Wednesday, October 2nd, 6-7:30 pm; location TBA
- c. Next working group meetings & locations – updated at <https://dcfoodpolicy.org/meetings/>
- d. Mayor Bowser’s National Maternal and Infant Health Summit, September 10, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mayor-muriel-bowsers-national-maternal-and-infant-health-summit-registration-62163690271>
 - i. There will be a food policy and health panel for the entire summit, as well as some small breakout groups on food and nutrition
- e. Chesapeake Food Summit, October 15, <https://www.chesapeakefoodsummit.org/>
- f. Don’t Mute My Health Events
 - i. August 9th 12-6 pm: Martha’s Table Block Party ([Link](#))
 - ii. August 17th from 11 am to 6 pm; Oxen Run Park (900 Valley) – will be giving out book bags and having a sugar free zone
 - iii. August 19th 6-8:30 pm; African American Civil War Museum (1925 Vermont Ave NW)
 - iv. September 28th – Rally at the Ward 8 Giant
 - v. Follow Don’t Mute My Health on [Instagram](#) and their soon-to-be-released website
- g. DC Greens Oxen Run Farm
 - i. Community Open House: Saturday, September 21 from 2-4 (Atlantic and 4th)
- h. Rich Capital Concepts – Veggie City
 - i. Pop up market in Ward 7 is still running through the summer at the Marvin Gaye Recreation Center; they accept SNAP and Produce Plus
 - ii. Find more information here ([link](#))
- i. Focus Vision Consulting
 - i. Developing curriculum for k-3 and high school that uses food and food policy as a means to teach art, math, history, and science; looking for organizations to partner with to provide food at their trainings
- j. MWCOG
 - i. Focuses on regional food and ag issues; their Solid Waste and Recycling Committee will host a conference the 3rd week of September and the Chesapeake Bay Policy Group will focus on

implementing the “What Our Region Grows” report”; email Lindsay Smith (lsmith@mwkog.org) if you are interested in learning more

- k. Dreaming Out Loud
- l. DOL is hiring a food hub assistant! If you know anyone who might be a good fit or if you are interested, check out the job posting ([link here](#)) and email Chris Bradshaw (chris@dreamingoutloud.org)
- m. Anacostia Coordinating Council
 - i. Hosting its 26th annual Boat Ride: October 5th ([link here](#))
- n. Ward 8 Giant
 - i. Jillian, the nutritionist at the Ward 8 Giant, is hosting a Fall Fest on September 28th from 1-5 pm in the parking lot at the Giant Food on Alabama Ave. The Fall will be an afternoon of nutritious food and family fun, including food demos, fitness classes, and additional family-friendly activities and games.
 - ii. Check out the flyer ([link here](#)).
 - iii. If you are an organization interested in providing health resources to community members at the event, please email Jillian at jillian.griffith@giantfood.com and include the name of your organization, services provided, theme of your table and/or activity you are interested in sponsoring (e.g. face painting), and any giveaways you plan to bring.
- o. The FPC will blast out the DOEE Office of Urban Ag Listening Session in Sept.
- p. Common Threads Family Cooking Classes
 - i. Common Threads is hosting Family Cooking Classes in partnership with the Ward 8 Giant on Alabama Ave. They are still recruiting families for the class; interested families can RSVP on the website ([link here](#)) and click EVENTS and select CONGRESS HEIGHTS or show up on the date and time of the class.
 - ii. Check out the flyer ([link here](#)).
- q. OP Affordable Housing Survey
 - i. The Office of Planning (OP) is conducting a comprehensive housing analysis to help accelerate the production of affordable and market-rate housing in the District. We are conducting a resident survey on the current distribution of affordable housing; you can take the survey ([link here](#)) and learn more about the broader housing initiative ([link here](#)).
 - ii. OP is also hosting a Community Conversation about affordable housing and housing affordability on Saturday, September 21st from 1-3 pm at Ron Brown High School. You can sign up for the Community Conversation ([link here](#)).
- r. DC State Fair
 - i. The 10th annual DC State Fair will be held this year on September 8th from 11 am to 7 pm at Saint Elizabeth’s East Campus (27000 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave)
 - ii. Learn more here: <https://dcstatefair.org/>