



District of Columbia Food Policy Council

October 2, 2019 6:00-7:30 pm

Agenda

1. Introductions

- a. Director Ona Balkus (ona.balkus@dc.gov)
- b. Food Policy Council Public Members
 - i. in attendance: Beverly Wheeler, Kristi McCarron, Tambra Stevenson, Andre Towner, Winnie Huston, Emi Reyes, Philip Sambol, Chris Anderson
- c. Ex-Officio DC Agency Members:
 - i. In attendance: Sara Beckwith (DC Health), Kate Mereand (DSLBD), Katherine Antos (DOEE), Dan Guilbeault (DOEE), Amelia Peterson-Kosecki (DC Health), Katie Baskett (DMPED), Katherine Antos (DOEE)
- d. Welcome new Food Policy Analyst, Tariq Sheriff!
 - i. Tariq grew up in the DMV and is a passionate Food and Nutrition advocate. Before coming to OP he worked as a professional chef at DC Central Kitchen overseeing meal production and operations for their School Meals, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Shelter Meals, and Healthy Corners programs. As a recent graduate of the MPH Nutrition program at George Washington University he is excited to expand the scope of his work in food equity and social justice and create meaningful change for DC residents. Tariq is a DC sports fan, loves traveling, cooking, and trying new restaurants in DC.

2. Working Group Updates

- a. Urban Agriculture
 - i. Took a deep dive into DOEE Director of Urban Agriculture position and how this role should work with and across other government agencies including DCRA, DGS, and UDC. Further discussed the scope of the role and the ideal background, experience, and traits that a candidate for the position should have in conjunction with feedback from the listening session with DOEE.
 - ii. Discussion of the Land Lease Program and the process for applications to ensure that there is greater reach and diversity in those who apply for the program for new properties that are being made available.
 - iii. Also discussed the CAUSES program at UDC which is being led by Dwane Jones (acting Dean) after Sabine O'Hara has stepped down. This is an opportunity for renewed dialogue with UDC to discuss their role in urban agriculture.
- b. Sustainable Procurement
 - i. Discussion of GFFP research and the results of the evaluation of the program by Deloitte. Next steps are to look at funding for the program, implementation costs, metrics, and how it relates to the centralized kitchen project to enable government institutions (Senior Food, Shelters, Schools, etc.) to better focus their efforts.
 - ii. Reviewed organic diversion with regard to DPW and the efforts that should be taken to advocate for an increase to composting and food donations.
 - iii. DC Food Recovery Week coming up in October, please see the detailed information in Announcements.
- c. Food Equity & Access/ Business & Labor

- i. Discussion of corner stores and how their reputations affects perception of all corner stores throughout the city. Comparison of Healthy Corners Stores to the reputation of all corner stores and an update on the 20 stores that are participating in rollout of the FINI grant.
 - ii. Also discussed ways to increase food access for SNAP, TANF, and WIC recipients with specific regard to the use of electronic funds transferred to debit cards. Many cities offer a combined benefits program, how can this enable recipients to increase their food access and equity.
 - iii. Reviewed the rollout of eWIC coming in 2020 and how support for the program can start now with capacity building for small stores to become WIC authorized vendors and the greater impact of eWIC to recipients once the program goes live. The positive change to the community is important but proactive marketing and promotion will be needed prior to the rollout to help educate and setup recipients for success.
 - iv. Examining how we connect people and food to increase access and equity. Retooling the conversation to look at other avenues other than online delivery to transportation support a solution to connect people and food, rather than food to people. What subsidies might be available to aid in this space?
- d. Nutrition & Food System Education
- i. Working group meetings for nutrition educators are being held during the daytime every other month to accommodate their flexible working schedules which often include evenings and weekends.
 - ii. Following the Nutrition Educator Summit hosted by a coalition of community organizations, what can be done to set forth new goals for nutrition education and the ROI for 2020. It is important to quantify the goals to identify impact and gaps. Working with a M&E expert to help with start this new process.
 - iii. A new Listserv will be created to help curate information for, and connect, nutrition educators in the District.
 - iv. Capital Area Food Bank will be hosting a planning meeting on Wednesday 10/4 at 10am to discuss a Nutrition Education Day, to complement the Strawberries and Salad Greens Day which is an annual initiative from OSSE and DCPS that occurs in June for public, private, and charter schools.

3. Local Spotlight Presentations

- a. Winnie Huston -- Community Advocates Update
 - i. Community advocates are attending Food Policy Council meetings and the cohort of advocates has started grant writing and community facilitation training to better understand how to advocate and organize the community. Best practices are being identified to use with the training of a new cohort of Community Advocates.
 - ii. Planning has started for the next Community Meal, tentatively planned for December. The focus of the upcoming Meal will be on how policy is formed and turned into law and a look at the Food Policy Council 2019 and 2020 priorities.
 - iii. Lyft has expanded their pilot program through the end of the year which connects Seniors who live in Ward 7 and 8 to grocery stores. Rides cost \$1.50 each way and the program is currently comprised of 97 participants and growing. Work is being conducted to increase capacity for the future with a focus on training for seniors on how to use technology to access the program.
- b. Mary Blackford – Market 7
 - i. Market 7 is a new cooperative marketplace that will open in Ward 7 in 2020 that features black-owned businesses and brings together sellers into one place as a community market. Prior to

finalizing their permanent space Market 7 worked for 2.5 years with urban farmers and 60 black-owned businesses to bring local food businesses, food, and retail products to District residents.

- ii. The new permanent space will be at 3451 Benning Road NE. Market 7 is working with the Neighborhood Development Corporation to bring better access to the community and is scheduled to open Fall 2020. The marketspace will have food stalls, groceries, a café, and retail space for shopping, along with an area dedicated to workforce development for community members with a focus on culinary development with the help of Chef Reese.
- iii. Market 7 received the Neighborhood Prosperity Fund and Makers Space grants from DMPED.
- iv. @Market7DC on Instagram
- v. email info@Market7dc.com
- c. Rob Jaber – School meal innovation at DC Public Schools
 - i. Rescheduled for December Meeting
- d. Katherine Antos – update on new Office of Urban Agriculture at DOEE
 - i. On September 11, a community meeting was held at the ARC in Ward 8 to better understand what the new Director of Urban Agriculture Department would be responsible for and the specific job duties that should be included in the role. Key skills that were identified include, navigating district agencies, real experience with grant writing and loan management to help communities, coordinating and connecting with the community, and the new director does not necessarily need to be a farmer.
 - ii. The Online DC Urban Agriculture Survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCUrbanAg>) has been taken by 325 people thus far.
 - iii. The job posting for the Director of the Department of Urban Agriculture has been drafted and is going through the approval process within the government. The expected timeframe for posting is within one month and the position will be open for applications for 2-3 weeks. If you know anyone who may be interested, please let them know to have their documents ready.
 - iv. Emergency legislation was recently enacted for the Urban Farming Land Lease Program that addresses issues with soil testing standards (it now allows lessees to enter into an agreement with the District without doing soil testing if the soil on the land is not being used for production (in the case of raised beds, rooftop farms, hydroponics, etc.) The emergency legislation also clarifies that part of the Land Lease Program will stay under DGS since that agency acts at the District’s “landlord”. Additionally, DOEE will consult with OTR about the Tax Abatement for private properties leasing to farmers to ensure that the program continues to move forward.
- e. Ronnie Webb- Don’t Mute My Health new video: <https://www.dontmutemyhealth.org/sugar-impact>
 - i. Don’t Mute My Health is a grassroots movement started by Ronnie Webb and Stuart Anderson to reclaim health in the community and the organization has been growing since the last FPC meeting. Since then, they’ve attended at least 2 rallies/events per week to discuss the importance of health with the community and to build capacity and partnerships to make public health changes. Currently the program is working with DC Greens and is working to partner with Giant Foods.
 - ii. The program started with 12 ambassadors and now there is a pipeline to for new ambassadors and to increase involvement from the community and connect them to businesses and legislators.

4. FPC Updates

- a. 2020 Priorities Survey- deadline: October 9 (link at <https://dcfoodpolicy.org>)
dcfoodpolicy.org/ [@DCFoodPolicy](https://www.facebook.com/dcfoodpolicycouncil/) <https://www.facebook.com/dcfoodpolicycouncil/>

- i. Public input for 2020 DC Food Policy Council priorities is being gathered and will be used to create the new District's 2020 priorities. The results will be put together and the new 2020 priorities will be announced at the December 4th meeting.
- b. New FPC Nominees, Confirmation Hearing: October 10, 11:30AM, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Rm 120 – can be viewed online during or after
 - i. Dr. James Huang, Unity Health Care
 - ii. Winnie Huston, DC Greens
 - iii. Kristy McCarron, YMCA
 - iv. Emi Reyes, Latino Economic Development Center
 - v. Andre Towner, DC Baptist Convention
 - vi. Beverley Wheeler, DC Hunger Solutions
 - vii. 2nd term: Spike Mendelsohn, Restaurant Owner
 - viii. 2nd term: Philip Sambol, Good Food Markets
- c. Food Economy Study published! <https://dcfoodpolicy.org/resources/reports/> : The Food Economy Study is an analysis of the economic, employment, and fiscal impact of the District's local food economy. The study examines various sectors of the local food economy including food production, grocery stores, restaurants and bars, and wholesaling and distribution and then provides recommendations to support and grow the local food economy.

5. Policy & Legislative Updates

- a. Food-Related Legislation in DC Council: Trivia! – Winners get FPC t-shirt
 - i. Have had a hearing:
 - 1. B23-0192 Cottage Food Expansion Act of 2019 (4/23/2019) – Winnie Huston
 - a. Where can you currently sell cottage foods in the District and how much can you earn annually?
 - i. At a farmer's market or special event, up to \$25,000
 - 2. B23-0131 Ward 7 & Ward 8 Restaurant Incentive Program Establishment Act of 2019 (6/3/2019) – Andre Towner and Pumpkin
 - a. How many sit-down restaurants are there currently in Wards 7 and 8 combined?
 - i. Ward 7 = 3 (Sala Thai, Thai Orchid's Kitchen, and Denny's)
 - ii. Ward 8 = 4 (Busboys and Poets, The Player's Lounge (Georgina's by day), Everlasting Life Restaurant, and IHOP)
 - 3. B23-0180 On-Site Services Act of 2019 (6/11/2019)
 - a. Name 3 services that would have to be provided, in addition to nutrition.
 - i. Food and nutrition services, health services, legal services, childcare services, education services, employment services, after-school programs, social activities that promote community-building, or other social service programs that promote health and support housing.
 - ii. Have not had a hearing:
 - 1. B23-0092 Grocery Store Development Projects Labor Peace Agreement Amendment Act of 2019
 - a. Which large grocery stores in the District currently have unionized employees?
 - i. Giant and Safeway
 - 2. B23-0122 Cashless Retail Prohibition Act of 2019

- i.
 3. B23-0190 Healthy Beverages for Kids Meals Act of 2019
 - a. According to this bill, what beverages would restaurants NOT be allowed to sell as part of a kid's meal? (name 2)
 - i. Soda, diet soda, beverages with added sweeteners, whole milk, juice drinks with added sweeteners
 4. B23-0231 Healthy Shelters Act of 2019
 5. B23-0360 - Continuing Nutrition Education Amendment Act of 2019 – Emi Reyes
 - a. According to this bill, who would be required to complete nutrition education courses?
 - i. Doctors, nurses, physicians' assistants
 - b. Check out our updated legislative tracker: <https://dcfoodpolicy.org/policy/legislation/>
- 6. Grants/Funding**
 - a. DSLBD Ward 7 & 8 Microbusiness Dream Grants, deadline Nov. 15 at 2pm: <https://dslbd.dc.gov/release/fy2020-ward-7-8-microbusiness-dream-grants>
 - i. A grant for businesses that are 50% or more owned by Ward 7 or 8 residents and located in Ward 7 or 8. Businesses must be appropriately licensed and cannot have more than 5 employees. DSLBD intends to award between 20 and 25 grants, of up \$10,000 each, from the \$200,000 in total available funding for 2020.
 - b. WeAspire Returning Citizen Grants, deadline Nov. 1 at 2pm: <https://dslbd.dc.gov/node/1428486>
 - i. Supporting returning citizen business owners with resources to help create and grow their businesses. DSLBD intends to award up to 10 grants, of between \$25,000 and \$150,000, from the \$250,000 in total available funding for 2020.
 - c. Great Streets Small Business Grant, deadline Oct. 24 at 1pm: <https://greatstreets.dc.gov/page/request-applications-rfa-fy2020-great-streets-small-business-grant>
 - i. The grant is available to small businesses in the Great Streets Corridors that wish to improve their place of business, some restrictions apply for the types businesses that are eligible and the use of the funds.
 - d. Coming soon! Centralized Kitchen Study RFP
 - i. The RFP for the Centralized Kitchen Study will be released in the coming weeks. Stay on the lookout and pass along to potential applicants.
 - e. Great resource for jobs, funding, events, and more: DUG Newsletter, <http://dugnetwork.org/>
- 7. Announcements**
 - a. Next FPC meeting: Wednesday, December 4th, 6-7:30 pm:
 - i. December meeting will be the start of a new working group, "Entrepreneurs and Food Jobs" which will be cochaired by Emi Reyes (ereyes@ledcmetro.org) and Kate Mereand (Katherine.mereand-sinha@dc.gov).
 - b. Next working group meetings & locations – updated at <https://dcfoodpolicy.org/meetings/>
 - c. Chesapeake Food Summit, October 15, <https://www.chesapeakefoodsummit.org/>
 - i. FREE REGISTRATION with code **CFS19d5x**
 - d. The 4th annual DC Food Recovery Week is Oct. 19 to 26! With classes, workshops, film screenings and a happy hour expo of food-waste fighting organizations, the week helps people across the region reduce their impact, learn about the work being done, and, of course, eat great food! The full schedule is



available at dcfoodrecovery.org. For those in Montgomery County, a parallel week of events is taking place, with the full schedule available at mocofoodrescueweek.org/

- e. Community Grocery Co-op: <https://communitygrocerycooperative.wordpress.com/>
 - i. A group of community members within the DC Metro Area that is focused on opening and operating collectively owned grocery stores in Wards 7 and 8. For more information on how to get involved please visit their website.
- f. Oct. 3 at 9:30am, Wilson Building: Presentation by national experts on employee-ownership (cooperatives) for food businesses. This is part of an initiative led by the FPC, DSLBD, DOES, and Wacif to learn more about food cooperatives. For those who are unable to attend a presentation on the topic will be given at the December meeting.