

**District of Columbia Food Policy Council****December 4, 2019 6:00-7:30 pm****Meeting Notes**

- Icebreaker: share with a partner your favorite holiday food memory.
- We will have a garden plot at each meeting. If you have something that you don't want to share in front of the group, you can add a sticky note for

## Introductions

**FPC Members:** Philip Sambol, Winnie Huston, Chris Bradshaw, Beverley Wheeler, Andre Towner, Kristy McCarron, Emi Reyes, James Huang, Joelle Robinson,

**Ex Officio Members:** Katie Baskett (DMPED), Beth Hannah (OSSE), Caroline Howe (DOEE), Kate Mereand (DSLBD), Emily Johnson (OP)

**1. Report back on online survey on 2019-2020 Food Policy Priorities**

- a. We had 73 responses; we got really great feedback from the participants. Thank you for taking the survey. We considered all of those responses as we created the 2020 Food Policy Priorities.
- b. See the presentation [here](#).
- c. Themes from Survey Results
  - i. Better FPC Communication and outreach with District residents
  - ii. Breaking down FPC priorities into actionable steps
  - iii. Priorities that focus on underserved residents, with a focus on Wards 7 & 8
  - iv. Increasing funding opportunities (mainly for small food businesses and farmers)
  - v. More healthy and affordable food options
  - vi. Sustainable menus for schools and institutions
  - vii. Connecting food policy to climate change
  - viii. Expanding cottage food laws
  - ix. Nutrition and garden education in schools as part of curriculum

**2. Presentation of 2020 DC Food Policy Priorities (by Working Group Chairs)**

- a. We talked about the 2020 DC Food Policy Priorities. You can find those (now official!) priorities [here](#).
- b. These priorities stem from what we have heard throughout the year, menu of priorities for District agencies, mayor, Council, and partners.
  - i. Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs
    1. Priorities
      - a. Identify strategies to increase affordable commercial kitchen space, cold storage, storefronts, and retail opportunities for District food entrepreneurs.
      - b. Deploy innovative strategies for food businesses to support high-quality food jobs and careers.
      - c. Identify and catalogue District regulations and licensing that present challenges for small food businesses.
    2. Action: commercial kitchen matchmaking efforts; speaker series on entrepreneurs and supporting workers; identifying licenses and complex challenges of small businesses
    3. We meet once a month on the first Tuesday of every month; you can learn more about us [here](#)
  - ii. Nutrition & Food System Education
    1. Priorities



- a. Conduct a DC nutrition education landscape analysis.
    - b. Enhance collaboration among DC nutrition educators.
    - c. Increase connections between the healthcare sector and nutrition and food system education.
  2. Actions: conduct a nutrition education landscape analysis; collaborate more and increase communication tools across educators; increase the gap between nutrition educators and healthcare professors
- iii. Food Access & Equity
  1. Priorities
    - a. Create a DC Good Food Investment Fund to invest in locally-owned food businesses serving District neighborhoods with low access to healthy food.
    - b. Promote programs that explore how nutritious food can improve health.
    - c. Celebrate and increase awareness of new grocery options in DC.
  2. Actions: One pagers on upcoming healthy food stores and programs; speaker series on healthy food and changing the conversations around food access; Good Food Sabbath (modeled off of Census Sabbath)
- iv. Urban Agriculture
  1. Priorities
    - a. Expand the Urban Land Lease Program and Urban Agriculture Tax Credit in collaboration with the DC Director of Urban Agriculture.
    - b. Explore funding opportunities for an Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.
  2. Actions: focused on supporting the new Office of Urban Ag and funding opportunities for farmers for cold storage and production processing
- v. Sustainable Supply Chain (formerly Sustainable Procurement WG)
  1. Priorities
    - a. Determine how District food policy can address climate change and increase the District's preparedness for severe weather events.
    - b. Publish the centralized kitchen study.
    - c. Develop best practices for institutional food procurement in the District.
  2. Actions: really focused on climate change and food; centralized kitchen study; processing
- c. Overall, we want to emphasize a greater focus on community and stakeholder engagement and inclusiveness in our processes, decision-making, and communications.
- d. Only appointed FPC members; voice vote
  - i. Approve: all approved the food policy priorities
  - ii. The 2020 DC Food Policy Priorities are approved!

### 3. Local Spotlight Presentations

- a. Moving forward, we will have the working groups highlight groups for local spotlight presentations.
- b. School meal innovation at DC Public Schools: Rob Jaber, DCPS Food & Nutrition Services Director
  - i. Class to Café Program – connection between food and nutrition education with FoodPrints
  - ii. [Video](#)
  - iii. We are in 10 schools currently, but there are 115 schools in DCPS so there is a lot more we can do. Hopefully getting up to 13 schools by the end of the year!
  - iv. Kids who participated in these programs were eating 42% more of their food (from a plate waste study)!
  - v. Lots of support for FoodPrints “FoodPrints rocks!”



vi. Questions

1. What are some of the challenges from getting this program into more schools? Funding for more kitchen space, not formalized for DCPS, there's a lot more infrastructure need (equipment, planning ahead). Part of it is integrating food education into the school system – the willingness to invest in the school system. The Sustainable DC 2.0 plan has committed to having each child having at least 10 hours a year of garden education.
2. Is the soil that the children are planting in tested? Yes, all of the soil is tested and all of the gardens use raised beds.
3. Are there strategies for engaging parents to operationalize what the students learn in the classroom to what they do at home? Parents are invited into the FoodPrints sessions, and in some of our schools (like Kimball), we are running a parent/child cooking class once a week and gives them a food share to take home. Parents get letters on what happens in the classroom and last year, they made a recipe book on all of the recipes taught in the classroom.

c. DC Collective Equity Initiative: Building Wealth through Food: Kate Mereand, Department of Small and Local Business Development

- i. See the presentation [here](#).
- ii. The District is thinking about what are cooperative ways that people can build wealth cooperatively through food businesses
- iii. The SEED Fellowship is focused on supporting cooperative models, and within DC, we are working on supporting cooperative, hyperlocal food businesses
- iv. DC has a long history of cooperatives and food cooperatives specifically (check out the slides to learn more).
- v. Questions
  1. How are you defining equity? We don't have one definition, we are using a moving definition of equity... Equity is where you say hey let's build this thing together. Everything is community-driven.
  2. Does your definition of co-ops include co-ops owned by workers and small businesses? Yes, we recognize both formal and informal co-ops. Very interested in purchasing alliances – how you buy to take advantage of economies of scale.
  3. What happens after the fellowship? They would like to continue to support us after the year, the idea is to open up the landscape of conversation for co-ops. Many of those who want build co-ops want to build resources outside of government.

#### 4. FPC Updates

- a. Congratulations to our new confirmed members!
  - 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> term: Spike Mendelsohn, Restaurant Owner
  - viii. 2<sup>nd</sup> term: Philip Sambol, Good Food Markets
- b. Community Advocates update (Winnie Huston)
  - i. Community Luncheon – Saturday, January 25 (12 pm to 2 pm)



1. Talking about policy; how does policy get made in DC; will use Urban Ag Legislation and Cottage Food Business; target audience will be focused on folks who want to start small food businesses
2. Email: [Winnie@dcgreens.org](mailto:Winnie@dcgreens.org)

## 5. Policy & Legislative Updates

- a. Food-Related Legislation in DC Council (**highlighted bills** have moved since last FPC meeting)

- i. Passed 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

1. **B23-0192 Cottage Food Expansion Act of 2019 (12/3/2019)**

- a. **Passed on its first vote; it needs to be approved one more time**

- b. New legislation: allows people to sell all direct to consumer sales and in retail stores; removes the revenue cap entirely (you can produce as much as you can in your home); streamlines application process, removes in home inspection

- c. Questions

- i. Is it limited to primary residence? Yes, it is limited to primary residence; it has to be your home. The list of foods is still pretty limited.

- ii. Is it limited to DC products? Maryland has a rule where if you produce in MD, you can't sell in DC. Not sure if that same rule applies in Virginia. If you cross into another state with your products, you must be careful because it is an interstate commerce issue.

- iii. Is canning added to the Cottage Food Law? Yes and no. Specific items are already approved. But things like pickling are still not allowed. The Council wanted to focus first on the safest types of food. If you want to make and sell something not on the list of approved foods, you can get them tested.

2. **B23-0180 On-Site Services Act of 2019 (12/3/2019)**

- ii. Have had a hearing:

1. B23-0131 Ward 7 & Ward 8 Restaurant Incentive Program Establishment Act of 2019 (6/3/2019)

2. **B23-0360 Continuing Nutrition Education Amendment Act of 2019 (11/13/2019)**

3. **B23-0390 Urban Farming Land Lease Amendment Act of 2019 (11/18/2019)**

- a. Trivia: What kind of farms will not have to do soil testing? Farms that do not grow produce in the site soil, including raised beds, greenhouses, or hydroponic towers.

- iii. Have not had a hearing:

1. B23-0092 Grocery Store Development Projects Labor Peace Agreement Amendment Act of 2019

2. B23-0122 Cashless Retail Prohibition Act of 2019

3. B23-0190 Healthy Beverages for Kids Meals Act of 2019

4. B23-0231 Healthy Shelters Act of 2019

5. **B23-0495 Healthy Beverage Choices Amendment Act of 2019**

- a. Trivia: Tax on sugary drinks: How much more would a 16-ounce soda cost if the bill passes? (1.5c x 16= 24 cents more)

- b. 12 Council members have signed onto this bill. The introduction and creation of this bill has been a community-driven process with Don't Mute My Health.

- c. The bill would repeal the existing sales tax; this would be an excise tax applied to price on the shelf. Money raised through the tax will go to fund food as medicine program, healthy parks, and birth to three programs.



## 6. B23-0506 Zero Waste Omnibus Amendment Act of 2019 (Hearing: Monday, December 16, 2019 at 12:30 pm at the DC Council)

- a. If passed, this Act would require large commercial food waste generators to separate food waste from the solid waste stream to be composted. Under the bill, what counts as a large commercial food waste generator? A retail food store with > 50 employees, a food service establishment with > 75 employees, a university with > 200 employees, a school with > 100 employees, a hospital/nursing home with > 100 employees, arenas that seat > 15K, hotels with > 100 rooms
- b. Check out our updated legislative tracker: <https://dcfoodpolicy.org/policy/legislation/>

## 6. Grants/Funding

- a. Coming soon! Central Kitchen Study RFP
- b. Great resource for jobs, funding, events, and more: DUG Newsletter, <http://dugnetwork.org/>

## 7. Announcements

- a. Next FPC meeting: Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 6pm, location TBD
- b. Next working group meetings & locations – updated at <https://dcfoodpolicy.org/meetings/>
- c. Want to learn about food policy in the District's Comprehensive Plan? We created an overview of food policy in the Comp Plan ([check it out here](#)) and then tracked all of the updated policies, narrative, and actions in the Comp Plan and put that in a tracker on our website ([check it out here](#)).
- d. Rooting DC, February 29, 2020, Ron Brown Prep (registration opens in January 2020): <https://www.rootingdc.org/>
  - i. Rooting DC is entering into its 14<sup>th</sup> year! It's a whole day event focused on gardening, food justice, culture, and history, with info tables from gov agencies and non-profit organizations. They are working on ramping up kid-friendly activities this year, and the whole event is family-friendly!
- e. NEW! Monthly Q&A with DC Food Policy Office every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday, starting January 3, 2020 @9:30-11am at Shaw Library
- f. Mary Blackwood, founder of Market 7. Groundbreaking ceremony, next Tuesday, Dec 10 at 12 pm – 3451 Benning Road NE: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/market-7-benning-market-groundbreaking-inward-7-tickets-84806489493>
- g. Join the DC Food Policy Council and DC Greens for our Community Luncheon, the third event in a Community Meal series to engage residents in shaping an equitable, healthy, and sustainable food system in Washington, D.C. The luncheon will be an opportunity for residents to learn how policy is made in the District and about two key pieces of legislation on Urban Agriculture and Cottage Foods. The healthy meal will be catered by DC Central Kitchen's Cafe and will include sandwiches, salads, and fresh fruit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dc-food-policy-council-and-dc-greens-present-the-community-meals-series-tickets-84743814029>
  - i. The next Community Luncheon is on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 12pm.
- h. FPC Performance oversight hearing: January 9, 2019 (come testify, come watch!)
- i. SNAP Rule Change: The rule change around work requirements that we discussed earlier this year has been made official at the federal level. You can learn more about the impact of that rule [here](#); it's projected to impact 700,000 individuals across the country and around 11,000 individuals here in DC. Advocates are not giving up however; they are filing amicus briefs to hopefully delay its implementation.
- j. Attendees invited to announce other events (or email them to [dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov](mailto:dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov) by Friday 12/6)