



## District of Columbia Food Policy Council

February 5, 2020 6:00-7:30 pm

### Agenda

**Icebreakers:** turn to person next to you (that you don't work with): introduce yourself and share a food you refused to eat as a kid but have grown to like as an adult

- Tariq Sheriff – Okra
- Winne Huston – Spinach

**Food Policy Council Members in Attendance:** Beverley Wheeler, Andre Towner, Kristy McCarron, James Huang, Philip Sambol, Emi Reyes, Chris Bradshaw, Winnie Huston

**Ex-Officio Members:** Lindsey Palmer (OSSE), Caroline Howe (DOEE), Kate Mereand (DSLBD), Virginia-Marie Roure (DSLBD), Bridgette Acklin (DHS), Katie Baskett (DMPED), Emily Johnson (OP), Ankoor Shah (DC Health), Dan Guilbeault (DOEE), Sara Beckwith (DC Health)

### 1. Working Group Updates

- a. Food Access & Equity
  - i. The group is currently working on mapping the current landscape of food options to better advise the District government on gaps and where to target efforts
  - ii. There are 4 new healthy retail food options that have been announced for Wards 7 & 8 in 2020
    1. Check out the link here to see the newest map  
<https://www.dcfoodpolicy.org/resources/data-maps/>
  - iii. Working towards a cohesive narrative and creating materials to discuss food desserts in the city to bring more awareness to DC Council and others working in the space
  - iv. Creating a Proactive Speakers Bureau to connect with and inform residents of existing services and food retail options in their area and around the District. There are many projects in the works and communicating with District residents is key to ensure they are aware of and taking advantage of resources.
- b. Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs
  - i. Discussed matchmaking for entrepreneurs and kitchen spaces that are currently under-utilized within the District. This includes churches, restaurants with nighttime operating hours, community centers, etc.
    1. What does this process look like and how can this event help connect the right groups of people to maximize value?
    2. What regulations need to be addressed to ensure this is possible?
  - ii. Interest for the group is growing and there are constantly new members coming to each meeting and word is spreading quickly, please sign up for the [email list](#) and pass along the information to those that are not yet connected.
  - iii. The working group is excited about to support the FPC's launch of the Make Food Work Strategy – looking for more opportunities to connect with local food businesses, please pass along the information to others in the space (see section 3b for all the details)
- c. Nutrition & Food System Education

- i. New FDA rules were released for food labeling for small business entities and how they can be compliant with the Federal laws already in place along with final guidance on serving sizes and dual column labeling for retail products – learn more on the FDA website [here](#)
  - ii. The USDA has released the MyPlate App for mobile devices which can help you set healthy eating goals, track food and calorie intake and connect with others through social media – learn more at the Choose MyPlate website [here](#)
  - iii. The working group is continuing to learn how to connect healthcare to the nutrition sector with the help of Dr. James Huang. They are looking into connecting nutrition education as part of the continuum of care and YMCA is conducting focus groups with providers and will share that through the working group when they have completed their work.
- d. Urban Agriculture
- i. Rooting DC Conference by DC Greens is coming up on February 29<sup>th</sup> at Ron Brown High School – 80+ workshops on food access, gardening, policy and a listening session for urban agriculture (check out the link in section 6g for more information).
  - ii. At tonight’s meeting this group merged with the Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs group which normally meets on Tuesday mornings to discuss shared goals and overlapping opportunities connected to identifying infrastructure for cold storage spaces and commercial kitchens for urban farmers.
  - iii. Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) will soon announce the new Director of Urban Agriculture who is expected to start in the role very soon and will have the main priorities of:
    1. Evaluating the Urban Agriculture landscape and working to get the Urban Farming Land Lease program up and running as quickly as possible
    2. Reflecting on best practices and understanding more about the needs of urban farmers and gardeners
    3. And many more!
- e. Sustainable Supply Chain
- i. Continued the conversations on connecting District food procurers and private large-scale food procurers to work together to establish best practices for sustainable procurement and connect with local food businesses to help them integrate into large contract procurement
  - ii. Ran through the Cool Food Pledge Calculator, which works to calculate the carbon footprint of foods you’re purchasing based on their agricultural inputs. The tool has some limitations and is an estimate of overall carbon footprints and does not take into account travel miles as this is only a small portion of the total carbon emissions.
  - iii. Since the last FPC meeting the working group chairs and the FPC have had conversations with business leaders about plant-based proteins, regenerative agriculture, and sustainability initiatives across the country and how we can work to leverage these programs and expertise for the District. These conversations are ongoing, and updates will be given in future working group meetings.
  - iv. The Centralized Kitchen RFP has been released – check out section 3c for all the information

## 2. Local Spotlight Presentations

- a. Why should you care about Census 2020? – Melissa Byrd, Executive Director, District Census 2020
  - i. The 2020 US Census will be online for the first time starting in March
  - ii. 20% of DC residents don’t have Internet access so this could be an issues, but options for paper surveys are available and those who do not complete the online form will be mailed a paper

- copy, and some identified geographic areas will receive a paper copy with their initial information.
- iii. The Census is extremely important as it sets the total amount of Federal \$\$ that the District receives over the next decade. Currently DC is getting about \$6 billion
  - iv. Undercounting is a big issue and means the District won't get the total dollars it needs for programming which disproportionately impacts low-income, immigrant, and persons of color amongst other groups.
  - v. The push for completing the Census will be between March and April for self-responses either online or through paper forms – after this, enumerators will come knocking on your door to get a form completed by hand.
- b. The merger of FreshFarm and Community Food Works – Nony Dutton
- i. FreshFarm and Community FoodWorks have merged! Offices are still separate, but they will be joining into one location very soon.
  - ii. The focus of the merger is to highlight strengths in connecting food economy to education and innovation to expand the reach of both organizations and create a more streamlined system for farmers, shoppers, partners, and students in which there is better communications, expanded opportunities, better collaboration and advocacy, and better programming and access to local food.
  - iii. There will be opportunities available to serve as a board member as terms end and members cycle through. If you are interested, please check out the website to connect [here](#)
- c. DC Health's Community Health Administration Grants – Dr. Ankoor Shah & Sara Beckwith, DC Health
- i. The Request for Applications (RFA) for DC Health's Community Health Administration Grants are expected to be released in Spring 2020 which focuses on improving the food environment landscape within the District.
  - ii. DC Health is currently looking for feedback on the current grant programming areas of (1) School-based food markets; (2) Farmers' markets incentive programs; and (3) Healthcare aligned food access.
  - iii. These programs are part of DC Health's focus on understanding and addressing the social determinants of health to better support District residents through community engagement and program evaluation.

### 3. FPC Updates

- a. Community Meals recap – Winnie Huston
- i. 3<sup>rd</sup> event in the Community Meals series which was held on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the DCRA building and discussed how policy in the District is created with a focus on food entrepreneurship and urban agriculture
  - ii. Presentations on the Cottage Foods Expansion Amendment Act and the Urban Farming Land Lease Amendment Act were made by Tatiana Pino at the Institute of Justice and Kate Lee from DC Greens.
  - iii. Myeasha Taylor from Two Moons Food Group and Xavier Brown from Soilful City presented on business development for food entrepreneurs and their experiences working as food entrepreneurs in the District.
  - iv. We had a great turnout for the event and lots of connections were made between food entrepreneurs, urban agriculturists, DC Greens, and DC Government. We are excited to start planning out 4<sup>th</sup> event in the coming months so be on the lookout for more information.
  - v. Check out photos on our Twitter ([@dcfoodpolicy](#)) and DC Greens ([@dc\\_greens](#))

- b. *Make Food Work: A Strategy to Strengthen the DC Food Workforce* has been released!
  - i. Created with support from Kaiser Permanente, this report will serve as the District’s roadmap for improving job quality and expanding career pathways within the District’s food workforce.
  - ii. This was truly a collaborative effort. We worked closely with our partner agencies including the DC Workforce Investment Council (WIC) and DC Department of Employment Services (DOES), and gained invaluable insights from workforce training providers, businesses, and community organizations. Thank you to all those who participated in our one-on-one interviews and the Food Workforce Convening held in February 2019.
  - iii. One key finding of this report is that employers need more resources to support their employees. To that end, we partnered with DC Central Kitchen to create the accompanying Employer Guide to Promoting Workforce Development in the Food Industry. This guide draws from interviews with DC food sector employers and includes case studies on employers who are supporting workers, increasing retention, and promoting career advancement.
  - iv. You can find the Strategy and Employer Guide at our website: [dcfoodpolicy.org/makefoodwork](https://dcfoodpolicy.org/makefoodwork).
- c. Centralized Kitchen Study RFP (Tariq Sheriff)
  - i. The long-awaited RFP for Centralized Kitchen Study has been released and the deadline for submitting a proposal is Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 2pm. All submissions must be made on the OCP website, please connect with us at [dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov](mailto:dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov) for more details on how to submit a proposal.
  - ii. The Centralized Kitchen Study is a best practices study that will look at other jurisdictions around the country that operate similar facilities and will focus on how the District can use such a facility to prepare, process, grow, and store healthy and nutritious foods for school and non-profit organizations; support nutrition education programs; and provide job training programs for students and District residents. It will also determine how such a facility could meet the needs of other institutional programs providing food to child development centers, senior centers, correctional facilities, recreation centers, etc.
  - iii. The Consultant who is awarded the contract will be required to meet with the Sustainable Supply Chain working group and incorporate their feedback into their work. Please connect with the working group if you would like to be a part of this discussion.

#### 4. Policy & Legislative Updates

- a. Mayor’s Fiscal Year 2021 budget will be released in March
  - i. This is a great way to get involved and advocate for programming you want to see in the District, make sure your voice is heard and that your tax dollars are being spent on priorities that matter to you!
- b. See below for bill updates
- c. Check out our updated legislative tracker: <https://dcfoodpolicy.org/policy/legislation/>

#### 5. Grants/Funding

- a. DSLBD Robust Retail Grants (due March 15<sup>th</sup>)
- b. Specialty Crop Block Grant, UDC CAUSES (due March 16<sup>th</sup>) <http://docs.udc.edu/causes/SCBGP-RFP-2020-6Dec2019.pdf>

#### 6. Announcements

- a. Next FPC meeting: Wednesday, April 1, 6pm, location TBD
- b. Next working group meetings & locations – updated at <https://dcfoodpolicy.org/meetings/>
- c. February 7: Monthly Q&A with DC Food Policy Office, 9:30-11am @ Dorothy Height Library

- d. February 12: Black Women's Growers Month Panel, hosted by DPR, 6:30-8:30PM @ DPR Headquarters: 1275 First Street NE, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-womens-growers-month-panel-tickets-92531398905?>
- e. February 13: Congress Heights Rec Center Renovation Community Meeting (including proposals to include a cooperative grocery market and a commercial kitchen space) <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/congress-heights-rec-center-renovation-community-meeting-tickets-92392160439>
- f. February 14: Deadline for Eastern Market Strategy Plan survey: <https://www.easternmarketplan.org/>
- g. February 29: Rooting DC @Ron Brown Prep (registration open!): <https://www.rootingdc.org/>
- h. March 6: Monthly Q&A with DC Food Policy Office, 9:30-11am, Location TBD <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/monthly-coffee-chat-with-dc-food-policy-director-team-tickets-86940390047>

**Updates on Food-Related Legislation in DC Council**  
**(bolded bills have moved since last FPC meeting)**

- i. Enacted:
  - 1. **B23-0192 Cottage Food Expansion Act of 2019 (Signed by Mayor 1/16/20)**
- ii. Passed on final reading:
  - 1. **B23-0390 Urban Farming Land Lease Amendment Act of 2019 (2/4/20)**
- iii. Have had a hearing:
  - 1. B23-0131 Ward 7 & Ward 8 Restaurant Incentive Program Establishment Act of 2019 (6/3/2019)
  - 2. B23-0180 On-Site Services Act of 2019 (Markup: 12/3/2019)
  - 3. B23-0360 Continuing Nutrition Education Amendment Act of 2019 (11/13/2019)
  - 4. **B23-0506 Zero Waste Omnibus Amendment Act of 2019 (12/16/19)**
- iv. 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