

## DC Food Policy Council Meeting Notes

December 7, 2022

**Welcome:** Piscataway Land Acknowledgement [PISCATAWAY CONOY TRIBE - Home \(piscatawaytribe.org\)](https://piscatawaytribe.org)

### FPC Member Attendance:

#### Ex-Officio Members

- OSSE: Elizabeth Leach
- OP: Ona Balkus, Ashley Stephens, Tariq Sheriff
- DC Health: Sara Beckwith, Jo-Ann Jolly
- DSLBD: Caroline Howe
- DOEE: Kate Lee
- DHS: Jessica Green

#### Appointed Members

- Ona Balkus – Food Policy Director
- Rachel Clark
- Kristy McCarron
- James Huang
- Ronnie Webb
- Karyn Bigelow
- Natalia Kalloo
- Winnie Huston
- Beverley Wheeler

#### Working Group Updates

##### Sustainable Supply Chain

- Met as working group in November to solidify working group goals for next year and used that to work through at retreat

##### Food Access & Equity

- Hosted two folks from [Bread Coin](#) to give presentation on programs-
  - Coin that can be used for food by a variety of local businesses in community
  - Overview of draft projects
  - Bridgette Acklin will be stepping down from FPC and Jessica Green will be filling in as Ex-Officio member

##### Nutrition & Health

- Welcomed Jo Ann Jolly from DC Health as Ex-Officio
- Went over goals from retreat for 2023

##### Urban Agriculture

- Office of Urban Ag award program closes on the December 8 at 6pm grants up to 15,000
- Food Scapes DC Grant
  - Looking to award two applications for edible gardens around District and provide gardening assistance
  - Looking for help to identify homes (20) homes and will come down to about 6 actual installations
  - Looking around Anacostia Watershed area or intersection where low-food access is an issue

### **Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs**

- Focusing 2023 on Post Covid needs withing small businesses
- Looking to draft key recommendations on what the real needs are for businesses; access to space; and rental issues;
- Food Access Fund Opened December 12<sup>th</sup>

### **Sustainable Supply Chain**

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- **DC Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) Coalition- Max Broad and Colleen McKinney**
  - The Center for Good Food Purchasing
  - Uses the power of procurement to create a transparent and equitable food system that prioritizes the health and well-being of people, animals and the environment.
  - Core Values:
    - Nutrition
    - Environmental Sustainability
    - Local Economics
    - Valued Workforce
    - Animal Welfare
  - How Program Works
    - Transparency + Accountability= Market Shift to Support Equity
      1. Assesses Baseline
      2. Set Goals + Make Shifts
      3. Track Progress
      4. Celebrate Success
  - Who they've reached Nationally:
    - 63 Institutions
    - 25 Cities
    - 17 Policies
    - More than 1.1 Billion Spent annually on food
  - Impact Reached in District
    - \$125 M annual food spend

- 600,000+ students
    - 81% of students qualify for free and reduced price lunch
    - 680,000+ meals served daily
  - Corresponding Actions and Legislation
    - Healthy Tots Act of 2014
    - Fair Shot Minimum Wage Amendment Act of 2016
    - Sustainable DC 2.0
    - Green Food Purchasing Amendment Act of 2021
    - Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration
    - Cool Food Pledge
- **Universal Free School Meals Policy Brief- Stephanie Schmeltzer**
  - The Case for Universal Free School Meals for DC Students: “Universal free school meals” is a policy that can be passed federally or at the state level to provide free breakfast and lunch to every student
  - Benefits:
    - Increase access to school meals, and
    - Reduce stigma for children who rely on free meals.
    - Improved academic achievement
    - Experience lower obesity rates
    - Consumed more fruits and vegetables
    - Lowered risk of Behavioral issues
    - Experience reduced nutritional deficiencies
  - Federal Waivers Expired on June 30, 2022
    - During the 2020-22 school year, USDA issued waivers for states to provide universal free school meals.
    - For the 2022-23 school year, USDA now requires schools to once again collect meal applications and charge students who do not qualify for free meals.
    - Challenges of the current system:
      - Creates burden for families;
      - Decreases participation in school meals; and
      - Creates stigma for children.
  - Free School Meals help racial inequities in DC by:
    - Black and Latinx students experience higher rates of food insecurity than white students
    - 29.3% of Latinx and 21% of Black households with children face food insufficiency
    - For many children, school meals constitute the majority of their calories for the day
  - Bringing Universal Free School Meals to DC
    - OSSE, the implementing agency, would need the following local budget investment:
    - \$8 million annually: support meal reimbursements for universal free school meals
    - Additional funding would be needed to support updating systems and staff to educate, train, and maintain universal free school meals administration.
- **Updates on 2023 FPC Goals and Priorities**

- The FPC Members met for their annual retreat on November 29<sup>th</sup>. It was a productive day reconnecting with each other and our values for the Council.
- Draft 2023 Priorities and projects will be released to the public through a digital survey in January.
- **FPC Announcements:**
  - **Friday, January 6, 10-11am:** Monthly Food Policy Office Hours (1st Friday of every month: Email [dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov](mailto:dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov) to sign up)
  - **Wednesday, February 1, 5-6pm:** Next FPC Public Meeting
  - **To join a Working Group listserv**, email the WG chairs or [dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov](mailto:dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov)