

Marin Food Policy Council

Meeting Notes

May 19, 2015

[HHS campus](#)

Next Marin Food Policy Council meeting: June 16, 2015, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at [HHS campus](#)

Attendees:

Steering Committee - Janet Brown (AllStar Organics); Alexandra Danino (SF/Marin Food Bank); Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin); Rebecca Smith (HHS); Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative)

Committee Members – Amy Ridout (Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden); Becky Gershon (SF/Marin Food Bank); Casey Poldino (Zero Waste Marin); Cío Hernández (HHS); June Farmer (Marin City CX3); Liza Crosse (Marin BOS); Marv Zauderer (ExtraFood.org); Miguel Villarreal (Novato USD); Nancy Boyce (Marin Link); Peter Healey (AIM); Sheila Kopf (SF/Marin Food Bank);

Guests from Fairfax – Larry Bragman (Fairfax Town Council, and other various hats) and John Reed (Mayor of Town of Fairfax)

Welcome & Introductions – Janet Brown

Guest Presentation: Fairfax Food Security and CalFresh Resolution

Background:

- SF Marin Food Bank – principal sponsoring organization for the Fairfax food pantry and stakeholder in food security resolution
- Put together a collaboration of the Town Council, volunteers, and a Community Church
- Community Church provided facility to do the pantry which was key. Pantry is a 4 year old program. Program works well because there is no means testing and no questions asked, just name and local address. Strive to make the pantry part of local public culture.
- Community Garden is on County land, have had fruit trees mapped for gleaning to raise awareness of where available food is.
- Fairfax Seed Library at Public Library
- Farmers Market in Fairfax – Double value – but trying to offer this program year round.
- **Overview of Resolution:** The resolution Fairfax passed was aimed at public education, but many of the things were already in place. Used SF's Resolution as a model. Goal was to let people know about CalFresh, and how many families could qualify for CalFresh but hadn't applied within Fairfax. Also wanted to publicize how and where people could access food.
- See food as the most important service that you can give to the community. Foundation for education and good health.

- Question: Generally, food policy is something people see as a Federal or State issue. Tell us how you, as a town, recognized the responsibility at the local level? Response: It's kind of a chicken and egg thing. Volunteerism is strong, interest in local food is strong. Starts with a seed, finding someone in the community who is interested in fostering this. Maybe a community garden or farmers market and it can grow from there, in terms of policies that enable those things.

- Question: Step-by-step, what were the things that you did to make the resolution happen? Response: First we did research; we wanted to get our facts. We also looked at San Francisco's resolution and then looked at what did and didn't fit for our town. We also wanted to encourage the County to adopt food policies on their own. The Resolution is more of an advocacy document and rallying cry than a policy document. It does not have that level of detail. We wanted to raise awareness.

- Question: What do you see a next step? Response: On a practical level, there are a lot of people who can't get to the pantry. We also do food delivery. The outreach really has to be personal and door to door.

See Town of Fairfax Resolution attached in this email

Equitable Access Report (Becky and Julia)

- Becky presents on a draft Policy Options Worksheet on CalFresh.

Small Group Work – Equitable Access Policy Options Worksheets (POWs)

Group 1: Healthy Retail (Facilitator = Julia)

Group 2: Community food production (Facilitator = Steve)

Group 3: Emergency food (Facilitator = Alexandra)

UPDATES

Steve: Update on AB 1321 Market Match.

CA Food Policy Council – Steve will circulate request for support on new bills. Send questions and comments to him by the deadline.

Closing remarks – Janet Brown

"It's not easy to cross boundaries to adopt a whole-systems approach to health. It means leaving the areas we know well and venturing into fields where we have to depend on the expertise of others. It means learning unfamiliar concepts and mastering new tools to engage complexity. It means asking people to take health into account in making decisions that usually depend on other considerations. It may provoke controversy. It may make people we approach uneasy and even angry. It requires patience, imagination, courage, integrity, and a sense of humor."

- Dr. Richard Levins, John Rock Professor of Population Science, Harvard School of Medicine

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 2015, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at [HHS campus](#)