

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
September 15, 2015
[HHS campus](#)

Next Marin Food Policy Council meeting: October 20, 2015, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at [HHS campus](#)

Attendees:

Steering Committee – Janet Brown (AllStar Organics); Alexandra Danino (SF/Marin Food Bank); Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin); Cío Hernández (HHS); Deborah Schoenbaum (YLI); Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin); Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative)

Committee Members – Angela Struckmann (Marin County Public Assistant); Becky Gershon (SF/Marin Food Bank); Casey Poldino (Zero Waste Marin); Elaini Negussie (HHS); Kiely Hosmon (YLI); Lauren Klein (UCCE Marin); Liza Crosse (Aide to Supervisor Kinsey); Lori Davis, (Sanzuma); Madeline Hope (West Marin Waste Education); Marv Zauderer (ExtraFood.org); Miguel Villarreal (Novato USD); Peter Healey (AIM); Reba Meigs (HHS); Sarah Schoenbaum (YLI); Terrie Green (Marin City CSD)

Guests: Jian Li, (SF State); Matt Willis (Marin HHS); Shyana Sadiq (Golden Gate Dietetic Internship)

Welcome & Council Representative Announcements – Janet Brown

- Lori Davis: fundraiser at Vin Antico – 20% of bill goes to Davidson School garden
- Cio Hernandez: Oct .1 is Family Violence Prevention event “Enough is enough”. Janet is speaking at event.
- Madeline Hope: Sept 19 is Mexican Independence Day in Pt Reyes Town Hall. La mesa de Las Abuelas – West Marin Collaborative and Promotores event sharing grandmothers’ recipes from latino and non-latino members of the community

CA Food Policy Council Report – Steve Schwartz

- CA Food Policy Council Statewide Meeting, Sep. 21/22 in Sacramento.
- Riba and Julia are attending on behalf of MFPC.

Equitable Access Report – Julia Van Soelen Kim and Becky Gershon

Culmination of work of more than a year.

- (1) Review of detailed MFPC Resolution (*internal resolution for the Council to approve*).
- (2) Then create a concise Food Day Resolution for the Board of Supervisors (*external resolution for the BOS and the public*) that will proclaim Food Day and refer to specific policy priorities in a companion report.
- (3) **Present to the Board of Supervisors - October 13 at 10am – we encourage all MFPC members to attend for a large show of support.**
- (4) Over the winter, create a full report that explores the full detail of the POWs, a literature review, and is crafted in collaboration with other County departments sometime before December/January.

- Read through current draft of the resolution with discussion, questions, and comments?
- Question: Do you see yourself, your work, your community here?

- **Suggested edits:**

- Include larger purpose of the resolution in the title (Equitable Access).
- Switch items 1 and 2, and move item 9 higher.
- Include data points on disparities in West Marin, where possible. Berkeley public health students to create a factsheet on health and wellness in West Marin similar to CX3 factsheets this semester. Can also include research MCYC did on West Marin (Kiely).
- Item 16 use “food recovery” rather than “food rescue,” to be consistent with the National EPA language.
- Reference Zero Waste Marin in item 16.
- Any hard data on transportation in item 14 (potentially from a Division of Aging recent survey, or Transportation Authority of Marin)?
- Could other departments and/or a generic statement such as “other departments” be included in participating in item 19?
- Another whereas recognizing existing work on CalFresh, similar for item 21 (work on tobacco and others) – balance between recognizing existing work and calling for more work to be done? Perhaps move existing work from resolves to whereas’s; one new whereas in the beginning that recognizes that departments have been working on these issues for many years and significant progress has been made, but further work needs to be done. Advertise the FPC as an entity that brings together all these agencies.
- Recognize that Food Day is a national event in item 17.
- Include school district data on free and reduced lunch, specifically for Davidson in the Canal, Shoreline Unified in West Marin, and Martin Luther King Junior Academy in Marin City.
- Replace “property tax breaks” with “financial incentives” in item 24 – tax breaks are impossible.
- Add Community Development Agency to item 25 as they oversee the Affordable Housing Fund.
- Include Zero Waste Marin JPA as an agency in item 32. Zero Waste Marin is a Joint Powers Authority. Critical to involve the JPA and cities and towns. (Casey Poldino)
- References to Community Development Agency, should also include city-specific planning departments in items 29 and 30.

Discussion:

- We have to go back to the departments to hold ourselves accountable to having discussions. Also have to honestly assess financial feasibility of each action.
- Understanding the process that went into the development of the resolves (essentially a Strategic Plan) would be helpful, knowing how much they have been pre-vetted with agencies being held responsible with the actions.
- In many areas, more vetting may be crucial, some areas it may not be. Some items may be deal-breakers, some may not. Beware of the forcing function.
- This plan aims to achieve results greater than any one of our agencies.
- Concern expressed over MFPC being identified in most items without full capacity to accomplish work on its own. Tasking MFPC first and foremost for our *internal* resolution because we are the ones to initiate the asks, responsible for the intermediary step between holding ideas and engaging with agencies. This relational step will also likely increase the success of each item.

- For healthy retail, should schools and community gardens be woven in more? Reminder that this is addressing the piece of the pie that is equitable access to healthy food, and that there are other pieces of this pie.
- Resource allocation concerns for what it will take to get this done would be wise. MFPC is a limited-capacity group, which is why we didn't want to task ourselves with too much. Future strategic conversation for selecting priorities and/or low-hanging fruit to begin with. Now we are just recognizing that these are all important.
- A systems-approach involves an interlocking group of strategies; can't just pick one, need to include the entire picture and then prioritize.
- Focusing on priority actions could be an additional resolve – identify priority and achievable actions.
- A few items are large asks, could this be looked at as a first step, of what the BOS can say yes to at this point in time. There can be other steps past October 13, this is the beginning of a conversation. This resolution to the BOS is intended to plant the seed of the conversation of equitable access to healthy food.
- Can provide 2 documents: 1) this document reflecting today's changes as a Google doc as well as an attached word doc; and 2) the more narrowed and focused version that will go before the BOS. The BOS version needs to be in the board packet, to be submitted a week from today, September 22.
- **Ask for questions and concerns to be taken by email, as well as any objections. No response will mean you give permission to move forward.**

- Review timeline, volunteer tasks, and Food Day publicity – TABLED.

- Will send out the task list with reminders of who is doing what.

- Practice talking points – TABLED.

- Let us know if you are interested in being a voice for this work. Kiely Hosmon volunteers. MFPC can also present to the MCYC and they could vote on endorsing. A short phone call with a public relations strategist to finalize our talking points.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

-Save the Date to attend the presentation of Resolution to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday October 13 at 10am

- Tuesday October 20 from 6 – 8 pm: Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative's celebration of work to support family farms, increase access to local healthy good, and advocate for sustainable food policy, "Spirit of the Harvest."

- Thursday October 22 from 9am – 12pm: Marin Communications Forum discussion on Health Equity in Marin

- Thursday October 22: Dine and Donate to benefit Davidson Middle School Garden Program at Vin Antico in San Rafael.

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 adjured at 5:05 p.m.

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