

Marin Food Policy Council

Meeting Notes

October 18, 2016

[HHS campus](#)

Next Marin Food Policy Council meeting: November 15, 2016, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. [HHS campus](#)

**Attendees:**

*Steering Committee* – Alexandra Danino (SF-Marín Food Bank); Becky Gershon (SF-Marín Food Bank); Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin); David Lewis (UCCE Marin); Lauren Klein (UCCE Marin); Lori Davis (Sanzuma); Reba Meigs (HHS); Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative)

*Committee Members* – Cio Hernandez (HHS); Elaini Negussie (HHS); Janet Brown (AllStar Organics); June Farmer (Marin City CX3); Miguel Villarreal (Novato USD); Shannon Lovelace-White (AIM); Susan Martinelli (West Marin Community Clinic); Veda Florez (Latino Marin); Sheila Kopf (SF-Marín Food Bank)

*Guests* – Juan Jimenez (HHS); Judith Silver (Zero Waste Marin); Megan Scott (HHS); Michelle Fadelli (First 4 Marin); Nina Cunan (Marin Master Gardener); Simon Tiles (Ritter Center); Rachel Main (Alzheimer's Association); Shirin Vakharia (MCF)

**Welcome and Council Representative Announcements – Lori Davis and Alexandra Danino**

**Governance spotlight:**

*General meeting ground rules include:*

- Start and end on time and honor time limits.
- The Council strives to actively engage the entirety of the Council to share their wisdom and expertise in all aspects of Council functions.
- One individual talking at any one time.
- If there are guests at the meeting, a quick introductory go-round will be conducted.
- Individual or organizational announcements can be at the introductory time, or in the last five minutes of the meeting – Please limit announcements to relevant items.
- If a guest or member would like to photograph, record, video, or otherwise make a record of meeting discussions, permission must be granted from the whole of the Council prior to doing so.
- Facilitators should be aware of members who have difficulty expressing their ideas and help out.

*Members of the Marin Food Policy Council pledge to:*

- Serve actively on the Council by attending meetings regularly, presenting timely informational and updates, contributing my expertise and local knowledge, and participating in work group and subcommittees, as needed;

- Uphold to the best of one's ability the values, mission, goals, principals and purpose of the MFPC;
- Attend at least 7 meetings a year;
- Email Staff/Secretary (Bonnie Nielsen at [banielsen@ucanr.edu](mailto:banielsen@ucanr.edu)) when not able to attend a meeting, assign one of my alternates to attend, and read the notes from that meeting I have missed;
- If a member does not attend 4 meetings in a row, they may risk forfeiting status as a voting member;
- Declare all agency and organizational affiliations and funding sources to Council (individuals, foundations, corporate, federal, governmental, academic, etc), both on application and at a five-minute Council introduction;
- Foster respectful dialog and strive toward consensus decision-making

### **Prospective Member Presentations**

- Veda Florez, Latino Marin: in Marin for under 2 years. No regular employees, 12 volunteers. Variety of funding sources including NextGen California and private funders who prefer to remain anonymous. The Council may need to follow-up on this procedurally. Focus on weaving the Latino experience in the fabric of Marin County, make sure that Latino voice is heard and healthy food is available. Veda is a marketing consultant and nutritionist. Looking to collaborate and contribute to outreach efforts already in place. Provided snacks at today's meeting with awareness on providing allergy free options - people with higher pigment in their skin may have more food sensitivities. Distributed outreach fliers. Happy to work with the Marin Food Policy Council. Alex asked for data so she can collaborate with CalFresh efforts.

### **Member Announcements**

- Sanzuma and San Rafael City Schools won the CA Golden Seed Award

### **Ranching and the Point Reyes National Seashore – David Lewis, UCCE Marin Director**

- Pt Reyes Seashore is along the San Andreas fault = 2.5 in movement/year leads to great habitat and plant community diversity. It's a great place to grow grass, graze beef and raise dairy. Ranching in the park happens in the Olema Valley and the pastoral zone.
- 24 different families living and working on the Seashore in their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation. They don't own their property and haven't since the 1960s, when they sold it. Since then they have been on special lease permits on parcels of land. They work with park staff on environmental projects because of the environmental acts they must comply with.

- Ranches in the Park represent about 17% of the total Ag Production Gross Value
- 1930s push to find land that could be used for recreation close to densely populated areas; 2.5 million visitors/year.
- Plans for 40,000 housing units in West Marin in 1960s, which BOS policy stopped. Land use planning has evolved over time.
- In 2012 (when Drakes Bay was removed from the estero) Secretary Salazar deemed that the Park needs to explore and put in place long-term leases for the ranches. This led to the Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan. Then a lawsuit was filed: the Park didn't file environmental process in developing this plan, claims the Park should do a full Environmental Impact Statement and revise their plan. Right now the lawsuit is in settlement proceedings, and it's unclear how things will emerge and how agriculture will remain on the Park.
- Is there anything in the Comprehensive Management Plan that would change the landscape of ag in the Park? The footprint of ag won't change; ag will not expand, it will only continue where it is now. However, the type of ag that is allowed may be affected.
- Current context for decision making in the Seashore: National Seashore established in the 1970s. One solution to protecting the land against development = Marin Ag Land Trust started in 1980 to buy development rights from farming families. Another option (County option) = increase the size of parcels that land could be split into.
- Is this affecting the farmworker housing issue? Who is in charge of redevelopment of already existing farm clusters on ranches? Should be CDA. Currently ranchers can't manage weeds on their property, let alone revitalize housing.
- Ranchers pay market value determined every year for their leases, based on the number of animals they are allowed to have on the land. There is a bit of a discount because they are required to do more upkeep.
- **Policy question? How might MFPC voice support for long-term leases? Support the Park and ranchers working together on issues like housing. David can share the Plan with the MFPC when it is released. When are the next policy deadlines? Settlement is supposed to be public in the next few weeks.**
- The Park has been really direct about the charges they have, ranching is considered a cultural resource also to be preserved. In 1998 ranches given registration of historical significance. Is it as clear as farming vs. environmentalists? Where does the MFPC stand in that divide? MFPC should stand on the side of FOOD.
- Are any politicians supporting ranchers? Feinstein and Huffman have been trying to support the ranchers. Marin Conservation League has been very vocal about supporting ranching in the Park. It has been far less polarized than the issue with Drakes Bay Oysters. Marin County has a great history of environmentalism and food production working hand in hand. They are equally important stances, and are entwined.

## **Hunger and Food Insecurity in Marin Forum Update** – Michelle Fadelli, First 5 Marin

- Monthly community workshops informing folks of programs and workshops in the county. September 1<sup>st</sup> Hunger and Food Insecurity in Marin workshop review follows.
- Highly attended, lots of walk-ins, engaging, lots of response: huge interest in the issue. Folks hadn't before realized the breadth and extent of the problem OR the services and programs available. Lots of interest in participating in being part of the solution.
- Greatest needs = outreach and education to raise awareness of the issue (news, media, social media, presentations...) and advocacy with a coordinated set of presentations to officials and service organizations (what is the ask??).
- Primary take-away was that the CalFresh and affordable housing issues are priority concerns.
- The day before the November Equity Summit there will be a break-out session on food insecurity – Michelle can provide suggestions for that meeting, including primary statistics. Common challenges of food insecurity across age groups. Aging Action Initiative website report (ask Steve or Alex) from Shirin.
- CDS? meeting on Marin data, taking into account estimated undocumented population. Around 22,000 people eligible, with 9,000 enrolled. Can we replicate strategies used in areas with high enrollment in areas with low enrollment? Geo-coding report – Reba will send the link.
- AIM is interested in partnering, advertising at farmers markets, increase outreach for market match (just received an additional \$30,000 for the program). A barrier is that there aren't Spanish speakers at the markets day-of to explain the program, perhaps Shannon can join Alex and the CalFresh events to become a familiar face. Can also use direct mailing to families explaining Market Match. More than \$30 million a year of federal money is being lost through the eligible folks who aren't using the program. Alex and Shannon to follow-up. AARP foundation or grocers association would be interested in this revenue, could help with outreach. Reach out to retail managers unions. Housing Authority (Director: Lewis Jordan) send mailers out every month – let them do outreach as well.
- 18 school districts in Marin, only 3 food service directors, perhaps they could share with the other districts.
- Name the work that is going on between meetings as a list of sub-groups, could lead to collaboration and more outreach, could open them up to the public as well.
- Call to actions in Marin IJ Voice – Michelle could work with members on writing these pieces.

## **Equitable Access Report** – Becky Gershon and Reba Meigs

- Pre-meeting to the Equity Summit: 9:30am – noon on November 9 at 1600 Los Gamos in San Rafael. Panel presentation and discussion on food access with an equity lens, as well as a presentation of the Equitable Access Report to provide a foundation of common knowledge before the next day's full event. Please submit questions to prompt the panelists (Miguel Villarreal, Steve Schwartz, Socorro Romo, June Farmer, and Alexandra Danino) for discussion to Becky at [bgershon@smfoodbank.org](mailto:bgershon@smfoodbank.org).

#### **CA Food Policy Council Report – Steve Schwartz**

- Review CA FPC's latest draft of the 2016 legislative report. 27 FPCs around the state represented in CA FPC. Farmworker overtime bill, CalFresh bills, and sugared sweetened beverage bill both not on the list. An insert will be included with legislators' percentages of how they've voted... could MFPC create a report card for our local legislators? Are there any big losses in bills that didn't make this one to keep watch on?
- **Vote on endorsing the report as MFPC: approved.**

***\*\*Prospective Member Presentations to continue at the next meeting***

**Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016, from 3:00 – 4:45 p.m. at the HHS campus