

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
November 15, 2016
[HHS campus](#)

Next Marin Food Policy Council meeting: January 17, 2017, 3:00 – 4:45 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 – Anjurle Duchaussee (HHS Public Assistance); Cio Hernandez (HHS); Marv Zauderer (ExtraFood.org); Shannon Lovelace-White (AIM)

Guests – Debbie Friedman (The Conscious Kitchen); Gabe Scher (Marín City Health & Wellness); Heather Bettini (SparkPoint Marin); Jack Liebster (CDA); Jeremy Tejirian (CDA); Laura Hettwer (HHS); Megan Scott (HHS)

Welcome and Council Representative Announcements – Lori Davis and Alexandra Danino

- SF/Marin Food Bank just launched new website with more resources, especially in advocacy section.
- Conscious Kitchen is working with Good Earth to get local, organic food to 14 schools in Marin
- Laura Hettwer to replace Anjurle Duchaussee on MFPC
- REMINDER: there will be no MFPC meeting on Tuesday, December 20. MFPC Meetings will resume on January 17, 2017.

CDA development code – Jeremy Tejirian and Jack Liebster, CDA Planning Managers

Developing Code Amendments for unincorporated lands in the interior portion of county – not Coastal zone – on: **real estate development, use, and sub-division** - Jeremy Tejirian

- Set of code amendments going before the commission right now, with few main areas that may affect local food production.
- Two kinds of **community gardens** allowable in residential neighborhoods approved by commission, heading to BOS for approval next. Changes:
 - If you're in a residential neighborhood you can have a **community garden** *if you have a house on the same property > without a house* "Permitted Use."
 - **Market garden** distinction with farm stands need Conditional Use Permits (not cheap) to address potential impacts of commercial use.

- **Animal slaughter pathways**
 - Mobile slaughter facilities travel between ranches for max of 3 days and at least 100 feet from all property lines
 - Small (<20,000 animals) poultry operations treated as ag processing within permanent barns for your ranch's livestock (not from other ranches)
 - Full scale slaughter and rendering facilities within certain zoning districts, necessitate a Conditional Use Permit and design review considering all health and safety standards of the state and USDA
- **Backyard chicken coops** in residential areas
 - Currently allowed to have 12 chickens in coops
 - Proposed to be at least 15 feet from property lines
- **MFPC feedback would be great – contact Jeremy at JTejirian@marincounty.org with comments on the amendments**
- How were these three areas of interest decided upon to be amended? People are asking for changes every day, leading to a running list for each round of updates. There is a round of smaller updates every 2 years. Last major update was 2012. General policies in the CWP encourage local food production, but it isn't very specific.
- Owners of apartment complexes decide if they want to have community gardens – there are a couple in the Canal.

Developing Code in the Coastal zone - Jack Liebster

- Coastal Commission adopted policies having to do with agriculture last week
- 1820s CA settled by Mexicans and Californians and herded longhorn cattle. Dairy and fruit tree industries started in the Gold Rush, followed by more vegetables, oysters, other livestock, cut flowers, and nurseries.
- Today: 171,000 acres in agriculture (~51%), comprised of 325 large and small ag operations. Most farmers are 3rd – 5th generation farmers here. The average age of Marin farmers is 61 years old. Who's going to take over?
- Marin: first organic dairy West of the Mississippi, first organic veg production in CA
- Code work to promote local food agricultural community: "Intergenerational homes" = keep the land together and allow three homes per home rather than just one. Cap on the aggregate size of houses of 7,000 square feet. Other rules to streamline approval process for small diversification endeavors. Also policies to protect the environment, pull back from streams, promote restoration, etc. Marin Carbon Project new diversification work on carbon sequestration.
- 8 year process of adopting the coastal plan codes
- Going up for approval to BOS in December – may need support from MFPC at that time.

- Farmworker housing and access to the food farmworkers are growing: can this be addressed by CDA? What can MFPC do? Increasing BOS awareness is crucial. Need all of the pieces of the puzzle to be pulled together in a comprehensive way. Coastal Commission did in the end approve farmworker housing to become Permitted Use, not Conditional Use.

ACTION ITEMS

- MFPC could weigh in on hearings on November 28 and December 12
- Contact Jeremy at JTejirian@marincounty.org with comments on the amendments

Equity Summit Outcomes – Cio Hernandez

- Congratulations on the success of the Equity Summit!
- Community Action Marin celebrating their 50th year, though many folks didn't know who they are.
- MFPC's Equitable Access in Marin handout went well – folks wanted more!
- Encouraging folks to host fireside chats in their homes to bring people's hearts together around the issues of equity in safe places. About 30 people offered to host fireside chats and another 30 expressed interest in attending but couldn't host.
- Marin Promise and Viva Marin shared their new handout on equity. Hope was that people would take each other's data to strengthen their own. Handouts helped demonstrate that there are far more contributions than needs coming from our communities of color
- Make sure your events are accessible!!!
- MFPC showed leadership with clear calls to action and templates for other groups who are not as far along in the work as MFPC is.

SSB Update – Lori Davis and Steve Schwartz

- MFPC has talked about endorsing SSB in Marin in the past. Marin HHS has taken a lead role in figuring out how to get a SSB tax on the ballot in Marin. California Food Policy Council is endorsing SSB statewide.
- MFPC role? MFPC can't be actively involved in a campaign, but we could support research, education, and/or funding. Does MFPC want to be the community lead/face on this campaign? We would need to 1) want to do it, and 2) have the time/resources/energy/capacity to do it. This would be more pro-active than mere support – we would be the go-to body.
- SSB tax could potentially be a long-term revenue source for funding lots of MFPC Council members' priorities.

- Marin Community Foundation could be a potential source of funding. If we decide to move forward, MFPC should get a proposal to MCF within the next 6 weeks for the grant money. Keep in mind that this could take a large portion – if not all – of our council meeting time every month. First phase: education, second phase: advocacy. Monthly meetings during the campaign with others present, as well as ongoing coordination.
- If we were to put together a proposal to MCF on behalf of MFPC for funding – if MFPC had funding – how would we want to go about using it? Part of the funding could go to hiring a consultant to help with areas that aren't current MFPC strengths.
- Berkeley FPC led their campaign; the food policy SF the task force that reports to the BOS did not lead the campaign. Could we have a panel presentation to learn more about what it would mean to move this forward – potentially at our January MFPC meeting.
- **Where will the tax revenue go?** This would affect people's interest in moving forward. Could create a survey of suggestions for potential revenue. With a 2/3 vote you can say exactly where the tax revenue goes; with 50% the BOS would determine where the tax revenue goes.
- **Does MFPC want to be the lead role?** Might MFPC look for different fiscal sponsorship if they decide to take a lead role in this?
- **Concerns:**
 - MFPC might not have the breadth to address the issue well
 - Other issues won't be addressed since this issue will take priority
- **Consensus of members present that MFPC should take a lead role,** Lauren will determine if there was an appropriate quorum, or if we need to take an additional vote.

ACTION ITEMS

- **SSB Campaign Task List shared with the room (can be found by searching for the URL: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JrqE8c7xMSnZcd4uDBFNNnJY_Qynl1M_74C6qkVwK8w/edit?usp=sharing)**
 - **Please review the Google doc reached by the above URL by December 1 and edit the document to include any areas that your organization could commit to**
 - **Please email Bonnie at banielsen@ucanr.edu by December 1 with:**
 - whether you are interested in moving forward or not
 - who else we should reach out to
 - any areas your organization could work on that aren't listed
 - Steering Committee to circulate a short summary of pros and cons
- If agreed to move forward, the MFPC Steering Committee will draft a proposal for MCF

CA Food Policy Council Report – Steve Schwartz

- 2016 Legislative Report comes out tomorrow, we will circulate this with the group when possible.

Closing – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis

- Prompt members to think about topics to address in 2017

****Prospective Member Presentations to continue in January**

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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