

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
March 20, 2018
HHS Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 17, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110

Attendance:

*** = Voting members**

X	Alexandra Danino, SF-Marín Food Bank*		Lorenzo Cordova, BOS*
X	Audrey Peck, Redwood High Sus. Ag, Pgm*	X	Lori Davis, Sanzuma*
X	Becky Gershon, SF-Marín Food Bank*	X	Madelene McCann, Marin Child Care Council
X	Bonnie Nielsen, UCCE		Madeline Hope, West Marin Waste Education*
	Bonny White, West Marin Comm Services*		Marv Zauderer, ExtraFood.org
X	Casey Poldino, Zero Waste Marin*	X	Miguel Villarreal, Novato USD*
	David Lewis, UCCE		Mimi Choudhury, AIM*
X	Elaini Negussie, HHS Nutrition Wellness		Rachel Stover, HHS Public Assistance
X	Felicia Chavez, Systems Thinking Marin	X	Reba Meigs, HHS Public Health*
	Gail Crain, CAM*		Sheila Kopf, SF-Marín Food Bank
	Gueidi Beltran, WIC*	X	Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sus Food Collaborative*
	Heather Bettini, CAM		Susan Martinelli, WIC
	Janet Brown, AllStar Organics*		Teresa Fogolini, North Bay Children’s Center*
X	Jessica Bazan, YLI*		Terrie Green, Marin City Comm Services District*
X	Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*		
X	June Farmer, Marin City CX3*		<i>Guests:</i>
	Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*		Hollie Green, WellnessInTheSchools.org
	Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health		Karimah Hay, Ag Institute of Marin
	Laura Hettwer, HHS Public Assistance*		Paula Freeman, Covia
X	Lauren Klein, Comm. & School Gardens		Roxy Yekta, HHS Nutrition Wellness Program
X	Liana Orlandi, Ag Institute of Marin		Samie Blasingame

24 voting members + 10 alternates = 34 total

Welcome and Announcements – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis

- Alexandra: Food Bank moving from Novato to the Canal on Kerner Blvd. will help increase Food Bank’s capacity to grow their programs
- MFPC drafted a support letter to Novato City Council to support urban ag, well received by Bob Brown
- Making Ends Meet in Marin presentation to BOS
- Race Matters in Marin report: Marin is a high performing county with high scores (quality of life and health) but also high disparity county (racial inequities and wealth gap) – March 26
- June: April 28 – Annual Park Prescription Day at Rocky Graham Park at 10am. Contact June if you want to get involved.

Council Business

- **MFPC Evaluation Results** (Julia) – 16 respondents, 11 of which were members, 8 of which have been with MFPC for 3-5 years. Overall MFPC scored highly, with minor tweaks and adjustments recommended.
 - 100% satisfied or very satisfied with MFPC
 - Areas for improvement: membership and policy. Steering Committee agrees on these areas to improve.
 - Membership issues: retaining existing members' active participation (how to increase more regular participation); and attracting new members (how to grow participation among a broader base of stakeholders that represent the diversity of Marin).
 - Policy issues: difficult to move from learning about policy to taking action, but we will work on that step this year, to increase actions that make a difference. This year we are honing in on policy opportunities that effect older adults as well as urban ag.
 - What people enjoyed learning about last year and want to work on in the next year: seniors and urban ag, which aligns well with our direction for 2018.
- **HEAL 2.0 taskforce updates** (Reba) – focusing on a framework for collective engagement. Work among steering committee, taskforces, and community. Three focus areas: CalFresh, Food Now, and Built Environment, with the ultimate goal to reduce the # of missing meals in Marin, with seniors and children in mind, as well as communities in need (Canal, Marin City, West Marin, Novato).
 - Steering committee: create communication system, provide trainings and support,
 - Taskforces: on the ground, in between the SC and community, collect data, engage community, develop action plans
 - Now: implementation phase, aligning across agencies and community organizations
 - Goal: reduce missing meals needed by Marin by 5% by 2021
 - Redefine goals within taskforces to create LiveStories dashboard
 - HEAL Communications overhaul: update website, communications plan, partnership video, and LiveStories dashboard (evaluation framework)
- **MCF HEAL older adults grant collaborative** (Reba) – work on policy, systems and environments levels:
 - Policy: improve, support and adopt relevant policies (MFPC will be active here)
 - Systems: establish systems that promote, assess, and facilitate equitable access to healthy food (food security screening and distribution)
 - Environments: increase access to healthy food through community gardens and edible landscapes
 - Desired outcomes: support 1-2 state policies, expand ~4 sites that are serving elders, 1-2 community gardens, and increase awareness
- **Vote in new Steering Committee members** (Julia) – Casey Poldino, June Farmer, Liana Orlandi **All members present voted to approve the new Steering Committee members

CA Food Policy Council Report – Steve Schwartz

- CA Food and Farming Network is just starting to look at Sac bills that have to do with food and farming. We've been asked to endorse AB 2335 as a council (Steve passed it around as well as a sample letter). AB 2335 improve state legislation to support additional funding for Market Match, sponsored by Roots of Change (Michael Dimmock). MFPC doesn't have any friends that are opposed to it. Any extra funding that could come this way is a plus, it would

be put to good use. One negative aspect is that isn't ideal is that it's piloting a free cooler program in 4 areas other than Marin. Question around accountability of the stores to really sell produce in the coolers, answer is relationships matter. Storekeepers want to support the community, they just need the support and resources to have that be financially viable for them. Another question: what is the definition of "local" – could it be CA grown carrots from Costco? Could support with suggestions for changes. Vote of MFPC support, chairs can sign, put on letterhead, and send. **All members present voted to approve

- Steve proposed the concept of a Healthy and Local Food Financing Ballot Initiative that could raise money for everyone in this room and similar organizations working on healthy and local food. In the past, SSB tax campaigns have been suggested and supported in Marin, but the question has always been who would be the lead organization and how the timing would fit with the Strong Start tax? Recently the Strong Start tax decided that it was not going to be on the ballot this November, so now there is an opportunity to revisit the topic. MFPC to add a break-out group on Healthy and Local Food Financing to explore the topic more.

Break-out Work Groups – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- Instructions: council agreed to try break-out group work in addition to whole council format, in an attempt to have more policy-relevant outcomes. Last month we identified the 3 groups of Senior Access, Farm to School, and Urban Ag, and today we decided to add another group on a SSB tax. Once in groups, review individual knowledge of each group, review what MFPC has already learned about/worked on regarding the topic, ID potential next steps or action items for the topic. Work through the Meeting Planning Guide and Agenda Template to create a skeleton agenda for a future meeting.
- Self-select into break-out groups
 - Senior HEAL: May or June
 - Farm to School: May or June
 - Urban Ag: April
 - Healthy and Local Food Financing Ballot Initiative
- Complete Meeting Planning Guide and Agenda Template
- Wrap-up: Steering Committee to report out next week on the status of each group.

Learning Opportunity: Farm Bill 101 – Becky Gershon

- A swiss army knife with multiple branches/tools: health/nutrition (biggest funding bucket at 80%, vast majority of which is SNAP), research, infrastructure, jobs, conservation, innovation, safety net / crop insurance
- Gets authorized every 4-5 years (this year is a Farm Bill year), about \$5 billion
- SNAP has a budget of \$70 billion / year
- Legislative process:
 - Roundtable discussions, community forums, meetings led by legislators to hear people's ideas about priorities for Farm Bill (this began in early 2017) – we were a part of this process with Sen. Huffman

- House Ag Committee and Senate Ag Committees each come up with a draft of the Farm Bill, those committees try to come to consensus on the two drafts in the Conference Committee – no one has seen a draft of the House Ag Committee draft yet, may see one in early April (hard to comment on it until then)
- After the Conference Committee, the House and Senate pass the Conference Bill, which the President then signs into law
- Whole process can take two years from start to finish
- 4 CA districts have congressmen on the House Ag Committee (Congressman Huffman isn't, but has stated that he wants to pay attention to what happens in the Farm Bill as a priority this year – he is our primary target)
- A “marker bill” bundles together related policy asks for the sake of getting ideas on the table, in the hopes of getting pieces into the Farm Bill. The goal is to use it as a talking point tool, not to pass the marker bill. Getting multiple congressmen to co-sponsor marker bills is important. HR 1276 is an example of such a marker bill, which has 103 co-sponsors, 28 from CA.
- Some other marker bills MFPC could endorse: Beginning Farmer/Rancher Opportunities Act, Local Farms Act, Farm to School marker bill. ****Email us if your organization is tracking any marker bills, and MFPC could consider sending a letter supporting a list of marker bills. Steve will email the Council asking for support on the marker bills he presented.**
- Note the MFPC already sent a letter in support of NO cuts to SNAP.

Closing – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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Future meeting dates for 2018: May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16