

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
April 17, 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-Marin Food Bank*		Lorenzo Cordova, BOS*
X	Audrey Peck, Redwood High Sus. Ag.*	X	Lori Davis, Sanzuma*
	Becky Gershon, SF-Marin Food Bank*	X	Madelene McCann, Marin Child Care Council
X	Bonnie Nielsen, UCCE	X	Madelene Hope, West Marin Waste Education*
	Bonny White, West Marin Com Services*		Marv Zauderer, ExtraFood.org
X	Casey Poldino, Zero Waste Marin*		Miguel Villarreal, Novato USD*
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-Marin 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*
	Jessica Bazan, YLI*		Terrie Green, Marin City Comm. Services District*
X	Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*		
X	June Farmer, Marin City CX3*		Guests:
X	Karimah Hay, Ag. Institute of Marin	X	Jacqueline Streur, Zero Waste Schools Program
X	Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*	X	Linda Jackson, Aging Action Initiative
	Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health	X	Paula Freeman, Covia
X	Laura Hettwer, HHS Public Assistance*	X	Roxy Yekta, HHS Nutrition Wellness Program
X	Lauren Klein, Comm. & School Gardens	X	Samie Blasingame
X	Liana Orlandi, Ag. Institute of Marin	X	Sharon Turner, Marin City Intergenerational garden

24 voting members + 10 alternates = 34 total

Welcome and Announcements – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis

- Reba: Fruit & Veggie Fest on May 19th @ HHS; Parks Prescription @ McNears on April 22nd
- June: Parks Prescription @ Marin City on April 28th from 11am-3pm; #MarinCityMatters
- Julia: another regional Food Policy Council Convening on May 30th and 31st in Petaluma

Council Business

- **Local policy updates**
 - Steve: SSB campaign discussed in Marin for 1+ years, committee formed since last month's MFPC meeting with Reba, Lori, Miguel, Steve, others. County-wide campaign would be less strategic, so they are talking with political consultants looking to target San Rafael and Novato (and potentially the Marin City CSD boundaries), and are hoping to act fast for November 2018. Have to be a MFPC member to be part of the SSB

committee. Two ways to get it on the ballot: community member signatures, or city officials majority vote to do so (will likely go the latter route). San Rafael officials want a public meeting to be held to see if community members are in support of the issue. Would be able to choose the tax amount (1 cent, 2 cents, etc). Next steps: participate in the SSB work group (email Lori), attend the San Rafael public meeting. City Council or BOS will be deciding how to spend the fund – usually they appoint a body to decide and oversee the decision.

- Vote on Letter of Support for AB 2909 Small Poultry Producer Protection Act: allow on-farm small-scale poultry slaughter. Julia to explore more details and invite Michael Dimmock with Roots of Change to present info on the topic.

CA Food Policy Council Report – Steve Schwartz

- Farm Bill: started to move on Thursday (Republicans introduced their version with large cuts to SNAP and farmers market promotion program), and it was not well-received. Democrats are just going to watch it die and offer a counter-balance bill proposal. Congressman Huffman’s office would like to hear from the public about what we don’t like about the current proposal. A lot will happen in the next couple of months, yet it could go on a year or more.

Break-out work groups – Senior Access

- Paula Freeman, Covia (www.covia.org)
 - Non for profit organization providing senior resources in eight counties
 - Home Match, Well Connected, Social Call, Market Day, Novato Independent Elders Program, home delivered groceries program
 - Affordable housing and residential care communities as well
 - Senior produce market: below wholesale prices, smaller portions, music & snacks, accepts CalFresh (with support of HEAL grant)
 - Home delivered groceries program: partnership with Novato Safeway, volunteers shop and deliver groceries for free, clients only pay for the groceries they purchase, accepts CalFresh
 - Margaret Todd Café: congregate meal partnership between City of Novato and Good Earth for \$3 suggested donation
 - Brown Bag Market: free food provided by SF-Marin Food Bank for those who self-identify as low income, can sign people up for CalFresh here
 - CalFresh Program Assistance: assist older adults with the CalFresh application process
 - HEAL objectives: open 2 senior produce markets; revive home delivered grocery program in San Rafael; work with Marin Transit to provide a shuttle from low income senior housing areas to Margaret Todd Center; and increase CalFresh participation
 - Upcoming events at Margaret Todd: Living with COPD on May 9th @ 10am, and Lip Reading and Listening Skills on May 23rd @ 1pm
- Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative
 - Ground-level projects with the community/congregations (ie: setting up CSA boxes or building a community garden)
 - Policy work (faith groups have about 215 offices on Capitol Hill)
 - Large percentage of faith-based congregations are seniors

- Marin is low in redemption of senior farmers market nutrition program aid – almost 50% of Seniors Farmers Markets Nutrition Programs coupons aren't getting redeemed at farmers markets. Working to integrate better – give coupons at the markets, offer tours, improve signage, make markets more comfortable, etc. HEAL initiative thinking about Policy Systems Environment. Also working with AIM to make it easier for seniors to use these coupons (used and work in the same way as WIC; coupons are redeemed at banks directly) – farmer education is an opportunity here.
- All levels of policy to engage in: market level, city level, state level.
- Liana Orlandi & Karimah Hay, AIM
 - Organization in Marin for 35 years, running the Civic Center that whole time. Currently run 7 farmers markets.
 - Senior focus work is their mobile market – take the market where seniors live, offering culturally appropriate foods. Hoping to launch it in June. Currently doing outreach into communities, so let AIM know of interested folks/communities. SF-Marin Food Bank, Marin City CSD, MFPC, and UCCE collaboration: goals to take the mobile market to 4 senior living areas each week. Will accept CalFresh.
 - Working with Interfaith sustainable Food Collaborative on coupon program on the farmer education side as well as signage to clarify which farmers accept the coupons.
 - Working on WIC access issues as well (vouchers rather than EBT cards like SNAP). Public gets confused about where they can use their benefits. Larkspur Landing Mart is the only farmers market in Marin that doesn't accept SNAP and won't. Thursday pm San Rafael market is the only market that does not accept market match.
- June Farmer & Sharon Turner, Marin City CSD
 - Marin City Intergenerational Garden adjacent to Marin City Senior Center, incorporate people of all ages into the garden. Coordinating with CX3 project and MLK school. Lots of infrastructure still needs to go in (retaining walls, raised beds, removal of non-native trees, fencing, site design). Planning for three fruit tree orchards throughout the community. Resources are limited, need volunteer help. Creating the garden to foster the demand and interest in gardening, and the idea is for seniors to work with youth. Want to encourage youth to do social enterprising, critical time for elders to pass on knowledge to the younger generation. Sustainability and disaster preparedness work.
 - Flood zone and drainage issues – how to slow water moving across the landscape and sink it into the ground to prevent issues in the future? Terrace farming is one solution to address both food production and potential flooding.

Break-out work groups report out

- Senior HEAL: just reported (see above); today's learning is setting the stage for future learning and policy work in the coming months
- Farm to School: goal of 1-2 hours of research this month to replicate farm to school models that are successful elsewhere (looking for teacher buy-in, district support, and consistency in sustainability of support). Met once before this MFPC meeting and will meet again before next MFPC meeting. Planning to present at the June meeting.
- Urban Ag: Planning to present at the May meeting, will invite the San Rafael Planning Dept to hear about their codes as well as learn about Sami's research (researching municipal

codes looking for language relating to urban ag – multi-sized animals, on-site sales, additional structures, etc.)... also thinking about a potential field trip to urban ag sites (East Bay or local)?

- SSB: see above for Steve's SSB update

Meeting Evaluation

- Appreciated asking questions directly after presentations rather than waiting til the end
- Liked hearing from MFPC members about what they are doing
- Want to collaborate and work more to streamline processes, such as WIC
- Appreciated the participation and presence of members and guests, and the level of comradery
- Thought the meeting was very informative

Closing – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 15, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110

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