

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
October 16, 2018
HHS Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110

Attendance:

*** = Voting members**

X	Alexandra Danino, SF-Marine 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		Paula Freeman, Covia
X	Felicia Chavez, Systems Thinking Marin		Reba Meigs, HHS Public Health*
	Gail Crain, CAM*		Sheila Kopf, SF-Marine Food Bank
	Gueidi Beltran, WIC*	X	Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sus Food Collaborative*
	Heather Bettini, CAM		Susan Martinelli, WIC
	Janet Brown, AllStar Organics*		Terrie Green, Marin City Comm. Services District*
	Jessica Bazan, YLI*		
X	Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*		
	June Farmer, Marin City CX3*		
	Karimah Hay, Ag. Institute of Marin		<i>Speakers:</i>
X	Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*	X	Farm to School Panel (see below)
X	Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health	X	Marin School of Environmental Leadership teens
X	Laura Hettwer, HHS Public Assistance*		<i>Guests:</i>
X	Lauren Klein, Comm. & School Gardens	X	Alena Wall, Kaiser Permanente Northern CA
	Liana Orlandi, Ag. Institute of Marin*	X	David Merrell, grad student
	Lorenzo Cordova, BOS*	X	Jaqc Streur, Zero Waste Marin
X	Lori Davis, Sanzuma*	X	Laura Byes, Community Action Marin

Welcome and Announcements – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis

- Julia: SAVE THE DATE: Regional Listening Session on local FPC issues with statewide relevance at Lucchesi Community Center in Petaluma on Thursday 10/25 from 11am-3pm, hosted by the CA Food and Farming Network, focus on local policy barriers and opportunities to bring to the state level. Themes: senior farmers markets, farm to school, SSB and soda tax.
- Julia: TedX Marin Salon series at COM on the Future of Food
- Steve: World Food Week this week
- Felicia: UN Marin chapter COM library talkon 10/24 on human rights and social justice in Marin
- Alena: middle of community health needs assessment (3 year cycle) with Healthy Marin partnership, to determine funding need areas, impact local budget for grants for local non-profits as well as a regional strategy. **Will distribute the previous CHNA.**

- Alexandra: CalFresh application assistance collaborative to put on the Hunger Forum, event was successful. 2017: 112 applications equated to 635,000 missing meals. SR school district a leader in looking at ways to connect free & reduced meals with CalFresh.

Farm to Schools Panel –

- Alan Downing, Food Service Director, San Rafael City Schools
- David Pedroli, Director of Maintenance and Operations, San Rafael City Schools
- Doug Marquand, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- Olivia Mendieta, Farm Manager, Sanzuma
- Marin School of Environmental Leadership teens: Aislinn McKelvey, Joseph Scardina, Lauren Pettijohn, Olivia Yoakum, Rebecca Meshel, Tucker Vorhees, Zachary Cruz
- Lori Davis, Executive Director, Sanzuma
 - Sanzuma background: goal is to increase nutrition edu in all Marin Co schools. Trying to add to the salad bar to improve. Work under National USDA Farm to School Framework to reduce waste, increase consumption of fruits and veggies, and to increase time in school gardens. Farmers market days at schools, taste tests and cooking labs, garden time, integrating nutrition edu in curriculum, smarter lunchrooms, farm field trips. Also want to increase participation in school meal programs. Selling produce to schools for lunches and to restaurants at a higher rate to fund programs.
 - 10 Cents Meal Program is a state pilot program existing in a few other states (MI, NM, NY, and Washington D.C.): donated 10 cents per child per meal per day (with a 10 cent match from another donor) to purchase local fruits, veggies, and legumes. Want to pilot in San Rafael and Novato, West Marin, or Marin City, and some other schools in other counties.
 - GOAL: McPhails Wellness Farm to increase production and grow and sell more fruits and veggies, and be a location for a farm field studies program for students (potential partnership with AIM)
 - Potential revenue from converting to zero waste programs at all elementary schools projected at \$161,235 savings per year
- Ask:
 - 1) Letter of Support for Mcphails school farm (they are currently running out of space – could sell more produce if they had the space to grow more and process/wash more. Can set aside part of the farm to early childhood centers.
****VOTE during the meeting: PASSED with full consensus to send a Letter of Support.**
 - 2) Letter of Support for Ten Cent Meals Program (extra 20 cents is in addition to the existing 23 cents from CA!). Would bring in about \$650/day to San Rafael! Revenue would be directed toward local fresh fruits, veggies, and legumes, and could free up some \$ for other upgrades such as kitchen renovation and expansion. Federal money for free lunch \$3.39, reduced lunch \$2.99, paying student \$0.40. These numbers include the cost of the facilities, labor, benefits, pensions, liability, etc.
****VOTE during the meeting: PASSED with full consensus to send a Letter of Support.**
Would like to see a draft letter for future votes. Could bring it to the 10/25 event to share.

Farm to Schools panel discussion

- Water needs of school farms? Water use is low compared to what lawns use. Haven't had to pay for water yet.
- Any rules for how salad bar options are prepared? Food prep is based on labor hours – could slice hours, but would take too much time (labor cost). Could the salads be already assembled – more kids would buy them if they were already ready, rather than taking the time to make them themselves. Could do that and sell them on the ala carte area, will do it next week! Can't do that on a large scale in the cafeteria due to regulations.
- ELCAP question – ELCAP meetings posted on the website, there is a component on student wellness. ELCAP is for general fund, not food services, yet they are required to contribute some \$\$\$. You could use the ELCAP process to advocate for something like a school farm.
- Define LOCAL? USDA dictates the amount of colors at each meal. Sanzuma uses what it can from Marin, then nearby counties, then CA, and outward.
- Who are the panelists?
 - Doug: representing district, liaison to Board of Education
 - Olivia: Masters in Public Health, Farm Manager for Sanzuma
 - Alan: SR Nutrition Services Director, preparing food for a whole district with one kitchen. What can they do? Salad bars, have to be daily. In the midst of building schools and building kitchens; still 2-3 years until the facilities are ready.
 - Dave: facilities manager
 - Students, project group for the year is on food and waste policy in Marin and the SR school district
- What is the major **opportunity** in farm to school area?
 - School farm is extremely beneficial, based on cost. Schools pay for produce at the price they would pay their normal distributor!
 - Kids seeing the connection of where their food comes from, and the resulting increase in interest in eating more nutritious food.
 - Easy to sneak in nutrition education when in the garden.
- What is a primary **barrier** in farm to school area?
 - Funding: not enough \$ currently for the edu to be at every grade level.

CA Food Policy Council Report – Steve Schwartz

- Farm Bill expired! Question is what will happen in December, a lot will be decided in the next few months about the direction it will take.
- CA FPC Legislative Report Card is being finalized this fall, to be released January 15 in Sacramento.
- Roots of Change (backbone for CA FPC) asking for help this week – Whole Foods fundraiser donating 5 cents, Roots of Change will share with local FPCs who share on social media.
- SSB – We lost our chance to do it at the city level, but it woke up a giant movement with larger organizations at the statewide level. Since then, quick movement by American Medical Association and American Heart Association to move a bill forward in March 2019. May be a grassroot effort to get signatures to support getting it onto the ballot, or may go the political route of just signing it on. To explore more at our next MFPC meeting.

- CA Food and Farming Network listening session for FPCs in the North Bay to raise local issues we care about, seek opportunities for statewide legislation. Focus on Senior farmers market programs, urban ag, and farm to school. SAVE THE DATE: 10/25.

Council Business – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- Policy process for letters of support **tabled until the November MFPC meeting*
- Public Comment period for Public Charge Regulation – Alexandra Danino
 - Charge Rule posted on 10/10 – proposed rule affecting immigrants based on public benefit usage that they can have legal entry into the US, will impact CalFresh and other benefits. Public Charge working group in Marin on how to help people in Marin. Already getting calls of people wanting to drop off CalFresh. Campaign to sign a protesting petition online. **Agendaize letter of comment for the November meeting*

New Member Presentations – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- If you've recently applied for MFPC membership and haven't given a new member presentation yet, please let us know.
- It can be brief: introduce yourself and your organization, what issues you work on, relevant projects and programs, any funding associated with this work.
- **Madelene McCann, Marin Child Care Council:** help manage HEAL grant for kids 0-5 ages. Breastfeeding, safe sleep, dental hygiene, nutritional edu, one of one coaching, parent edu and support, cooking and nutrition classes. Partnered with Indian Valley College to do garden-based edu for childcare providers, as well as to be able to access the farm to harvest food. Resources and referral network for Marin, help with quality child care facilities. Critical time to bring in best practices around healthy eating and active living (brain is 80% developed by age 3!). Madelene used to farm in Northern CA and WY, then got into the education career.

Break-out groups

- **Urban Ag - September**
- **Farm to School – October**
- **Seniors – November**

Closing – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 20, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110