

Marin Food Policy Council  
Meeting Notes  
January 15, 2019  
SF-Marine Food Bank, 2550 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110**

**Attendance:**

**\* = Voting members**

X	Alexandra Danino, SF-Marine Food Bank*	X	Madeline Hope, West Marin Waste Education*
X	Bonnie Nielsen, UCCE		Marv Zauderer, ExtraFood.org
	Bonny White, West Marin Com Services*		Miguel Villarreal, Novato USD*
X	Casey Poldino, Zero Waste Marin*	X	Paula Freeman, Covia
X	Elaini Negussie, HHS Nutrition Wellness		Reba Meigs, HHS Public Health*
X	Felicia Chavez, Systems Thinking Marin		Sheila Kopf, SF-Marine Food Bank
	Gueidi Beltran, WIC*		Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sus Food Collaborative*
	Heather Bettini, CAM		Susan Martinelli, WIC
	Janet Brown, AllStar Organics*		Terrie Green, Marin City Comm. Services District*
X	Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*		
	June Farmer, Marin City CX3*		Guests:
X	Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*		Lauren, Rebecca, and Tucker =
	Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health		Marin School of Environmental Leadership teens
	Laura Hettwer, HHS Public Assistance*	X	Bob Denzmore, Marin Country Day School
X	Lauren Klein, Comm. & School Gardens		Gibson Thomas, Edible Marin
X	Liana Orlandi, Ag. Institute of Marin*	X	Kristin Taylor, EAH Housing
	Lorenzo Cordova, BOS*	X	Meg Davidson, SF-Marine Food Bank
X	Lori Davis, Sanzuma*	X	Phylis Faber, co-founder of MALT
	Madelene McCann, Marin Child Care Council	X	Sally Carlile, CERES Community Project

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

- Lori: new Jamaican restaurant in San Rafael called “Roots and Juice”
- Gibson: summer issue of Edible will have an all hunger theme
- Julia: Marin Community Foundation is hosting an event focusing on seniors “All Together Now” – Friday, February 1, 2019

**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.
- **Felicia Chavez, Systems Thinking Marin**
- MarinLink is the fiscal sponsor since August 2017. Herself, plus two advisory board members. Mission = to raise awareness about systems thinking in Marin Co in all sectors. Systems thinking can also be thought of as ecosystem thinking, contextual thinking,

relationship-based thinking. Vision = to move from a default linear reductionist analytical mindset (short term, narrow focus, superficial) to a default systems thinking mindset (longterm, broad focus, depth). Project = promote systems thinking approach to local adoption of UN Sustainable Development Goals of 2030. Zero poverty and hunger, good health and wellbeing, etc. by 2030. Would like local orgs to overtly set targets of corresponding goals collaboratively. Funded by a philanthropist friend to allow Felicia to experiment. Felicia attends meetings and tells people about people, who is up to what, promoting cross-pollination of ideas, work, and networking. Recommends Environmental Forum of Marin Master Class. Website: [www.SystemsThinkingMarin.org](http://www.SystemsThinkingMarin.org).

#### **Council Business – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- Funding status: 2018 was funded by MCF to work on healthy eating and active living, collaborative grant member under HHS. Recently reapplied to the same grant process, looking for March 2019 – February 2020. MFPC's component of the proposal: came under a newly formed non-profit (consulting agency managing grants for non-profits started by Reba Meigs), along with Marin City CSD, UCCE community gardens for older adults program, AIM, SF-Marin Food Bank, and Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative. IF the grant doesn't come through for MFPC, we would have to take a look at our capacity; most pieces would likely continue, including monthly meetings. Annual budget is \$10,000-15,000.
- Marin Food Now group – how does it overlap with MFPC? **Agenda item: revisit question!** MFPC exists as an independent coalition of people meeting together, formed around the same time as HHS formed HEAL, informed strongly by MFPC's Equitable Access Report. So, while MFPC is separate from the HEAL taskforces, there is lots of overlap and we work alongside each other in the same direction towards similar goals. HEAL initiatives/ taskforces: 1) Built Environment (green jobs, school gardens, etc), 2) Food Now (food insecurity), and 3) CalFresh (enrollment and utilization). Each topic has significant policy implications, and MFPC focuses on policy; MFPC is a venue for partner groups to move policy forward.

#### **CA Food Policy Council Report – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- Process for seeking Letters of Support passed around last meeting; anyone is welcome to bring items forward. Review process now.
- Letter of Support for Marin County Board of Supervisors to cover charitable feeding operations' state-mandated Environmental Health registration fees. Context: AB 2178 passed in 2018 – traditionally groups that gave out hot food had to register for permits. New law now register as a charitable feeding operations and pay a fee to Environmental Health. Supposed to streamline the process and make it easier, but it has strong restrictions on the type of food that can be given away. EH charging about \$300 each year, which can be cumbersome for small agencies. Requesting that the BOS pays this fee. Head of Dept. of EH was the one to suggest this BOS request, which bodes well for the idea; also there is precedent that other counties are using this approach to handle the problem. Total cost to BOS would not exceed \$11,000/year since there are about 36 different agencies. Any chance any could merge? No, because it requires an on-site inspection. Any advantage to acting quickly? Peace of mind for the agencies. **\*\*VOTE: Letter of Support approved.** Next step is for Meg to draft a copy of the letter for the Steering Committee to review, then send.

- Lori learned about MI program by adding 10 cents per child per school meal that can only be spent on local fruits and vegetables. Lori wrote a letter to the state, TL students have been collecting signatures. Sanzuma is working with Senator McGuire to pass this program. 10 cents from the state fund, and 10 cents matched by local organizations. February 21 is the last day bills can be submitted. Senator Maguire has assigned a staffperson for this bill, right now it's in the introductory phase, then to the Health, Education, and Fiscal Committees. Hold schools accountable to buying locally, including a farm to school component with nutrition education. Now asking for organizations working with children under 18 to be included on a phone list of potential supporters. **Lori to draft an email to circulate to MFPC members with this request.** EAH, CERES, and Zero Waste Marin are interested. Sanzuma is looking for a group of organizations and foundations to match the 10 cents. The process could take up to a year, but they are hoping to know more by summer or fall. No bill number yet, called the "Ten Cent Meal" program. Steve Schwartz is in Sacramento now for the CA FPC to consider tracking the work on this bill.

#### **End of Year Evaluation – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- Fill out online at: [www.ucanr.edu/2018eval](http://www.ucanr.edu/2018eval)
- **What worked well and you would like to see continue?** Having a core team holding the center and staff support that takes minutes, makes agendas, keeps things regular, etc. really helps MFPC to have a strong on-going sense of presence and keep momentum going. If funding goes away, we could consider membership fees (individual or organization) or other alternative funding models. Appreciate the focus on policy while doing other work and learning. Learning opportunities worked really well. Specifically appreciated panels with city planners and policy makers. Liked the break-out groups and themes (though needed more time for them).
- **Location, time of day, length and frequency of meetings, etc?** 2-4pm is appealing, though it is harder for students to attend that early. Should MFPC talk with schools to see if students could leave early?
- **What changes would you like to see?** Would like more skill-building on how to foster policy knowledge and work within organizations. Perhaps council business/updates could be done by email instead to free up 15-30 minutes of meeting time? Tagline and/or paragraph about each organization on MFPC? Next steps for planning for 2019: incorporate 2018 evaluation feedback and convene with SC, February meeting will review the evaluation results and present proposal for 2019 for more group feedback. So, please submit your 2018 evaluation and attend the February MFPC meeting!

#### **Tour of the SF-Marin Food Bank – Alexandra Danino**

**Closing – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis**

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

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