

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
March 15, 2019
HHS Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110

Attendance:

*** = Voting members**

X	Alexandra Danino, SF-Marin 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*
	Casey Poldino, Zero Waste Marin*	X	Paula Freeman, Covia
	Elaini Negussie, HHS Nutrition Wellness		Reba Meigs, HHS Public Health*
X	Felicia Chavez, Systems Thinking Marin		Sheila Kopf, SF-Marin Food Bank
X	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*
X	Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*		
X	June Farmer, Marin City CX3*		
	Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*		<i>Guests:</i>
	Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health	X	Bruce Richard, Environmental Forum of Marin
X	Lauren Klein, Comm. & School Gardens	X	Cathryn Couch, CERES CEO
X	Liana Orlandi, Ag. Institute of Marin*	X	Cornelious Boots, community member
	Lorenzo Cordova, BOS*	X	Sharon Turner, Marin City CSD
	Lori Davis, Sanzuma*	X	Sofia Osotio, Whistlestop
X	Madelene McCann, Marin Child Care Council	X	Susan Lopes, Mill Valley Chamber of Commerce

Welcome and Announcements – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis

- Julia: Johns Hopkins Center for a Liveable Future published report on status of Food Policy Councils across the country.
- Bruce: Built Environment and carbon reduction possibilities – check Environmental Forum of Marin’s website: MarinEFM.org
- Susan Lopes: Chamber of Commerce is working on zero waste projects in Mill Valley
- Catherine Couch: CCOF just released a benefits of Organic for CA report (across a whole range of areas) -- *Roadmap to an Organic California*, <https://www.ccof.org/roadmap-organic-california>. CCOF is working this year to develop a policy platform for expanding organics in CA
- Alexandra: CalFresh benefits will continue until March; new law just passed in CA so that starting in June SSI recipients are now eligible to apply for CalFresh
- Steve: March 19 annual conference on food access will be in Richmond
- **PLEASE FILL OUT THE MEMBER EVALUATION SURVEY:** www.ucanr.edu/2018eval

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.
- **Sharon Turner, Commission on Aging and Marin City Community Services District**
 - Community Services District in Marin City, family moved to Fairfax (only black family in Fairfax until she was a sophomore in high school). Operation Give a Damn beginning of a lifetime of work with families in Marin City. Most recently working with the Marin City Community Services District on the Marin City Intergenerational Garden and the Commission on Aging. Meetings are the first Thursday of the month in the morning.
 - MFPC priority of working in certain communities: Marin City, Canal, West Marin. Having prepresentation on the council is really important to MFPC. Also focusing on older adults and looking to broadened representation from this group.

Council Business – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- **MCF HEAL Older Adults Grant:** MFPC received the grant funding, which continues our learning theme around older adults and continues our funding for another year.
- **Call for Nominations for Steering Committee Membership:** call for self-volunteer or nomination of someone else made. Ask that SC members are current members of MFPC and have been active and engaged for a while. SC meets monthly outside of full council meetings to plan for meetings (alternate between conference calls and in-person meetings). Ask that you are passionate about and have specific knowledge in the food system. There is room for all kinds of skills! If you are interested, ask a current Steering Committee member for more info: Alexandra Danino, Lori Davis, Julis Van Soelen Kim, Bonnie Nielsen, Liana Orlandi, June Farmer, Reba Meigs.
- **MFPC outreach postcard review and input:** make a full size version that is one-sided (to pin on bulletin boards), print on card stock.
- **End of year evaluation survey results:** 13 members filled out the evaluation survey (about 50% of our membership), most from voting members, even spread of fairly new and fairly experienced members. Everyone was satisfied or very satisfied with MFPC overall. Virtually no dissatisfaction with the leadership, governance, meeting logistics and communication. All responses to a 'safe and welcoming environment' were very satisfied, room for improvement on both 'policy opportunities' and 'systems thinking'. People liked the break-out groups and the urban ag topics. Networking and making new contacts ranked high as valuable for council members. Suggestions for change or improvement: main theme was the continued need to increase diversity of our membership (strategic) and consistency of membership.
- **Comments:**
 - One MFPC strength is the broad range of organizations represented, the relationships that form, and networking that happens. Would like to understand

more about the county government structure and who/where to go to for specific needs.

- Question about the location of meetings: move elsewhere for better parking? Let us know if you have an idea for a better location. Time concerns: some would prefer an earlier meeting time, but students need it to start no earlier than 3pm to be able to attend.
- Appreciate the intersections between food and other areas of work in the community, trying to figure out how to make more links with MFPC so other groups don't have to reinvent the wheel. Depending on the themes for 2019 there might be more appropriate groups to reach out to. When members of other groups attend MFPC meetings it allows for more cross-pollination. Can add an open-ended question on the member application survey to list your affiliations. Could MFPC have a resource guide of all the organizations working with different populations and in different sectors to facilitate more connections? The Food Now Guide is a start...
- Appreciated the urban ag presentations with members from city government sharing their practices and policies – helpful to learn from others about what they are doing boots on the ground, see where this can translate to other locations. The topic was educational in real time from the players actually working in the field; tips from the insiders as well as the ability to give (wanted) feedback was great. Applicable to everyone here because we are all residents on Marin; not just professional, but personal as well. More possibilities and dynamism in the topic.
- Membership retention, consistency, and outreach: inviting members with policy-specific connections and people on the production side (farmers); leverage relationships of members to access the policy players when relevant; all meetings are open to the public so invite anyone anytime. It's every MFPC member's responsibility to make sure we have a wide breadth and diversity of perspectives and voices at the table, not just the Steering Committee; yet it's challenging to explain Food Policy to folks – should we all memorize an elevator pitch? Should a sub-committee work on this? Public education component of policy goals that the public can recognize the MFPC is working on. Can MFPC members volunteer to table events? ***Let MFPC know if:** you have a policy issue in your work that you can bring to the council, or an event that you want the council to be at (have a table).

Future Topics for 2019 – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- **Top finalists:** Local Food Supply Chain, Climate Change, Urban Ag, and Older Adults
>> Question to the Council: What is it you think these topics mean/should include?
- **Local Food Supply Chain:** a (relatively invisible) system, would like to know what % of our food comes from within the county, from within 100 miles, is organic, is from urban, etc. What % of the food we produce leaves the county, becomes waste, etc. Give us a context within which the council functions, to see where the leverage points are. The other ways people are getting their food today that they didn't in the past – the space is changing these days. There are many ways you can tie in the other topics with this topic. What is

happening with our local food and farmer entry and exit? Can span local farm to food access issues and everything in between – it's a big topic. We've spent time understanding local food production on one side, and food access and equitable access to healthy and local food on the other side, but we've done very little learning on what's in between (processing, distribution, etc.)

- **Climate Change:** we need to be empowered to talk about climate change and public health, most critical topic everyone is facing. Could learn more about Healthy Soils Initiative to do carbon friendly farming practices. Could learn about carbon farming and local work in that field. There's a lot of momentum happening at the state level. Mill Valley: composting and waste reduction endeavors with restaurants. OR should climate change be a thread overlaid all topics (since it is so large a topic)? Establish a baseline of knowledge within the group? Center for Ecoliteracy resources = 'Exploring How Food and Climate Systems Interact,' and 'Understanding Food and Climate Change: A Systems Approach'
- **Urban Ag:** what is incomplete; what more would you like to see in a continued theme? Examples of places in the county where residents are engaged in some forms of community gardening and farming, and how it is working. Where laws at various levels have changed to allow for policy opportunities, how we could adopt similar work here.
- **Older Adults:** what is incomplete; what more would you like to see in a continued theme? OR a thread through everything. People like the idea of it being a thread through everything. Older adults have a lot of wisdom and expertise to share with us! Nutrition, health education, and quality of food that older adults are receiving; making the better choice easier for them. What's making the difference? Making all the connections, looking at it as a whole. Marin City Food Pharmacy puts together food for folks with specific diseases (generally plant-based, fresh veggies and fruits) along with taste testing, cooking samples and recipes so people know how to prepare food they wouldn't normally fix, health advice, etc.
- **Plan for 2019:** Policy thread (what policy implications or opportunities are there in this topic) and older adults thread (what does this topic look like for older adults).
TWO OPTIONS: A) 2 topics and 1 policy skill-building exercise, OR B) 3 topics?
 - **Comments: Vote for OPTION B.** People like quality over quantity, 2 topics are enough. Can drop urban ag because it's a part of local food supply chain, and is a response to climate chain.

Policy Updates – Steve Schwartz

- CA Food & Farming Network annual report released last month, share in the meeting. Now they are looking at the bills that legislators are writing this week, looking at which 20 bills to track and prioritize. Let Steve know if you are interested in the calls.
- SSB tax: state initiative may change things to re-open the topic
- North Bay Journal wanting comment from MFPC on some legislation
- New money in the state budget to do two things: 1) help corner stores get cold storage to be able to offer CA grown fruits and veggies, and 2) new legislation that may need input on working towards enabling the 2 for 1 farmers market market match incentive to be put back on your EBT card that you can then use anywhere it is accepted.

End of Year Evaluation – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- Last chance to fill out online at: www.ucanr.edu/2018eval

Closing – Alexandra Danino

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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