

Marin Food Policy Council  
Meeting Notes  
February 18, 2020  
HHS Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110 Attendance:**

\* = Voting members

	Alexandra Danino, SF-Marin Food Bank*		Madeline Hope, West Marin Waste Education*
X	Bonnie Nielsen, UCCE	X	Marchon Tatmon, SF-Marin Food Bank*
	Bonny White, West Marin Com Services*		Marv Zauderer, ExtraFood.org
	Casey Poldino, Zero Waste Marin*		Melanie Raquel, Marin Housing Authority*
	Cathryn Couch, CERES*		Paula Freeman, Covia*
	Elaini Negussie, HHS Nutrition Wellness*	X	Reba Meigs, HHS Public Health*
X	Felicia Chavez, Systems Thinking Marin*	X	Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sus Food Collaborative*
	Gueidi Beltran, WIC*	X	Susan Lopes, Mill Valley Chamber of Commerce
	Heather Bettini, CAM	X	Wendy Tobiasson, citizen
	Janet Brown, AllStar Organics*		
X	Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*		
	June Farmer, Marin City CX3*		<i>Guests:</i>
	Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*	X	Antoinette-Marie Saliani, North Bay Children's Center
	Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health	X	Morgan (CJ) Coulsen, Interfaith Sus Food Collaborative
X	Lauren Klein, Comm. & School Gardens	X	James Lee, Revolution Foods
X	Liana Orlandi, Ag. Institute of Marin*	X	Ryan Thayer, HHS
X	Linda Jackson, Aging Action Initiative*	X	Sandy Parry, North Bay Children's Center
	Lorenzo Cordova, BOS*		
	Lori Davis, Sanzuma*		
	Madelene McCann, Marin Child Care Council		

**Welcome and Announcements – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- Julia: Food Systems leadership retreat with Wallace Center – free on-site professional development opportunity 4/27-4/30 in Oregon, if interested in applying, contact Julia.
- Julia for Liana: January 27 – Countywide HEAL taskforce training on collective impact, helpful to define boundaries and ID next steps for MFPC. CA FFN annual meeting in January, major themes mirrored current MFPC conversations. CA FPC quarterly meeting in February with presentations from CA FarmLink, discussed legislative scorecard (circulated) and food policy report.
- Linda: attended HEAL retreat, participated in Built Environment group, changed name to Community Food group. April 28 – Aging Action Initiative Convening, welcome to participate and network. County Health Improvement Partnership Plan (CHIP) is underway (3 years), identified 3 priorities: housing and homelessness, economic security, and social connections.
- James Lee: Revolution Foods - healthy school meals for kids all over country, based in Oakland. Revolution Foods does all meals for SF Unified. Doesn't work much in Marin and

- looking to increase, partner with interested orgs.
- Toni: Mindful Wellness and Nutrition Consultant with NBCC
- Sandy: Garden Educator with NBCC
- Susan: Supervisor Sears is leading work on an ordinance that Marin County is passing on single use waste, trying to get all cities in Marin on board. March 10 meeting at 2pm at Mill Valley Community Center to work with food businesses in Mill Valley.
- Steve: CJ joined Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative with AmeriCorps. Working with Food Bank and MCIL to help seniors who just got CalFresh to work with farmers markets and Rolling Root (now through March 30).
- Wendy: March 12 - DrawDown Marin's Local Food and Food Waste Committee meeting presenting preliminary solutions (groups: food waste, farmer support, and composting). 30% of current garbage going to landfill is green waste currently! Example: biobags can't turn into organic Omri certified compost. Trying to connect with groups that need green waste.
- Thank you for participating in the phone interviews with Wendy to help MFPC to better understand the scope and mission of our member orgs so we can build on and connect with our network in a more intentional way.

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

##### Update on Marin Community Foundation HEAL Older Adult Collaborative Grant Proposal

- We applied as a co-grantee to MCF HEAL Older Adult collaborative grant with SF-Marin Food Bank, Innovative Health Solutions, and Marin City's Intergenerational Garden.
- We were awarded a collaborative grant, which will start March 1, 2020 and continue through February 2021, requiring that MFPC continue working on the needs of older adults in the county. Our fiscal agent will be Innovative Health Solutions.
- Other orgs separately funded: Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative, and possibly AIM and ExtraFood.org.
- Linda to connect Julia and MFPC with CHIP.

##### Update: Annual online evaluation survey – look for areas to improve

- 11 members took survey, majority voting members.
- Majority of response were positive, showing that members were satisfied or very satisfied with MFPC. What stood out were the learning sessions with panel presentations, as well as synthesis sessions with Wendy. Most important element of participation has been connections and collaboration. The future topic of interest that scored highest was Climate Change.
- Areas for improvement:
  - Systems thinking – we could do better; tackling food systems issues uniquely requires cross-discipline and network group. Open to hear people's input on how we can improve. It is challenging, since collectively we are very trained on linear thinking. Takes a lot to move in that direction. Still feels ephemeral since presentation – could continue to move forward in this area.
  - Membership: struggle to bring people from West Marin and South Marin here (geographic), we could improve diversity of membership and have yet to develop an active recruitment strategy.
  - Communications and meeting logistics: suggestion to send out reminder with

information on meeting content 2 weeks ahead of time rather than just 1 week in the agenda. Struggle to find parking. Could do an annual meeting in location further West (like Rancho Nicasio). Steering Committee to put together proposals of alternate time and locations and report back.

#### **Policy Updates – Steve Schwartz and Marchon Tatmon**

- CA FFN 3 different new ways CA is looking at supporting school lunches.
- Farm to senior-serving institutions bill: put \$5 million to aid senior serving institutions, getting more local and healthy food. Levine and McGuire are interested, MFPC to endorse. Opportunity to co-sign letter with HEAL funded collaborative partners listed individually as well. Who else in the state is interested in this? AARP, CFFN, Roots of Change all seem interested. Other counties in the state? **\*Vote to endorse: APPROVED, but lacking enough members present in the meeting to pass, will talk to Steering Committee.**
- SFMNP – little sister to CalFresh and market match, want to see more funding to this, McGuire interested in doing this as a budget item.
- Could do a MFPC info package in preparation of the April 28 Aging Action Initiative Convening – could spend some time on this next meeting.
- Marchon: SB 882 CalFresh Simplifier for Adults (Weiner) – redone version of a bill that didn't pass last year (SB 285). Pulled out certain language and made it a smaller package focusing on seniors, simplifies the process to apply for CalFresh, eliminates some ongoing recording requirements, tries to alleviate mobility issues. Opportunity to make the process smoother. Aligned with CA Hunger Action Coalition and other statewide orgs. Actionable steps for MFPC: now just on the radar, will look for support and endorsement in the near future. CHAC lobby date in April, people welcome to join.
- SF/Marin Food Bank is focusing on more policy agenda items: schools and school lunches (restore state funding for nutritional meals at CA schools), and others. Reintroducing and ending legacy cuts done to SSI during the Great Recession.

#### **Policy Platform Work – Julia Van Soelen Kim & Wendy Tobiasson**

- Having a policy platform would enable MFPC to stand firmly on topics we have expertise in and have already done the work on. Can use samples of partner policy platforms.
- Areas of Policy Focus from 2019/2020 planning: improve soil and water system health (land); support sustainable ag practices (systems); ensure access to local nutritious food; support community-based food solutions; reduce food waste; expand food and climate education.
- Eliminating hunger in Marin is heart of MFPC (the what), and largely is done so by localizing food systems (the how), and the rest (above) are all related.
- Goal for March: refine categories, narrow scope and focus, create our prioritized list of policies to work on through 2020.
- Notes from January meeting – alignment in 3 areas to arc over the year: more actively supporting and driving policy, identify what's next on our learning agenda, create policy platform, strengthen network, use data to convince, ID media opportunities
- Bolder Advocacy in Oakland does trainings on policy advocacy.

#### **Mapping Our Network for Impact – Wendy Tobiasson**

- Wendy collecting member org info including goals, initiatives, and missions. Working on a list/chart/handout.
- Food Now taskforce app has some overlap with our mapping efforts.
- Who are the charitable direct service providers (immediate), advocacy people (medium-term), and big picture sustainability workers (long term)?
- Members could share their orgs goals for the year at the beginning of MFPC meetings?
- Next meeting: helping organize policy categories, knowing Master Plan on Aging is coming, knowing what input we want to have,

**Closing** – Julia Van Soelen Kim

**Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.**

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