

12/15/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call

Attendees: Liana Orlandi (AIM), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Casey Poldino (Zero Waste Marin), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Heather Gilardi (Innovative Health Solutions), Lauren Klein (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions)

Introductions (Announcements at end of meeting) - Liana Orlandi

- Liana: Help@Hand is looking for volunteers to try out technology designed to improve wellness for older adults. Please share with your communities ([flier](#)). They're looking for Spanish-speaking participants age 60+ Registration form: MarinHHS.org/Help-at-Hand
- January MFPC meeting focused on community gardens - Tuesday 1/15/21 from 3-5pm
- Hot-of-the-press [policy brief](#) from UC ANR Nutrition Policy Institute on California Nutrition Incentive Program at Farmers' Market
- Help celebrate UC Cooperative Extension's Centennial - Take a look at our ["Then and Now" series](#)

Learning Opportunity: AIM's Center for Food & Ag Master Plan [presentation](#) - Andy Naja-Riese, Agricultural Institute of Marin **share intros, timely events, & updates in the chat box*

- AIM's Center for Food & Ag Master Plan [report](#)
- Vision for new Center for Food & Ag: develop new center focused on experiential learning about local food and ag, create a marketplace to support small-scale farmers in our region
- Farmers market model focused on producing organic and regenerative foods, with the potential to help climate change, enhance public awareness of healthy soils, pastures, and seas... elevating farmers market model to highlight sustainability
- Gallinas watershed council was once the land of the tidal Miwok peoples
- One of seven projects endorsed by DrawDown Marin as a project working on reversing the climate crisis
- Lead to reduction in diet-related disease and chronic disease
- Promote economic development
- Audience served? 350 small to mid sized family farmers, specialty food providers. "Local" defined as California, certified with visits to actual farms
- Farmers market will be open air and zero waste
- Visitor center to help people navigate food and nutrition assistance and services (CalFresh, Market MAtch, WIC, etc)
- Demo electric kitchen to demo cooking healthy meals on a budget to visitors
- Zero waste: donate extra produce to community members, compost on-site
- AIM's Path to Racial Equity: focused on support for BIPOC producers and artisans -- some stalls offered at no cost to BIPOC producers, as well as link to existing BIPOC producers to offer mentors and guidance
- Offer on-site technical assistance and trainings, education
- Rainwater cistern to irrigate landscaping. Goal of composting toilets on-site and blackwater system, but the County isn't on board yet

- Experiential learning programs, gardens, talks, demos, etc throughout for kids, families, seniors, etc.
- Edible and carbon sequestration gardens
- QUESTIONS from MFPC:
 - Status in planning and building process: project is currently in phasing development stages, planning for goals each year based on funding sources. Master Plan is completed, working on a business plan and capital campaign. Aiming for 2022-2023.
 - Commercial kitchen or teaching kitchen to be rented out for value-added products from local businesses? Currently debating whether they would rent out the kitchens and site (currently there are kitchens for rent in Marin that are under-utilized). Looking at the option for farmers testing out new value-added products or for chefs testing out new local food recipes.
 - Any disaster resources in place? Thinking about how they could use the space for food aggregation and distribution in the case of an emergency, how to implement.
 - What are the biggest hurdles coming up? Fundraising is currently the biggest priority (challenging to fundraise during a pandemic). Regulatory issues and challenges as well (i.e. with EHS policies around Cottage Foods that make it prohibitive for some producers to be in the market, as well as the costs of County permit process for people setting up booths).
 - [Micro-Enterprise Home Kitchen Operations](#) (MEHKOS)
- QUESTIONS for MFPC:
 - How can we ensure the market side is universally accessible and inclusive? Heart of the City Farmers Market in SF doing a good job of this (hire community members, encourage dollar bags, charge lower prices compared to other markets, etc). Marin's seniors and need for curbside pickup (trend may continue after pandemic)... build curbside pickup into the design to help seniors? Shade zones and hydration stations for elders. Bus access and bicycle parking options. Garden space will include children's play spaces also. Considering partnering with MGs and CA Native Plant Society on the gardens.
 - Consider having an online way that seniors could order produce and hire local low income people to help do those deliveries out to seniors.
 - Consider getting a direct Smart Train "market run" that runs people just back and forth between San Rafael and the market to make it easy to do that trip with more runs during market hours
 - Perhaps volunteer shoppers for seniors or those with disabilities?
 - Signage in different languages?
 - Consider a work program to make pavers and perhaps rammed earth bricks for the building.
 - Use building effort as a training opportunity for solar installations etc.
 - **MFPC support:** Having MFPC representation in the design process. Advocate with the County to support the project with funds for things like permeable pavers, solar canopy, etc.

[MFPC Policy Platform](#) (Julia Van Soelen Kim) **review & comment prior to the meeting*

- Intended to be a place to include problem and solutions statement, highlight key issues, and address equity impacts on children, older adults, and Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) communities
- Internal purpose: living doc of our collective expertise, knowledge, and learnings over time
- External purpose: policy agenda we can bring to others to advance our goals; help us save time as we endorse policy.
- All of the bucket areas are meant to lift up local food and agriculture -- embedded in everything we do.
- Review each bucket area: CalFresh and Food Assistance Programs, Climate Change, Food Equity and Racial Justice, Older Adults
 - Climate change bucket questions -- want to gauge MFPC interest in further learning: ranching in the seashore, plant-based diets, and organic agriculture
- Please continue to add comments and edits to the [Policy Platform](#)
- Early 2021 we will take the doc to MFPC for a full Council vote of approval

Policy Updates (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- [Letter of Support to Congressman Huffman](#) to request his support for additional emergency funding for FINI/GusNIP Programs (funds market match) -- can [add individual organization name here](#) if interested in further support.
- Approval of Letter to Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff ([draft doc](#)) -- reach out to Julia or Andy if interested in joining this effort. Cathryn interested in seeing the draft of the letter. Goal: draft done by the end of the week, get it out by the end of the year. ****VOTE: approved****
- Proposal: Provide recommended language from our policy platform (especially Farm to Elders) for the [County of Marin Legislative Platform](#)
- Resource and policy opportunity -- Policy Brief: California's Vaccination Plan Needs to Prioritize Farmworkers, Their Families and Agricultural Communities ([doc](#)). ****VOTE: approved****

January Meeting on Community and School Gardens on Tuesday 1/19/21 from 3-5 PM