

**Working Group Name: FOOD**

**Meeting Date: 12/14/2011**

**Meeting Location: 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW, 1 Judiciary Square, Room 1117**

**Attendees:**

Ibti Vincent, Community Agriculture Advocate

Laura Pillsbury, Institute of Medicine

Xavier Brown, The Green Scheme

Karine Bailly

Sarah McLaughlin, DC Prep Elementary and OLD CITY green

Jeff Mills, DCPS Director, Food and Nutrition Services

Sarah McKinley

Jordan Clough, AST Cowen Design Group LLC

Corey Knight

Abbie Steiner, Capital Area Food Bank

Rebecca Iemos, City Blossoms

Kelsey Ross

Michael Alexander

Josh Singer, Casey Trees

Stephen Alexander

Rachel Lubin, PRIZIM Inc.

Dominic Ouellette, Friends of McMillan

Myra Sinnott

Cecily Kohler, Capitol Hill Energy Cooperative

Gian Cossa, Compliance and Enforcement Branch, Lead and Healthy Housing Division, DDOE

Lola Bloom, City Blossoms

Andrea Clark

Eileen Naples

Margaret Pinard

Melina Hong, DCPS

Katherine Eklund, DC Central Kitchen

Diana Dillon, PRIZIM Inc.

Chris Wagner, DC Solar United Neighborhoods, Compost Cab

Brenda Estrella, Neighborhood Farm Initiative

Katie Rehwaldt, Rooting DC/That Grow Hope/America the Beautiful Fund

Bea Trickett, Neighborhood Farm Initiative

Jane Mangione

Josh Silverman

Louise Meyer, Solar Household Energy

Fern Johnson-Clarke, Department of Health - Facilitator

Laine Cidlowski, DC Office of Planning - Facilitator

Kelly Melsted, Department of Parks and Recreation - Facilitator

**Main Points/Discussion:**General

- Consider west coast examples (i.e. Portland)
- Chicago "Airport" Farming- sold in the airport
- Invite Bee experts to our meetings
- Our bee rule is vague
- Educate about what PC is doing in public; Schools: cut flavored milk, school dinners, from scratch, 37% of local produce
- Could have youth as ambassadors
- Philly co-op delivery to pre-school/child care (0-5 years old)
- DCPS: decreasing prices and costs by buying local
- School gardens educate and curriculum and teaching kitchen
- Healthy corner stores; CM Cheh with DC Central Kitchen-being started now
- Copy of related policies and hindrances

Economic Vitality

- #1: Clarify and edit regulations for businesses (sales, value added, liability, safety, cleaning, zoning, urban farming, taxes and incentives, living wage, benefits for workers, regional efforts, marketing to accompany incentives, farmer access to markets and small business help, harvesting)
- #2: Create sustainable regulatory atmosphere that encourages economically viable urban agriculture and food entrepreneurship (small business development- loans and grants, regulation protects/balances need for green spaces, internalize costs of conventional farming, balance commercial development with food needs of the community)
- #3: Starting in schools, create viable food-related job options and desirability (vocational training)
- #4: Public private partnerships and incentives

**RECAP: Clarify and edit regulations for businesses; meets all kind of entrepreneurs needs; see goal sheet; balance commercial development with food needs of the community; build and enhance public private partnerships and incentives**

Healthy Eating

- Define Healthy: equitable access for different populations to "good food"
- Education through exposure (growing, eating, cooking) and reframing (culturally diverse/relevant)
- Affordability through local programs and sourcing
- Central processing, market signal to farmers
- Innovative distribution with central processing
- Nutritious choices thriving current and future residents
- School rules and food stamp rules (add education component to incentive and discourage negative)
- Lower preventable health care costs
- Define sustainability: satisfies needs of current generation without jeopardizing ability of future generations to meet their needs
- Educate different groups including schools and the general public
- Integrate health organizations (CDC, hospitals, USDA\_
- Affordability: double value for WIC at far-mars
- Certify/categorize sustainable producers give incentives for government and other money
- Vision: people have access to education about nutritious choices
- Lobbying for government subsidies changes (healthy food subsidies, eliminate unhealthy subsidies)

- Multi-lingual education program and outreach to children and adults
  - Integrate church communities into healthy food initiatives
  - Tax/development incentives for healthy restaurants
  - Define "healthy/good eating"
  - Stars for healthy menu
  - Vision: healthy food to be readily accessible and DC population to be knowledgeable about healthy eating
  - In conclusion, some key principles are: Access (geographic, cultural, economic), Knowledge (education and exposure), Value (choosing healthy food), Integrate (build on existing efforts)
- RECAP: Define what healthy food is, multicultural and diverse; accessible by geography and economics; change value system; education needed; integrate into a holistic system**

#### Local Food

- Distance: 50 miles, minimizing impacts and maximizing value/quality
  - Value: education at schools (arboretum)
  - Relationship with food cycles/seasons
  - Incentivize "local" everywhere (farmers markets, grocery stores, institutions)
  - Hub/Aggregation system
  - Maintain and strengthen farmer relationships (increase demand for better food)
  - Vision: get celebrity chefs involved; X% of food consumed is grown by self; increased awareness/education; policies DC vendors to carry X% of food locally sourced; healthy/ecologically sustainable; bees and chickens; sustainable fishing; local food network
  - Incorporate food growing into zoning and development plans
  - Creating percentages of food grown that considers density
  - Create innovative spaces
  - Production, storage, use, and disposal
  - Create incentives for developers
  - Municipal composting program
  - Cost and resource sharing for transport of regional food
  - Education starting earlier
  - Funding for school gardeners
  - Classes for the community to learn gardening
- RECAP: More than distance, it's minimizing the impact and maximizing the value; X% DC residents growing and consuming by 2035, closed loop food system; educate all people about local food**

#### Social Equity

- Ensure all DC residents have equal access to: affordable, safe, healthy, culturally appropriate, accessible food
- Policies and practices that prioritize local/community sourcing, employment opportunities, development and social justice
- Food policies and practices that represents the voice/perspective of all city residents/wards (ex. Sustain a city food council with representation from each ward/community group)
- Spreading the word: equitable access to information/leveraging community experts while empowering and building community voices
- What we see in 2035: more health conscious community improved eating patterns; all residents have access to safe, healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate food
- Food system supports economically and socially viable jobs and equitable access to information
- Breaking barriers to do the work in the places where it's needed the most

- A food system that creates local food with local labor
- Green sustainable jobs market
- Elimination of food deserts

**RECAP: Access to safe healthy affordable food; supports job growth, build from local people and systems**

**Next Steps:** Develop a vision statement and principles for the Food Working Group

**Date for next meeting:** Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 6pm-8pm

**Location for next meeting:** 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW, One Judiciary Square Room 1117

**Questions? Email** [laine.cidlowski@dc.gov](mailto:laine.cidlowski@dc.gov)

**If you need to reach a Sustainable DC team member after hours,** please call [Laine Cidlowski at [202. 442.8809]

**Resources:**

DC Councilmember Tommy Wells held a public oversight roundtable on Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture on Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup>. You can watch the hearing where for more than 5 hours 30+ members of the public testified online

<http://dccouncil.washington.dc.us/granicus/archive/>.