

**PORTLAND-MULTNOMAH FOOD POLICY COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, July 11, 2012
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
City of Portland City Hall – Rose Room**

**MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2012**

FPC Members and in Attendance:

Monica Cuneo, Kyle Curtis, Shawn DeCarlo, Michael Doherty, Patrick Gorman, Hannah Kullberg, John Mitchell, Will Newman II, Stephanie Pearson, Sara Pool, Jeffrey Rowe, Adriana Voss-Andreae

Staff in Attendance:

Steve Cohen, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Katie Lynd, Multnomah County Office of Sustainability
Olivia Quiroz, Multnomah County Health Department
Sonia Manhas, Multnomah County Health Department

Members Not in Attendance:

Lisa Barba, David Barmon, Andy Eiden, Andy Fisher, Amelia Pape, Stephanie Jo Pearson, Charles Robertson, Tammy VanderWoude, Blake Van Roekel

Others in Attendance:

Raihana Ansary, Michael Armstrong, Charlie Blanchard, Suzanne Briggs, Kitman Chan Jennifer Chandler, Beth Cohen, Tony Cuneo, Emma Ethridge, Molly Hatfield, Brie Hillard, William Lee, Caroline Lehman, Suellen Li, Austin Lu, Michael Migotsku, Chelsea Myrick, Anthony Noble, Erin O'Donnell, Kule Schafer, Koala Swanson

Welcome and Introductions

Olivia Quiroz welcomed the council at 4:07pm.
All members present introduce themselves

Review Agenda & Purpose of Meeting

Sonia Manhas reviewed the agenda and purpose of the meeting, acknowledging changes in the council leadership and staff roles.

Manhas also acknowledged broader changes in the work and role of the FPC, and the need to pause given the change in leadership.

Manhas also stressed making sure that there is enough time to talk about the history of the FPC, to celebrate and honor that history and it how the FPC has evolved.

Portland Multnomah FPC: History & Evolution

Steve Cohen noted that in 2002 organizations such as as Growing Gardens, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and the Oregon Food Bank held a citywide meeting to discuss food issues. One of their recommendations was to create a food policy council. The City and County passed resolutions to establish a group that was given a year to set a work plan

and structure for a potential council. A year later a council was established, work plans set and by 2005, through much hard work, most of their goals were achieved.

The current FPC is operating in a different food environment – should the original structure of the FPC remain the same?

Cohen highlighted four main points to identify what has changed in the decade since the advent of the FPC:

1. There are now more organizations working on food issues, and many of these new voices are working on niche issues.
2. Elected officials are aware of food systems issues, and food is integrated into City and County government. FPC members spent a lot of time with officials to make sure they understood the connection between their work and food systems. This is evident in joint City/County projects (like Climate Action Plan) where food issues are institutionalized and integrated into the work.
3. Conversations about food policy are increasingly more sophisticated and specialized. A lot of community members are experts on food policy subjects and not on the council. When advisory boards are put together, the City and County are looking beyond the FPC to find experts in a specific area.
4. Thanks to Council's support, there are now full-time positions at both the county and the city working on food issues.

Will Newman added that the general public is coming to understand that food is important. In the last 12 years, a series of changes has made our understanding of food more complex – food as it relates to society, as it relates to health, and security. With these changes the role of the FPC should be different from what it was 10 years ago.

Shawn DeCarlo echoed Newman's statement. The council is less relevant as it has been successful spreading the understanding of the importance of food. The Council may not be relevant in its current role. The role of Council needs to adjust.

Susanne Briggs clarified that in those first years, there was a learning curve about how policy worked. A strength of those years was the understood notion that policy and the FPC work have to work together to achieve success. There was staff support, but not 100% of the time. There was an entrepreneurial spirit in the initial years, now that the FCP has grown and become highly diversified and specialized and achieving that synergy is harder. In the beginning "we were all at the table" and the FPC was a "laboratory to learn."

FPC Discussion: Effectively serving the county and city in the future

Cohen asked how can the Council fulfill the needs of members as well as add value to the work of the City and County staff.

Katie Lynd reflected on earlier comments about food work being a cornerstone, relating to issues to equity, sustainability, and economic development. Given that food is something all members are passionate about, how can the Council evolve to better serve the work of the City/County? What are the unmet needs for the Council to address?

DeCarlo suggested that the council research other FPCs from across the country as models, look into how other councils are structured, operate etc.

Cohen said that existing FPC studies show that very few fall under a government purview. The City has a grant to look into other cities that have full time staff to work on food policy. The report will touch on municipal food programs and relations to food policy councils.

Molly Hatfield added that some FPCs are formed ad hoc to address specific concerns and others are free-standing nonprofits. The Los Angeles council is its own nonprofit, with work groups that have 150-plus members, and there are relatively few city/council relationships.

Newman expressed that the charge of the FPC (urging city/county to incorporate food issues into their policy) does not need to change but because they are limited to 2 year terms and with limited staff, there is no institutional memory. There is no staff that is primarily dedicated to the FPC, and staff loyalty lie in their organizations. Going forward, the council should be more proactive in providing specific policy recommendations to the City and County, with some expectation that the policies will be adopted. The council should also connect to other organizations that are working on food issues to bring the issues of other organizations forward to City and County.

Adriana Voss-Andreae agrees that having a dedicated staff member would overcome the limited capacity of the Council and a lot more could be done, and leverage the work forward.

Michael Armstrong suggested the council first discuss the activities/work they want to focus on, and then identify what are the staffing needs in order to support that work. There is no city or county council with full time staff allocated to advisory/councils and Michael encouraged members to think about the activities before looking into the resources needed to carry those out.

Hannah Kullberg said that the progress of workgroups gets stalled because of limited time/capacity to do research and suggested staff could help get projects off the ground.

Newman suggested administrative support, background clerical duty, as well as getting separate grant funding to pay for this position.

Manhas asked to take the conversation back a step and identify what are the unmet needs the council can fulfill. There needs to be synergy and balance between the work City/County and the FPC. The City/County brings forth policies for input and the FPC brings forth community needs. The Council is working on a lot of great issues, but not all of those are relevant to City and County needs.

Newman asked if the City and County would provide a list of topics to the FPC that they need help on. And if FPC members bring forth areas of concern that aren't County/City priorities, then how should the FPC move forward? If the expectation is that the City/County will tell the FPC what they are interested in, then the Council should have people on the Council with expertise in those areas. If the Council is composed of members who have no expertise in a field that the City/County wants examined, then the Council won't be useful.

Manhas said that the Council is one of many ways in which the county looks for advice, adding that there are a lot of groups engaged in these issues and it is the County's responsibility to seek out multiple stakeholders.

Voss-Andreae said it would be great role for the FPC to advise policy topics for the City/County and coming up with new ideas. Government could provide a bridge between the work of the FPC and coalitions working on similar issues. When it comes to new ideas, having staff to help with the initial research would help new ideas get on to the table.

Manhas reiterated that there are multiple stakeholders that need to be engaged, and the appropriate staff person (from the City or County) could connect with the FPC based on needed expertise. It's not necessary to have a single staffer handle all the research for the FPC many people at the City and County have expertise.

Kyle Curtis suggested looking at the metrics of how things have changed in FPC history. On one level these are indicators of success, but also it begs the question of how success is defined? For example, there are still hungry people in Oregon, so have we been successful? Perhaps it is time to kick it up a notch. The Council could do the research, provide the data and work in specific areas, playing a role in collecting the experts and providing information to the City/County.

Manhas added that there need to be more checkpoints at the front end to prioritize interest areas.

Jeff Rowe commented that the FPC has done good work with respect to the Food Justice Workgroup, and the strength of that project was in listening to the community. There is still a lot of information to gather from those who are outside the policy realm. Mitchell suggested a once a month, or once a quarter listening session to just listen to community needs. The FPC can collect valuable information from those who don't have the power to make the changes themselves.

Patrick Gorman mentioned hosting trainings for the FPC to train and mobilize community and provide outreach. Meetings could be held in the outer Southeast to listen and see what they are doing.

Voss-Andreae added that the work from the Food Justice work group is great, but so time intensive, and is another reason to have a staff member.

Hanna Kullberg said that the FPC progress should be reported back to the community. The FPC needs to have power. Everything needs to be passed by the FPC (for endorsement) before it goes to City or County council.

Curtis added that an endorsement from the FPC should mean something. It should be public knowledge that an endorsement was sought

Mike Doherty echoed that the community may also perceive the FPC as being ineffective and irrelevant. And it is awkward that other organizations don't know much about the FPC or how the Council is related to the work of the City/County. Doherty

suggested that the County/City set a policy theme for each year that can inform the recruitment process of new FPC members.

Manhas commented on how mobilizing and engaging communities echoes County values.

Cohen mentioned that the FPC could act as a convener to bring people in, invite speakers, and talk to diverse communities. Going forward, the charge of the FPC may not be policy focused.

Newman brought up that having an FPC recommendation does not carry weight demonstrates an image that government does not care what the FPC and general public thinks. Newman referred to the recent passage of the urban food zoning code, and the last minute addendum with no public comment period. In a review of the FPC role, there has to be an examination of how their input is treated. Newman asked staff how they see their role with the FPC.

Cohen answered that the City views its role as coordinating logistics for the council and acting as a facilitator.

Manhas added that the county provides staff as needed for specific areas of expertise and also coordinates to connect people to various Multnomah county employees in various areas that touch on food issues. It is not someone's entire role to staff the FPC but part of their role is to interface and engage as is fall within their scope of work.

Armstrong clarified that FPC advises on what is already happening and brings new issues to the table. The FPC does inform government actions, but there are also other groups that play that role as well. If government is working on something, of course they want the FPC to inform the process and be involved, but the FPC should know that such a project is probably going to move forward anyway.

Voss-Andreae asked if the FPC is to be effective, shouldn't they connect with other voices and experts in the area? She added that there should be more convening on the workgroup level as there is limited capacity given the Council meets once a month

Newman added that the community should be able to come to the FPC as a resource, and the FPC should be able to add weight (as a sponsor) to new initiatives/projects/programs.

Doherty commented that the weighing in should happen sooner rather than later.

Sara Pool asked about term limits and added that there should not be term limits in order to retain valuable folks.

Jeffrey Rowe stated that he supports Kullberg and Voss-Andreae's earlier ideas and asked if the FPC is working on anything related to school nutrition?

Cohen clarified that the City has six school districts and no jurisdiction over any of them.

Curtis mentioned that this is the type of information that would be helpful to receive in trainings.

Next Steps

Manhas reiterated that this is the first part of an on-going conversation, and this is an appropriate time to pause to make sure there is a clear path moving forward before the reappointment of the new Executive leadership that will take place in the fall. There is a need for strategic planning – working together over the next few months to develop a game plan. Executive leadership can be settled after these larger issues are set.

Newman asked who would be setting agendas.

Cohen answered that executive committee – Lynd, Quiroz, Manhas, Cohen and the remaining vice-chair will continue to meet and set the agendas as before.

Newman expressed concern that the workgroups are on pause and the Council will not make any recommendations to the City and County and the workgroups will not be making progress.

Manhas asked for agenda items.

Monica Cuneo listed workgroups to report back at the next meeting:

Economic Development

Wild Foods

Food Justice

Regulatory Barriers

DeCarlo made a motion to hold an addition meeting to be held July 25.

Newman seconded the motion.

Motion to hold a meeting on July 25 was passed unanimously.

Announcements

Cohen announced a permaculture brown bag with Jenny Pell at noon on June 18 in the Lovejoy Room in City Hall.

DeCarlo announced the results of the Oregon Food Bank's Blues Festival fund raiser.

Cuneo adjourned the meeting at 6:08
