



Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council

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Sam Adams, Mayor • Jeff Cogen, Chair



MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2012

FPC Members in Attendance:

Monica Cuneo	Andy Fisher	Will Newman	Jeffery Rowe
Kyle Curtis	Patrick Gorman	Amelia Pape	
Shawn DeCarlo	Hannah Kullberg	Sara Pool	
Michael Doherty	John Mitchell	Charles Robertson	

Staff in Attendance:

Steve Cohen, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Michael Armstrong, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Katie Lynd, Multnomah County Office of Sustainability
Sonia Manhas, Multnomah County Health Department
Amber Hansen, Multnomah County Health Department, minutes
Guillermo Maciel, Multnomah County Office of Chair Cogen

Members Not in Attendance:

Lisa Barba, David Barmon, Andy Eiden, Katy Kolker, Stephanie Jo Pearson, Blake Van Roekel, Tammy VanderWoude, Adriana Voss-Andreae and Olivia Quiroz

Others in Attendance:

Molly Hatfield, Chelsea Myrick, Tanya Murray, Moanna Wright

Welcomes and Introduction

Monica Cuneo called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the public.
All present introduced themselves.

Chair Report & Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

City and County Staff Report

County Report: Katie Lynd announced the hiring of an Americorps volunteer for the County Office of Sustainability. Part of their work will involve next year's Multnomah Food Summit.

County Report: Sonia Manhas announced the Community Wellness and Prevention Program's submission of a Center for Disease Control and Prevention Community Transformation Grant application.

Discussion:

Monica Cuneo opened discussion on the documents she drafted: “Re-visioning, reviewing, revisiting, redrafting the FPC charter, resolution, policies and procedures.”

Cuneo addressed a question about why there is a 10-month timeline for this work by saying that the timeline is an acknowledgement that everyone is volunteering their time (workgroup would meet 2x/week), and this prevents the FPC from being set-up to be disappointed, rushed, etc.

Will Newman asked what the FPC will work on as the workgroup meets. Monica replied that there is a section of the plan that details FPC projects/work that will be happening simultaneous to the workgroup meetings.

Charles Robertson expressed that this workgroup is reminiscent of the Food Justice Workgroup, which makes him question if the FPC should be doing this. He stated that the work is important, but so is the “on the ground” work that needs to be done. Robertson is wary of spending too much time and work on a document that just needs a little tweaking, as well as sapping FPC resources (volunteer time) to serve on the workgroup.

Shawn DeCarlo asked: Is it common for a citizen advisory group to update its charter? Is this appropriate?

Michael Armstrong clarified that the FPC exists to make recommendations to the City and County, so the FPC can recommend changing its own charter. Armstrong said that the City and County have received good feedback from the FPC when the project is time-specific, and FPC members participate based on their specific experience/knowledge. He said that the FPC has helped to get food issues on the radar; however the FPC itself cannot endorse events, run programs, raise funding, etc.—it can only advise the City and County to do these things. This is something to consider when making recommendations about changes to make to the original resolution. It’s also important to consider what the City/County need, and what structure would best support filling that need. Armstrong suggested that the FPC shouldn’t hesitate to lay out a process and move quickly if that is what is decided, noting that ten months is a long timeline.

Guillermo Maciel explained that though he is technically the liaison between the FPC and the Chair’s office, the roles of County staff will remain the same. He is tasked with finding out what the FPC wants their role to be. He said that this is the FPC’s time to brainstorm what they want to be, and negotiation will come later.

Amelia Pape asked if dreaming big (when visioning for a future FPC) is a good use of time or should the FPC work within the bounds that are already set by the original resolution and charter?

Armstrong responded that the FPC has the ability to move forward with this process and encouraged the FPC to articulate the rationale for any proposed changes in structure and role when it makes its recommendations. Maciel added that the FPC could define a new charter within the current bounds, and then begin to think outside of the box. He

stated that this could be a back and forth discussion with elected officials.

Hannah Kullberg asked if the FPC has buy-in from the City and County. Asked City/County staff: Do you want the FPC to rewrite the charter? Do you want the FPC to still provide advice? Do you want the FPC to still exist? Hannah said the FPC needs to meet City/County needs in order to be effective, and it will be important for the FPC and staff to work together to be relevant. Relationships will be strengthened in the process.

Staff was asked if they would be willing to participate in the workgroup process:

- Manhas responded that staff is actively listening throughout the process. The Community Wellness and Prevention Program deeply values community engagement, and at this point staff are waiting for further direction from County leadership. The FPC is already working with County leadership, so there are some fundamental questions that need to be worked through first. She is not sure how to engage at the workgroup level at this point in time.
- Steve Cohen responded that the current discussions are a good start and City staff would like to hear more from the Council about what is important to the FPC. This conversation is not new to FPC, and Cohen would be happy to participate in the initial workgroup meetings (attending 1-2 meetings) to provide background for the conversation.
- Maciel responded that if the FPC needs validation then know that the Chair's office does see the FPC as a valuable advisory body. FPC is in a transition period and the Chair's office is still in the process of outlining their needs of the FPC. County staff are also waiting to hear this from the Chair's office. Right now, the Chair wants to hear the role that FPC hopes to play, next steps, etc. Having these recommendations within a shorter timeline would be beneficial.

DeCarlo said that with robust participation it is realistic to have a draft by October. He suggested contacting previous FPC members for history and context. Charles suggested looking back at the notes from the Outreach Workgroup that David McIntyre had started.

Cuneo asked staff how long the ratification process would take after a draft is presented. Staff answered that it depends on too many factors to give an exact time frame.

Newman asked staff if there had been any updates to the original resolution and was told that there had not been. Newman asked what the status of the FPC was, given the term length set forth in the resolution. Steve was asked, and agreed to consult with City legal staff and to return to the next meeting (9/12/12) with a response to, the question of the current status of the FPC and its individual members, given that the original resolution has a number of structural imperatives for the FPC that are not being followed. For example, length of appointment of members, number of members, etc.

Newman feels that half of the original document is not applicable, which is an indication that the FPC is not important to the City and County. He feels that another example of the FPC not being important to City/County is the lack of FPC input in the organizing of the Multnomah Food Summit. He is still not clear as to what the City/County want from the FPC.

Manhas offered to look into the original ordinance (regarding membership) and the current number of FPC members. Staff had worked to change the nominations process to make it more transparent and increase the number of members on the Council.

Newman responded that the number of members is not the issue, but rather the disconnection between the original ordinance and how the FPC currently runs.

Jeff Rowe suggested that the FPC address the structure issues internally, and on a shorter timeframe (2-3 months) so that it is ready for new members.

Michael Doherty commented that the FPC is only as relevant as the members make it.

Curtis commented that the FPC was started by citizens, so asking the City and County what the FPC should do goes against how the FPC originated.

Andy Fisher commented that the FPC should revise the charter and then ask for feedback, and that it is not reasonable to ask the City/County what to do.

Robertson commented that the FPC has the ability to make things happen, and time would be best spent brainstorming answers to issues being raised.

Cuneo recommended postponing new member recruitment, keeping open communication and adhering to a timeline.

Armstrong said that he will talk to the City attorneys about the number of FPC members and if it's possible to postpone new member recruitment. This information will be available at the September meeting.

Motion to vote: Andy Fischer motioned to move forward with Cuneo's plan – with the discussed additions (“community members” and “staff, invited” will be added to the section on the workgroup) and with the understanding that the time line will be shortened by the workgroup.

There was some discussion on the procedure of determining who is on the workgroup, since workgroups have traditionally been open to everyone. FPC members decided that Cuneo will send out a Doodle poll and anyone who wants to join can. At the first meeting, the chair and co-chair will be selected.

Unanimous vote: all in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Workgroup Updates:

Wild Foods Policy WG: There have been discussions of plans for a salmon feast. The next meeting has been postponed due to uncertainty about moving forward considering the current status of the FPC.

Healthy Retail WG: no updates

Food Justice WG: Cuneo suggested having the next meeting at the People's Co-op on August 22nd (11-1pm) when Erin O'Donnell from Unite Here is speaking.

Announcements & Public Comment:

Robertson announced that Village Market is making \$2300/day, and sales of produce are increasing. He stated that anyone interested in selling fresh produce to the Market should contact him. Robertson described his idea for a "Healthy Taverns" project and said that Plew's Brews in St. Johns will be the first tavern to begin hosting a produce stand and cooking classes.

Kullberg encouraged FPC members to become educated on the issue of GMO canola and to write the Governor by Friday. She also talked about becoming more informed on the Federal program called "Secure Communities." As immigration policy affects many farm workers.

DeCarlo announced that the Community Food Security Coalition is dissolving and that there is an open letter circulating on their list-serve.

Curtis announced Madison School Garden's Seeds of Cuisine farmers' market on August 9th. This will be a one-time market.

Review action items & Adjourn