



**MEETING MINUTES**

October 16, 2012

One Parkway Building, 1515 Arch Street, Rm. 18-020  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

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**A. WELCOME**

A general meeting of the Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council (FPAC) was called to order by Co-chairs, Joan Blaustein and Glenn Bergman, at 9:25am.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Roll call indicated a quorum was present to conduct official business.

Members Present

Glenn Bergman (Co-chair)	Nic Esposito	Carey Morgan
John Byrnes	Ann Karlen	Bob Pierson
Mary Seton Corboy	Shiriki Kumanyika	Johanna Rosen
Diane Cornman-Levy	Jamie McKnight	Nicky Uy

Ex-officio Members Present

Joan Blaustein, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (Co-chair)  
Katherine Gajewski, Mayor’s Office of Sustainability  
Mary Horstmann, Mayor’s Office of Policy Planning and Coordination  
Clint Randall (for Alan Urek), City Planning Commission  
Valessa Souter-Kline (for Howard Neukrug), Philadelphia Water Department  
Sarah Wu, Mayor’s Office of Sustainability

Members Absent

Marilyn Anthony	Lisa Mosca	D.L. Wormley
Alison Hastings	Patricia Smith	
Leanne Krueger-Braneky	Carly Spross	
Jessica McAtamney	Vierly Ricketts Thomas	

Others Present

Amy Laura Cahn, Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia  
Jen Kates, Office of Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez  
Aimee Hill  
Gregory McKinley

FPAC Staff Present

Sasha Swayze Dews, FPAC Coordinator

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 were approved with no changes.

**D. STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Sarah Wu gave a review of FPAC’s work last year and distributed copies of the Greenworks 2012 report including FPAC’s six policy recommendations. The goals in Greenworks were expanded in this report and members were thanked for contributing input on the overall goals and recommendations. With three years remaining in the plan, MOS is looking forward to moving into an implementation phase on many of its projects. Sarah suggested the council as a whole pick one, two, or three of the recommendations to focus on at the moment and perhaps reorganize the makeup of the subcommittees. MOS is available to help with capacity building and to hear what needs the office can help the subcommittee meet. Ann Karlen questioned whether a decision on that needed to be made during this meeting. Sarah replied

that the decision on how to proceed with the subcommittee structure and focus would be made collectively but not necessarily at this meeting. Amy Laura Cahn suggested the structure remain in place as is. Joan Blaustein asked everyone to step back from the conversation on reorganizing to hear updates from the subcommittees and continue the conversation on how the council should move forward this year after the presentation on the practicalities of policy development.

## **E. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES**

A representative from each subcommittee gave a brief update.

### **1. Anti-Hunger and Local Food Sub-committee**

Carey Morgan informed the council the subcommittee was busy over the summer moving on some of its goals. The Mayor's Office did a public service announcement (PSA) and made robo calls about summer meals. The Hunger Coalition received over 800 calls and many more went to the City's 311 hotline. It appears very helpful to have the City use its leverage to share information this way. Also over the summer, the 311 staff was trained on how to inform callers about emergency food resources available across the city. Mary Horstmann added the new script is currently in use. Amanda Wagner and Mary coordinated a group of VISTA's on a food pricing study. The paper will be available once the review process is complete. Carey stated FPAC has a role to play in the discussion about how to make food more affordable, and that this background research will be very helpful. The subcommittee met with Marion Coker from SEPTA about the recommendation to examine opportunities for alignment between the food system and the public transportation system. However, Marion has since left that position and the subcommittee will need to figure out who they can contact to continue the conversation about food access and nodes of public transportation.

### **2. Governance and Membership Sub-committee**

Diane Cornman-Levy presented the results of the membership survey. A handout summarizing the results was distributed. Diane thanked members for a very high response rate. The subcommittee will continue to analyze the results of the survey and begin reviewing new member nominations at a meeting on October 24th.

### **3. Workforce Development Strategy Sub-committee**

Nic Esposito stated the subcommittee had a pretty quiet summer because members seemed to have busy summer schedules. He also said that after writing a few policy recommendations in the spring members felt they needed a policy roadmap to begin weighing in on the issues. Nic mentioned that Amanda Wagner and the Health Department held a procurement workshop over the summer. Attendance was not great but they may do it again. Nic suggested FPAC could help increase attendance if another workshop is organized. Nic stated the subcommittee is currently sitting on the recommendations and looking for guidance on how to push them.

Greg McKinley suggested there be an expectation that each FPAC member share event info with their network to increase attendance and participation. Mary Horstmann said the second part of the workshop with City employees was a good starting point. Glenn Bergman mentioned students from Saul are working to provide food from their farm to the school cafeteria and that it has been a new process for everyone to explore. Joan Blaustein said that when it comes to changes in things like school food small, simple, and incremental change is an effective way to get kids to eat healthier food. A high school student in attendance (name unknown, did not sign in) said that from her perspective kids just want healthy food that looks appealing. Greg has found that kids are motivated by being involved in the process with hands on exposure. Shiriki Kumanyika shared her experience

as part of an Institute of Medicine committee on obesity prevention. She said the key point is that these things have to work together; you don't want to just put single things out there. Greg suggested the Common Market might have some leadership on food procurement. Amy Laura applauded the student for speaking up and said it was an example of good engagement and having the right expert present. Joan encouraged inviting new people to these meetings. Diane Cornman-Levy said it would be really helpful if everyone knew discussion topics in advance so there would be a chance to invite a broader audience to join the conversation. Greg, Glenn, Amy Laura, Nic, and Ann Karlen mentioned the youth oriented Rooted in Community conference held in Philadelphia last year. Glenn suggested FPAC sponsor a similar forum. At the end of this discussion Katherine Gajewski noted the council has been having this type of brainstorming conversation for over a year. She expressed concern about this continued conversation, decline in attendance at general meetings, and that some people might be starting to lose interest. She asked the question, what can this group do? She replied that the group needs to take action and start doing something.

#### **4. Vacant Land Sub-committee**

Amy Laura Cahn shared detailed findings from the needs assessment that took place over the summer. She said that they did was a lot of "ground truthing," much like a similar study done in 2008. The assessment showed there are 350 community gardens on 780 parcels. Over the past four years around 100 new urban agriculture sites have been created. Survey taking was difficult. They also looked at land ownership of the parcels. What they found was 46% are City owned, 53% privately owned, and a couple are owned by the state of Pennsylvania. Of the City owned properties, the majority are surplus vacant properties including over 100 currently for sale. Of the privately owned properties 17% are tax delinquent to the tune of \$783,000. The survey showed it is not the norm to have direct permission to garden or farm on a vacant property. The next steps include talking to more people around the 100 parcels that are for sale and gathering more information before talking to the RDA. Jennifer Kates suggested looking at debts and liens.

The conversation shifted to the City's front door policy and the land bank bills. Amy Laura reported the City has been rolling out the front door policy and is working the kinks out regarding land for sale. Amy Laura suggested patience is needed at this point. She posed a question to the council: Can FPAC convene a meeting with representatives from PRA and MDO? She suggested the full council do this rather than just the subcommittee. She expressed what is really needed is community education and that FPAC should take leadership on the issue.

Jennifer informed the council the state land bank bill (PA House Bill 1682) is moving in the House. (Update: HB 1682 was signed into law on October 24<sup>th</sup>). Jennifer gave examples of the work her office is doing to trouble shoot existing local policy around vacant land and the potential for a Philadelphia land bank bill. She said they have not yet formulated a policy on acquisition options for gardening on private land but solicited the help of the council, if interested. Katherine Gajewski proposed this be an area of focus for FPAC. She said it is an area of focus for MOS. Greg McKinley stated it seems an actual advocacy kit needs to be created around this issue.

#### **F. POLICY DEVELOPMENT INFO SESSION**

Suzanne Biemiller, First Deputy Chief of Staff City of Philadelphia, presented an overview of policy development and strategic planning.

An open discussion on council direction followed the presentation.

Bob Pierson suggested each subcommittee push their recommendations through Suzanne's talk. Amy Laura Cahn expressed the need to bring FPAC's work outward including council representation during other conversations. She said the council would need guidance on getting to the table from ex-officio members. In doing so, she said, we may see where the policy windows of opportunity are and put our potential to use. Shiriki Kumanyika suggested developing a strategy for each area of focus following Suzanne's presentation. She said the council needs to flush recommendations out through Suzanne's process.

Greg McKinley suggested seeking funding to raise legitimacy and develop a long-term strategy for the council to exist beyond the current administration. Sarah Wu agreed there is a need to find funding opportunities but the council may need to first gain some traction on focus areas. Sarah asked if it would be useful to have a template based on Suzanne's presentation. Amy Laura said one would be helpful. She stated she's glad we are not at square one. She suggested now is a good time to clarify FPAC's mission and values. She also suggested the subcommittees go back and see if it makes sense for them to reorganize rather than have that guided externally. Sarah Wu said subcommittees could decide that for themselves and that subcommittees can have different outcomes. Bob suggested that at some point someone should go to City Council about a long-term existence of FPAC. Greg agreed. Sarah suggested FPAC talk with Jennifer about contacting City Council. Joan Blaustein stated it will be a challenge to build legitimacy, get work done, collect support, and see results but the council needs to demonstrate what it can bring to the table. Amy Laura stated the council should feel empowered to make recommendations, put them into a plan, and market its successes.

## **G. ACTION ITEMS**

There were two action items on the agenda, approve a Co-chair nomination and appointment process and vote on two new Co-chairs.

### **1. Co-chair nomination and appointment process**

Diane Cornman-Levy presented the action item. The action item was adopted with modifications. The final document will be on the website.

### **2. Co-chair appointment**

Appointed members voted using a paper ballot. The new appointed member Co-chair is Carey Morgan. The new ex-officio Co-chair is Sarah Wu.

## **H. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Glenn Bergman: Weaver's Way Co-op is now selling compost from Saul High School; Johanna Rosen: Mill Creek Farm will host an annual benefit party on December 1<sup>st</sup>; Bob Pierson: Anna Lappe will be presenting at the Academy of Natural Sciences on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **I. DETAILS OF NEXT MEETING**

Date and location will be announced.

## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55am.

Submitted by:

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