



Executive Session

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

3pm - 5pm

I. Welcome and Introductions

Present: Sarah Wu, Amy Laura Cahn, Hannah Chatterjee, Katie Dockhorn, Joel Fath, Kim Labno, Zoe Braunstein, Paul Keppy, Kait Bowdler, Jessica McAtamney, Dwayne Wharton, Jordan Muse, Kamaryn Norris, Tana Wilkinson, Lindsey Ricker, Megan Smith, Brandon Hoover, Sam Boden, Julie Heisey, Kelly Courts, Catherine Bartoli, Dominic McGraw, Bryan Fenstermaker, Jill Fink, Suzanne Weltzman, Nancy Kohn, Rachie Weisberg

II. FPAC Mission Statement Review

Members of the Communications & Outreach Subcommittee met last month to draft a new draft mission statement for FPAC based on the activity conducted at the last General Meeting on February 1st. At the General Meeting, attendees provided feedback on what terms and words they would like to see in FPAC's mission and vision statements. The subcommittee reviewed the words that participants suggested, and crafted the following draft mission statement:

The Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council brings together Philadelphians and their local government to create a more just food system.

FPAC staff received the following suggestions on the draft mission statement from attendees:

- Replace "brings together" with "connects" to make it more concise.
- What does the word "just" encompass? Do we need to add "just and sustainable food system"?
 - "Just" is a universal term that encompasses "sustainability," so we shouldn't have to add that, but not everyone has the same definition of "just" as we do.
 - Amy Laura suggested defining "just" in FPAC's statement of values, or unpacking it in the vision statement.

The Communications & Outreach Subcommittee will draft the vision statement at the next meeting, prior to the next general meeting.

III. FPAC Co-Chair Update

Amy Laura Cahn is moving away in June, and Sarah's ex-officio co-chair term ended in March, but FPAC members voted to extend her term until June so that FPAC could vote on both co-chairs at the same time (though co-chair terms will remain staggered). Sarah will continue to be involved administratively and supervise FPAC staff at the Office of Sustainability.

FPAC seeks nominations for both ex-officio and appointed co-chairs. Please send them directly to [Amy Laura](#) and [Sarah](#). The ex-officio co-chair must be a City government employee, and the appointed co-chair must have been a member of FPAC for at least a year. The time commitment is similar to that of an FPAC subcommittee chair.

FPAC co-chair duties include:

- Developing general meeting and executive session agendas with staff;
- Facilitating general meetings and executive sessions (attending all full body meetings is a priority for co-chairs);
- Helping to fundraise and write grants;
- Leading strategic planning;
- Liaising with potential partners and other official bodies; and
- Building relationships with City Council members, members of the Administration, and staffers on priority issues.

The appointed co-chair also testifies at hearings occasionally and signs written testimony. This year, there is an opportunity to help FPAC take a leading role in how to respond to the federal administration.

Amy Laura encouraged members to discuss amongst themselves: who is interested, how do we support each other, who makes the most sense in this moment?

IV. Update on Briefing the Mayor on Food & Federal Administration

At the last two full-body meetings, attendees discussed how the new federal administration will affect food in Philadelphia, leading to a number of suggestions on how to inform the Mayoral administration and the broader community about our concerns. Attendees said it is critical to share resources and information, which has resulted in two Hunger Advocacy 101 trainings hosted by FPAC this week (February 27 and 28), and an Immigrant Rights training scheduled for the April general meeting. FPAC would like to engage the Mayor on issues on the horizon for Philadelphia.

FPAC will invite the Mayor to an upcoming full body meeting in April or May and present a document that FPAC leadership has been working on which outlines the potential impact of federal administration decisions on food related programs and policies. When the draft document is complete, FPAC staff will circulate it with members for feedback, and announce a date for the meeting.

V. Sustainable Agricultural Production USDA Listening Session March 2

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is hosting a listening session tomorrow (March 3) in Washington D.C. to solicit ideas for research on sustainable agricultural production. When the listening session was announced, we anticipated that most of the representation would be from large farms rather than small producers, but the list of witnesses is more diverse and includes farmer worker justice organizations, and the Union of Concerned Scientists, among others.

Amy Laura and Kirtrina Baxter will attend and observe, since the slots for speaking filled up. However, FPAC will submit written comments, which are due on March 9.

The USDA specifically asked for feedback on research gaps, and we see this as an opportunity to give the USDA our ideas on how they can support and engage with sustainable agriculture, including urban agriculture. FPAC's comments will highlight urban agriculture work here in Philadelphia, and make recommendations on how the USDA can be as participatory and inclusive as possible in their research efforts. The USDA must:

- Engage the people the most affected;
- Engage urban agriculture practitioners in defining the research questions; and
- Make sure stakeholders participate in research and receive results of research conclusions.

Beyond that, FPAC seeks suggestions on what to include in our research recommendations. Meeting attendees suggested:

- Analyzing the uptake of heavy metals in plants, and specifically refreshing 503 standards (Kim Labno);
- Creating a Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation district in Philadelphia, the only PA county without one (Jess McAtamney);
- Broadening the definition of 'sustainable' to include the human and social components of 'sustainability,' rather than strictly earth science; and
- Including urban counties in the annual agriculture census so that we can better understand the scope of urban agriculture across the country.

FPAC staff will share a draft of the comments next week for feedback and a vote on Wednesday, March 8.

An attendee asked if the 2018 Farm Bill will be one of the topics in the listening session. We don't know, but if the product that results from the listening session is good, stakeholders can use it as an advocacy tool during the Farm Bill discussions.

VI. Open Session

Mayor's budget address is tomorrow, March 2. There have been some mixed messages from the media regarding pushback on the soda tax from the beverage industry, retailers, and the community, and the revenue numbers. The beverage industry is planning a protest outside of the City Hall before the budget address, so advocates supporting the tax are encouraging supporters to attend the budget hearing. Attending the budget address is also an important opportunity for advocates and community members to understand the budget process, and to know where we stand as a city. If folks attend, please report back to FPAC at the next full body meeting. The soda tax is on the agenda of the next Food & Health Subcommittee meeting on Thursday, March 9. Philadelphians for a Fair Future, the coalition of advocates who organized to support the soda tax, has also reconvened and will meet on Friday, March 3.

Brandon and Sam from Messiah College are conducting a study on the relationship between the structure of food policy councils and how they emphasize food justice. They are looking for three to five volunteers who participate in FPAC to be interviewed by phone. The other food policy councils in the study are located in Baltimore and Gettysburg. They plan to present the paper on people-centered food policy at the American Association of Geographers in April. FPAC requested that they come back and brief us about what they learn from the study.

Following the urban agriculture hearings in the fall, the City and nonprofit partners are interested in putting together a scope to get funding for an Urban Agriculture Strategic Plan. If you are interested in getting involved, the FPAC Urban Agriculture Subcommittee will be working on this at their meetings the last Wednesday of every month at 3:30pm at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Send your email address to [Hannah](#), [Nancy](#), and [Ash](#) to make sure you get the meeting reminder. The next steps are to create a scope of work for an RFP, fundraise, initiate the RFP for a consultant, and implement the planning process with oversight from a Steering Committee.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) hired a Good Food Purchasing Coordinator, Molly Riordan, last month who sits in the Procurement Department. Molly will help the City incorporate more healthy, locally, and sustainably-sourced food into its purchases. Related to this project, PDPH is hiring a Good Food Procurement Intern to start at the beginning of April who will work on [the Philadelphia Good Food Caterer Guide](#). FPAC will post the position description on its home page for people who are interested in applying.

FPAC member Suzanne Weltman asked attendees whether there is a clearing house for nutrition education programs. Dwayne Wharton (FPAC Food & Health Co-Chair) offered to add this to the agenda for the next meeting. Attendees suggested that this clearing house would be useful to include on FPAC's website and the Philly Food Finder website.

Saul's County Fair Day is on May 13 from 11am to 3pm.

Alfree is an online platform to connect people to unused land and hired help to grow food. They will host their first Social Harvest Festival on March 25 from 12pm to 3pm at the First Unitarian Church. There are tabling opportunities for organizations who are interested.

VI. Conclusion

FPAC co-chairs closed the meeting at 4:15pm.

Submitted by Hannah Chatterjee, hannah.chatterjee@phila.gov