



Executive Session

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

3:00pm – 5:00pm

I. Welcome and Introductions

Present: Patricia Blakely, Amy Laura Cahn, Hannah Chatterjee, Kelly Courts, Cathy Davies, Alice Ann Dolbin, Vania Freire, Adrian Glass, Paul Glover, Kevin Hicks, Sarah Horwitz, Amy Jacobs, Jasper Jones, Linda Knapp, Nancy Kohn, Marjorie Lau, Shayna Marmar, Tommy McCann, Jiana Murdic, Hannah Schlesinger, Madeline Smith-Gibbs, Amanda Wagner, Sarah Wu

II. Soda Tax Follow-Up

FPAC members and supporters discussed the proposed soda tax at the March 2016 executive session, the April 2016 general meeting, and in subcommittee meetings. FPAC Co-Chair Sarah Wu noted that the discussion revealed many strong opinions which didn't appear to be aligned into a clear course of action. Jill Fink reiterated the Food & Health Subcommittee's encouragement of FPAC to advise the city on this issue. FPAC Manager Hannah Chatterjee reported that she raised the issue at the recent Chesapeake Food Policy Leadership Institute, where attendees suggested that FPAC assume the role of educating the public rather than taking a position.

III. Chesapeake Food Policy Leadership Institute Report Back

FPAC Manager Hannah Chatterjee and Governance & Membership Chair Bryan Fenstermaker recently attended the Chesapeake Food Policy Leadership Institute. Hannah's takeaways from the conference were: since last year's Leadership Institute, many food policy councils have grown quickly and accomplished a lot; food waste was a recurring issue; and SNAP and other public benefits access at farmers markets was a common first project for food policy councils.

Hannah reported that many of the food policy councils present, like FPAC, were struggling with questions of meeting structure, including whether to hold meetings within business hours and how to increase participation.

To a question about other food policy councils in the state, Hannah said that a new council in Lehigh is joining four others in Pennsylvania. Unlike FPAC, many councils are independent nonprofits, bridge city and nonprofit status, or are housed in different city departments.

IV. Subcommittee Coordination

Urban Agriculture Subcommittee Chair Nancy Kohn reported on City Council's resolutions to hold hearings on urban agriculture and hydroponics. In April, the subcommittee joined PA Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding and City Councilman Al Taubenger at Bartram's Garden for a roundtable discussion on urban growing. The subcommittee is currently developing a work plan,

and its next meeting will discuss the possibility of an urban agriculture policy framework.

The Zero Waste Subcommittee is working on diverting surplus food from Philadelphia Parks & Recreation summer meals sites to food-insecure populations. The subcommittee is supporting a pilot project this summer in one Parks & Recreation district, which will use an online platform to connect extra meals with local food pantries. Zero Waste is also exploring ways to support backyard and community-level composting and develop capacity and knowledge in the city to lead to more wide scale composting. The subcommittee will sponsor a design competition for small-scale, in-vessel composting systems which can be easily replicated and supported by community groups.

Anti-Hunger is working together with the Food Access Collaborative, SHARE Food Program, Philabundance, and others to create a plan for food recovery during the Democratic National Convention. The subcommittee hopes to build a food donation infrastructure that will last beyond the DNC.

Good Food Procurement is exploring pathways for changing food purchasing contracts to make buying healthy, local, sustainable, and fair food easier for the City. In the process of creating and presenting testimony on including food in green procurement policies, the subcommittee realized that some of its recommendations were more administrative than legislative. With this in mind, the subcommittee met with the Procurement Department and the Mayor's Legislative Office to discuss possible administrative changes to increase the City's ability to purchase good food.

Governance & Membership Chair Bryan Fenstermaker reminded those present to fill out the annual membership survey. The survey is a valuable tool for FPAC to assess its gaps in representation.

V. Open Session

FPAC member Patricia Blakely announced that the Philadelphia Food Funders Network, of which she is co-chair, was interested in addressing the issue of food waste. ReFED, a collaborative dedicated to the issue, recently released a [report containing 27 solutions to food waste](#). Patricia advertised an upcoming conference at the wholesale produce market, which will feature funders and stakeholders.

FPAC Co-Chair Sarah Wu gave an update on the shared metrics project. Local food funders are increasingly aware of the large amount of effort going into tracking food systems work in Philadelphia, and are interested in creating a system that would simply and standardize metrics. FPAC's role could be to convene stakeholders to determine what high level metrics should be tracked and to report on the state of food in the city.

Attendee Shayna Marmar announced a meeting for people interested in planning the next Hazone conference, which celebrates Jewish health, sustainability, and food. The meeting and conference are open to people of all religious affiliations, and interested parties should contact Shayna at shayna@honeypiecooking.com.

Attendee Jasper Jones expressed support for a civil defense system for food provision in emergencies, as well as apprenticeships for living wage employment.

Attendee Paul Glover raised an issue of land tenure for a permaculture village.

Submitted by Madeline Smith-Gibbs