



## **Executive Session**

Wednesday, March 02, 2016

3:00pm – 5:00pm

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Present: Sam Applefield, Patricia Blakely, Amy Laura Cahn, Hannah Chatterjee, Kelly Courts, Alice Anne Dolbin, Bryan Fenstermaker, Adrian Glass, Jenn Hall, Sharline Heller, Sarah Horwitz, Deborah Johnson, Esteban Kelly, Monica McCollin, Mary Segal, Madeline Smith-Gibbs, Elisa Ruse-Esposito, Andrea Vettori, Amanda Wagner, Sarah Wu

### II. Outreach to City Council and Tools for Overarching Policy

FPAC Co-Chair Sarah Wu began the discussion by noting that FPAC was created to advise the mayoral administration and, as it has grown in capacity and expertise, it has become a resource for City Council and other bodies such as the Philadelphia Land Bank. Earlier in the day, FPAC had presented testimony to City Council highlighting the critical need for food to be included in green procurement policies. In the process of creating the testimony, it became apparent that FPAC has a lot to say on both legislative and regulatory/administrative matters.

Meeting attendees suggested following up on the list of [recommendations that FPAC sent to Mayor Kenney's transition team](#). A meeting with the Policy and Legislation Office could begin with a conversation about procurement and expand to FPAC's other issue areas. In preparation for such a meeting, subcommittees should review and pare down the recommendations they made.

Those in attendance also recommended developing relationships with City Council. This could take the form of: outreach so that Council knows that FPAC is available as an advisory resource, a City Council briefing with FPAC, and/or dissemination of FPAC's [Food Policy Road Map](#).

Next steps:

- Meet with Policy and Legislation Office
- Hannah, Madeline, and Governance & Membership: analyze Road Map and send feedback to subcommittees

### III. Governance & Membership: Membership Survey and FPAC Nominations

Governance & Membership is seeking membership nominations and is looking to fill a gap in workforce development expertise in particular. Nominations are accepted through [FPAC's website](#).

Chair Bryan Fenstermaker requested feedback on Governance & Membership's annual survey to FPAC members and supporters. The survey will be released in April and results will be reported at the June general meeting. Feedback included:

- Allowing respondents to indicate primary and secondary areas of expertise, and/or role in their organization, and/or work and organizing history
- Adding a question about what areas a respondent serves (in addition to where they live and where they work)
- Adding questions about accessibility: “What would facilitate your participation?”
- Evaluating/addressing gap in people who are being organized, as opposed to people who organize and represent communities

#### IV. Other Subcommittee Business

FPAC Manager Hannah Chatterjee presented the draft mission and vision statements for FPAC’s new Food & Health Subcommittee.

*Mission: The Food & Health Subcommittee advises the City on policies and practices that structure the food and beverage environment to improve overall well-being and reduce health disparities for all Philadelphians.*

*Vision: Access to affordable healthy food and beverages, nutrition education, and culinary skills are fundamental ingredients for community health and prosperity.*

Feedback included: including predatory marketing of unhealthy foods to minority communities as an issue area, confusion about the meaning of “structure the food and beverage environment,” and reconsidering including food sovereignty in the subcommittee’s mission.

Communications & Outreach Subcommittee Chair Madeline Smith-Gibbs announced that the subcommittee will now meet at 4pm on the second Wednesday of the month and that FPAC’s next newsletter will go out on March 9. Contact [madeline.smith-gibbs@phila.gov](mailto:madeline.smith-gibbs@phila.gov) if you’re interested in participating in the subcommittee or submitting to the newsletter.

At the February general meeting FPAC experimented with “subcommittee speed-dating,” in which attendees had three several-minute rounds to talk with subcommittee chairs. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, but the format presents problems for note-taking and minutes. Madeline will contact subcommittee chairs to determine their preference for reporting back from the speed-dating sessions. FPAC will repeat the format at the April general meetings, with three rounds but without Communications & Outreach and Governance & Membership participating.

#### V. Open Session

Ex-officio member Amanda Wagner announced that this year’s community health assessment will include an interactive community health explorer tool. The assessment and tool will be released shortly.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has prepared [maps that display life expectancy values](#) alongside common geographic landmarks such as subway stops and highway exits, and will soon release such a map of Philadelphia. Meeting attendees expressed interest in FPAC drafting a

response or call to action.

Sharline Heller plugged Thomas' Walk Against Hunger, which supports local food pantries and soup kitchens. To walk in support of St. Christopher's Foundation Farm to Families program, contact Sharline at 215-684-1868.

Join a coalition of local organizations on Saturday, March 12 for a Lead Exposure Information Session. Learn about lead contamination in your community and ways to protect your home. More information [here](#).

A recent line-item veto by Governor Wolf removes funding for the Penn State Extension. The Philadelphia County Penn State Extension serves the community with important programming around gardening and nutrition. Co-chairs noted that FPAC has a precedent of sending letters to the administration. Amy Laura Cahn will contact the state's other food policy councils, and Patricia Blakely will follow up for more information about the timeline of this decision.

Mayor Kenney recently proposed a three cents per ounce tax on soda, which would be levied on distributors. The tax would provide revenue for universal pre-kindergarten and other programs, and has not been billed as a way to change health choices. The Executive Committee resolved to research the tax's impact on health, small business, and low-income people to inform a conversation within FPAC about whether to support, condemn, or remain neutral on the tax.

The Philadelphia Water Department seeks to raise rates by 12 percent over the next two years. Taken alongside reports that a significant number of Philadelphians do not have water access in their homes, those present expressed interest in research water access and affordability and possible FPAC responses.

Submitted by Madeline Smith-Gibbs