

Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council Minutes

Meeting date: 4.21.2020

Location: Zoom

Co-Chairs: Kristin Lacy & Reuben Gregory

Minutes Prepared By: Dano Nelson



Council Members:

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anne Misak | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Wooley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenna Smith | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayra Olivas | <input type="checkbox"/> Neambe Leadon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reuben Gregory |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brittany Goldstein | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fatuma Emmad | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathryn Ardoin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Caley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patti Iwasaki | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roberto Meza |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Damien Thompson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helen Silver | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristin Lacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Spade | <input type="checkbox"/> Rayna Hetlage | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yuridia Bahena |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ted Belinger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brittany Pimentel | | | | |

Ex – Officio:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laine Cidlowski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Goldhamer | <input type="checkbox"/> Valerie Herrera | <input type="checkbox"/> Lisana Munoz | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Moreland | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|

DPHE Staff:

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dano Nelson | <input type="checkbox"/> Marion Kalb | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mondy Mason | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesly Baesens | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lauren Howe | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|

Guests:

Adriana Botic, Ann Cohen, Luis Gomez (Interpreter), Maria Ashley, Tyler Fox

| Welcome & Introductions (Kristin Lacy & Reuben Gregory) | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| TIME | ACTION/ DECISIONS | FOLLOW UP ITEMS |
| 9:00am-9:20am | | • |
| <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All were welcomed, and the meeting came to order at Roll call and short introductions were made by Co-Chairs, SFPC members, Ex-Officios and Guests | | |

Membership Update (Doug Wooley)

| TIME | ACTION/ DECISIONS | FOLLOW UP ITEMS |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 9:2am-9:35am | | • |

Discussion:

- Extending application to June 15th
- Applicants need to go to website and fill out SFPC application, as well as Boards and Commissions application
- Three council members are needed to serve on the application review committee
 - Damien Thompson, Roberto Meza, Meg Caley have volunteered to help with application review
- Three council members are needed to serve on the interview committee
 - Roberto Meza, Kathryn Ardoin, Meg Caley have volunteered to help with application review
- Four council seats currently need to be filled
- Considerations council is interested in for new members:
 - Representation from as many geographic parts of the city as possible
 - Someone with finance/microfinance experience
 - Representation from all aspects of the food system
 - Currently lacking food pantry representation?
 - We have had folks from the food business and food pantry sectors in the past and it has been hard for them to participate (they usually leave within a year due to time constraints). Any suggestions for how to address this/make it possible for them to participate would be great. It would be great to have their perspectives!
 - Type of experience with food, as in food insecurity, not just involvement with food system work
- Any questions, feedback or concerns, reach out to Doug Wooley, dougwooley52@gmail.com

COVID-19 Emergency Food Response Updates

| TIME | ACTION/ DECISIONS | FOLLOW UP ITEMS |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 9:35am-9:50am | | • |

Discussion:

- SFPC Votes Approved Online
 - SFPC Recommended Actions regarding COVID-19 Impacts
 - Sign on support to Hunger Free CO's letter to CO legislators regarding SNAP
 - Items were posted to mobilize and voting window was open for 2-3 days
 - DDPHE food system team integrated recommendations into their emergency response plan which has informed the Emergency Operations Center's response to COVID-19
- Creating google doc to compile ideas/considerations to propose during COVID

- Concerns regarding short term food needs, longer term how we are going to address infrastructure issues to address vulnerabilities and what are the limitations of Denver city policy
- Proposed Bylaw Changes
 - Article VI. Meetings:
 - Section 1 Amendment: “A Co-Chair may also call for a vote outside of regular meetings on a resolution that needs immediate attention. This vote may be conducted through a channel chosen by the co-chair, including virtual as long as it meets the requirements set forth in Section 2.
 - Section 2 Amendment: “For votes raised online/email, quorum is met when half plus one of the members have voted. Co-chairs must leave at least three days for review and comment on the resolution being voted on.”
 - C. Remove: “2. Once these members are identified, they must fill out the Position Questionnaire. 3. After the Questionnaire is complete, email the completed Questionnaire to a Council Co-Chair and ask to add the request for SFPC position to the next full Council meeting agenda for discussion and vote.
 - Informal Vote to approve bylaw changes. Anne Misak, Roberto Meza, Kathryn Ardoin, Brittany Goldstein, Jenna Smith, Damien Thompson, Helen Silver

Needs/Updates from Council Members & Public

| TIME | ACTION/ DECISIONS | FOLLOW UP ITEMS |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 9:50am-10:55am | | • |

- Discussion:**
- HFDK Update (Patti Iwasaki)
 - Emergency Funds w/ Blueprint to End Hunger, 2 rounds
 - \$475,000* distributed through Blueprint
 - \$165,000* through HFDK direct grants
 - DDPHE staff has been working with the City Attorney’s Office to navigate the eligibility requirements to approve another \$248,000*
 - *HFDK funding numbers were clarified by Lauren Howe after the meeting
 - Original RFP is still open [here](#), applications are due April 30th
 - Federal Updates:
 - Suspended work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) during pandemic
 - Advocates are working on a policy fix that would allow participation in both SNAP and FDPIR simultaneously for Native Americans
 - SNAP delivery available, but currently only 6 states
 - Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) – States can issue temporary EBT cards to low-income families missing out on free and reduced-price school meals. As of 4/14 only 9 states submitted P-EBT plans and 2 are approved.
 - Hunger Free CO Updates:
 - Several temporary changes to SNAP to make it easier to apply and stay enrolled and could increase benefits:
 - Streamlined applications – will not require an interview

- Emergency allotments – For March and April, households will receive emergency allotments that will temporarily bring benefit up to max
- (\$646 monthly for a household of four)
- Certification Period Extensions – SNAP households with recertifications or periodic reports due in March April or May, do NOT need to submit this paperwork, as their certification periods have been extended by six months
- Roberto Meza is now working with Hunger Free Colorado
- SFPC and JeffCO SNAP group meeting every other week for updates doing a weekly SNAP briefing we can send out
- Updates – Farmer/Producer Supports
 - Mile High Farmers (MHF) compiled list of local farms with product available
 - MHF is also updating their website, creating online access to farmers and product
- [USDA announced funding for farmers](#)
- RE: Vision Update:
 - Providing three warm meals each day for families from 12:00-1:00. Currently serving ~150/day
 - 100 meals delivered to a nursing home on a daily basis
 - Food boxes can be picked up on Wednesdays, distributed over 500 boxes, delivery is available for people who cannot drive up
 - Guests are asked to fill out a short form with required information, also providing help for anyone requiring assistance to fill out the form
 - Meals and boxes include information about SNAP.
 - If you know of a provider with information to distribute please reach out to have that info included in the boxes
 - If you know families that live in the Westwood neighborhood or nearby, please refer them to Yuridia or Re:Vision
 - Seeking funding to continue providing meals at the current rate
 -
- Immigrant Agriculture Group Update:
 - Food systems workers are lacking support in federal funding. Working to get support for workers
 - Article summarizing the federal changes in money can be found [here](#)
 - Many workers are undocumented but considered essential workers
 - Immigrant activists are focused on detained immigrants and not able to focus on immigrant farm workers and packaging workers
 - Pursuing solutions at the state level and whether the Governor's powers allow him to address this
 - Looking at data which currently exists and what is needed
 - Funding to support immigrant food workers
 - Short term policy recommendations
 - Working on a letter and website to inform on issues
 - Asking council and members to sign on in support of the letter
- Regional Infrastructure Update
 - Understanding where we have influence regarding policy making and political reach
 - Thinking strategically to understand where we can have the most impact
 - Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 28th
- DDPHE/City Update
- 9,730 cases and 422 deaths in CO
- 1,880 cases and 97 deaths in Denver

- The rate of growth is slowing
- The city of Denver has spent 6 million in COVID-19 response
- Shelters for people experiencing homelessness have been established at the National Western Stockshow (Men) and the Coliseum (Women & Trans), as well as over 600 hotel rooms have been secured for protective action
- Demand for food at pantries has doubled and, in some cases, gone up 5-10 times normal demand
- Holding food provider calls on Fridays to provide updates and understand needs of the providers in the metro region

Wrap-up & Networking

| TIME | ACTION/DECISIONS | FOLLOW UP ITEMS |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 10:55am-11:05am | | • |

Discussion:

- Next SFPC Meeting: May 19th, 2020 @ 9:00am-11:00am on Zoom
 -