Humboldt Food Policy Council
Humboldt Area Foundation, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
April 5, 2011

NOTES


1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Recap of Humboldt Food Policy Council
   In 2010 the Food Policy Council Task Force met three times (March, June and October) to learn about Food Policy Councils and consider the value of having one for Humboldt County. Activities and outcomes from each of the meetings were reviewed, with particular focus on October’s decisions regarding the creation, organization and function of the new Food Policy Council. Also in October, participants wrote their names next to various policy topics that they were interested in working on.
   In February 2011 we held our first formal Humboldt Food Policy Council meeting. We continued working on the various policy topics, adding more topics and brainstorming ‘opportunities’ and ‘challenges’ for each of them. It was a busy (and loud) meeting with a lot of ideas flowing. There was a bit of time at the end for organizing those ideas (written on sticky notes) into the categories of ‘Low Hanging Fruit’ and ‘Tuff Nut to Crack’. Also in February we asked interested Food Policy Council participants to fill out a ‘Voluntary Participation Agreement’ so we have a record of membership.

3. Policy and Networking
   The Humboldt Food Policy Council is functioning most similarly to a policy network. There are many wonderful groups working on food issues in our area and we are not trying to build an umbrella organization. Connie gave an overview of how policy networks work together and the ebb and flow of energy on various topics. Policy happens within schools, organizations, businesses and governments and happens at all levels, ranging from local to federal. She gave the example of Safeway’s policy not to donate food to food banks, and also discussed salad bars in Del Norte school cafeterias. Through working together with other schools, food service staff were able to
visit and learn from successful programs and then go back again to learn more when the implementation wasn’t working smoothly. The difference in how a school invests time and money in an item such as a salad bar is an example of school food policy, and implementation throughout multiple schools is an example of food policy at the school district or county office of education level.

4. **Continue work on Policy Topics**

Meeting participants then divided up by interest according to policy topics and read through the sticky notes brainstormed from February’s session. They chose one or several ideas to work on and developed them into a Policy Action Plan (all attached). This process was designed to take the ‘Opportunities’ and ‘Challenges’ identified for that topic and translate them into objectives and tasks that can be carried out to reach a specific policy goal. Many great ideas were generated, some flushed out further than others. We will continue working on these at the next meeting.

5. **Hubba Hubba’s Report Back**
   After working at their tables, an individual from each group reported on their Policy Action Plan(s).

6. **Next Steps and Evaluation**
   We will meet again in late May or early June! We appreciate the feedback we got through the evaluation forms.

**Announcements:** Announcements were made around the room and have come in over e-mail since the meeting regarding upcoming events in our area that relate to farms and food!

- **TONIGHT! Eric Holt-Gimenez, from Food First.**
  “Food Rebellions: Crisis and the Hunger for Justice.” Thursday, April 21st at 5:30 p.m. on the HSU campus in the Behavioral and Social Sciences Building, Rm 166. Contact: Noah Zerbe, Dept. of Politic Science at 826-3911.

- **“Our Pathways to Health”**: Workshops ongoing for individuals with chronic conditions.
  Participants find the evidence-based program to be very effective at helping them become more effective managers of their own health in a supportive and peer-led environment. Contact the Community Health Alliance at 445-2806. Here’s a link to more details: [http://www.communityhealthalliance.org/upload/media/Our%20Pathways%20to%20Health%20Brochure.pdf](http://www.communityhealthalliance.org/upload/media/Our%20Pathways%20to%20Health%20Brochure.pdf)
• **Redwood Acres Fair:** See e-mail attachments, contact Michelle Wyler at CAFF: 826-0233
  Redwood Acres Fair Thursday, June 23 - Sunday, June 26th
  FREE Outdoor booth space AVAILABLE to Nutrition/Agriculture related organizations!
  This year the fair will have a Made in Humboldt theme highlighting all things Humboldt with the main hall showcasing locally made products and food. 30,000 attend annually!

  New Additions include:
  Local food, beer and wine tasting, Farmers’ Market, Barn Dance, Kinetic Sculpture Race
  Taste of Place Local Food Dinner, Local Bands, Youth cooking contest, Demonstrations/ workshops and More!

• **Sowing the Seeds of a Fair Farm Bill:** This spring organizations around the country are hosting events to raise awareness of Farm Bill 2012 and its impact on our food systems. Here’s a link sent by Suzanne Simpson about the movement. If you’re inspired to host an event, let me (Danielle) know and I’ll help spread the word! Also contact Suzanne at suzanne.simpson.litzky@gmail.com.
  Here’s the link for more information:

• **May Food Policy Conference:** May 19 – 21st there will be a Food Policy Conference in Portland, OR.
  I (Danielle) am planning to attend and may have room for car pooling, so contact me if you’re interested (826-3405 or e-mail). Here’s the link for more information:
  [http://foodpolicyconference.org/portland/](http://foodpolicyconference.org/portland/)

• **CalFresh enrollment:** Angela Glore sent word of a grant that might be appropriate for some groups that enroll participants in federal food assistance programs: