Humboldt Food Policy Council
April 16, 2012
Humboldt Area Foundation, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

NOTES

CCRP: Danielle Stubblefield, Laura McEwen, Melissa Jones, Kristina Bollmann, Nico Popowich

1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements
(Note that not all introductions are here, this will just reflect announcements regarding upcoming dates and actions):

- Deborah Giraud: Every third Wednesday from 6:00 – 7:00pm the new Master Food Preservers will be doing a public demonstration at the Eureka Co-op Community Kitchen.
- Katy Garrison: Fortuna food pantry needs more volunteers
- Anne Holcomb: On Saturday, May 12th will be the annual Letter Carriers food drive. Put canned foods out for the Postal Service to pick up at your mailbox. Food for People also needs extra volunteers that day to unload and sort the food donations. Call them at 445-3166 to volunteer. Also, the food bank is hiring; see their website for positions: http://www.foodforpeople.org/index.htm
- Debbie Swarts (for Donna Wheeler): DHHS has about 20 CalFresh Outreach contracts in process; they just take a while to go through committees.
- Fawn Scheer: Developing a clearinghouse of activities regarding foods and non-profits. Contact her if you want to get yours in the database at scheer@greenwaypartners.net.
- Portia Bramble: This year they are expanding the Market Match program that gives CalFresh users extra tokens at the markets (and looking to include WIC, Seniors and SSI participants as well). NCGA Tuesday afternoon farmers’ market will be moving back to Wildberries.
- Angie Schwab: Redwood Acres Meet and Greet event to support the Redwood Acres Humboldt Made fair, Wednesday & Thursday April 18 & 19.

2. Recap of Humboldt Food Policy Council

Danielle did a 5-minute recap of our history. 2010 contained three meetings of the Food Policy Task Force. CCRP wrote/presented the Humboldt County Community Food Assessment. In October of 2010 the group decided upon operating structure for the first year of the Council.

In 2011 we kicked off our first official year as the Humboldt Food Policy Council and held five meetings. The first meeting began with brainstorming on ‘Opportunities’ and ‘Challenges’ associated with various food policy topics, as well as adding more topics to the list. At our April and June meetings we worked in small groups on Policy Action Plans – taking some of those brainstormed ideas and writing out the steps it would take to achieve them. In September various participants in the Council reported in-depth on the progress of work they’d been doing. In December we discussed the
grants that are available for food systems work on an annual basis, as well as some deeper questions about our overall group mission and goals.

At our February 2012 meeting we learned about new CalFresh Outreach funds that would allow CCRP to further develop some of the Policy Action Plans and to start a few pilot projects with the Council. At that meeting we also discussed our Council’s structure, re-visiting the decisions made in 2010. We decided to:

- Remain non-affiliated to any specific body of government;
- Have both individuals and organizations (businesses, agencies, etc.) represented at the Food Council;
- Continue with CCRP as host;
- Meet roughly every other month, but have it based on the agenda’s need; and
  - TABLE our discussion regarding Membership – whether we should have certain requirements to be a member on the Food Council (i.e. attend a certain number of times, etc.), or if we should designate a limited number of seats that ensure diverse representation (i.e. 2 for farmers, 2 for retailers, etc.). We began discussing this, but didn’t have the time to come to a decision. The discussion will be continued.

3. **Basecamp**

Danielle did a brief tour of the Basecamp website. The ‘Overview’ tab is a good place to see everything that’s been posted. Files under the ‘File’ tab unfortunately cannot be organized into folders the way we do on our computers, but they can be sorted alphabetically or by date. This can help people find documents, and as users begin to upload files please try to name them an obvious name (and name all files pertaining to the same event starting with the same name, so they can be found together). Danielle will try to be consistent with her naming, so similar documents can be found together (i.e. all FPC meeting agendas can be found starting with ‘Agenda’). The ‘Writeboards’ tab is a good place to write a document that you are writing/editing with others. For example, after our December ‘11 meeting Danielle posted ‘Statement of who we are’ for others to add to and comment on. Different groups can work on different writeboards at the same time.

To manage the number of messages that you receive on a daily basis from Basecamp, you can select ‘Turn on E-mail Updates’ on the right-hand side of the Overview page. This will give you a once-daily digest of any messages or activity that has happened.

4. **Vision and Mission**

Laura McEwen led the group in an exercise to develop a Vision Statement for the Food Policy Council. Participants first developed drafts on their own, then worked in groups of three or four. The groups wrote their drafts on flip charts and as a whole group we identified the keywords that many of the drafts shared in common *(see posted on Basecamp)*.

Danielle took names of volunteers who will work further with the vision drafts and develop a couple versions. Danielle will post on the Writeboard on Basecamp for people to review and comment on before the meeting. We will begin similar work on a mission statement at an upcoming meeting.

5. **Next Steps and Evaluation**

- Danielle will follow up with volunteers on Vision Statement:
  - Portia Bramble
- Katy Garrison
- Steve Palecki
- Cynthia Coronado-Brown

- Danielle will follow up with the Skills/Needs Inventory Cmte:
  - Fawn Scheer
  - Amie McClellan

At the meeting we announced that the next Food Policy Council meeting would be in May, but CCRP is not able to host a meeting that month. The next meeting will be in June.

As a note from the evaluation forms: It seems that the 5:00pm time worked well for an overwhelming majority, so we will stick with that for our next meeting. Thank you for your other feedback!