

MINUTES
Mayor's Initiative for Healthy Sustainable Food Systems
September 13, 2012
City Hall, Room 209, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

1. Introductions of committee members and meeting attendees.

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves. Present: Mayor Michael Brennan, Councilor David Marshall, Ted Kelleher (Drummond Woodsum), Jeremy Bloom, Jim Hanna (United Way), Daniel Wallace (Coastal Enterprises), Jackie Potter (Concerned Citizen), Craig Lapine (Cultivating Communities), Jonah Fertig (Local Sprouts Cooperative), John Naylor (Rosemont Bakery), Joe Fournier (Rosemont Bakery), Ralph Carmona (Maine Global Institute), Ron Adams (Portland Public Schools), Ian Houseal (City of Portland), Troy Moon (COP), Bethany Sanborn (COP), Tim Fuller (COP), Tracy Chalecki (COP).

2. Review and approval of the minutes from August 10, 2012.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved by the group.

3. Update on the Land Use Ordinance Revisions: Farm Stands

Craig reported that Cultivating Community has been working with the City to create access to healthy food sites. They formatted a plan to have farm stands in every Community Block Development Grant (CBDG) neighborhood. Two years ago, the City Council voted to allow farm stands in neighborhoods with community gardens. There is currently a proposed ordinance change that would allow schools, churches and non-profits in residential areas to host farm stands. The proposal was recommended by the Planning Board and would be voted on Wednesday by the City Council. Jackie asked if anyone would feel left out or at a disadvantage if the group voted to support the proposal. Craig felt that most people are open to having more farm stands in the City. Farmers will need to have proper licensure. They will be the sellers; the non-profits will only provide the space. Items must be fruits, vegetables, seedlings and plants grown in Maine. There can be no prepared food. There will not be EBT access at this time. Jackie motioned to support the proposal; Ralph seconded and the group agreed to support the proposal. Councilor Marshall stated that there can be further discussion on including EBT issues after the vote.

4. Prioritize and establish goals for the initiative's work plan.

Mayor Brennan reported that the group was ranking its highest priorities to work on. Ian sent out a Survey Monkey asking people to rate their top priorities. This produced the following draft topic list:

1. School Department Local Food Policies
2. School Department Summer Feeding Program
3. City Departments' Local Food Policies
4. Urban Agriculture/Community Gardens
5. Food Assistance at Farmers' Markets
6. Healthy Mobile Vending
7. Portland's Food Industries and Enterprises

8. Healthy Food Stores
9. Composting
10. Food Security
11. Connecting Vulnerable Populations with Local Food
12. Improving Food Quality at Preble St.

Ian clarified that #3 will focus on internal City policy on food purchasing, i.e. concessions sold by the City purchasing policies for the Barron Center. After some discussion, it was decided to group some goals together:

- School Department Food Policies and the Summer Feeding Program were combined to School Food (1, 2).
- City Policy will also look at State and Federal policies and programs.
- Urban Agriculture, community gardens were combined (4, 9).
- Healthy Mobile Vending, Portland's Food Industries and Enterprises and Healthy Food Stores were combined (6, 7, and 8).
- Food Assistance, Food Security, connecting people to local food and improving the food quality at Preble St. were all combined (5, 10, 11, and 12). The United Way has a working group focusing on these issues. Jim will report back to the group. There still will need to be a focus on Portland specific and its food security issues.

It was decided to have sub-committees based on the new draft goals. Each sub-committee will be asked to look at policy issues, create their own work plans and report back to the larger group. Ian will clean up the list and send out a Survey Monkey on interest in the sub-committees. It was decided not to invite forum participants until the committees are established. Chairs and Co-Chairs of the subcommittees are:

- School Department Food Policies: Craig Lapine
- City/State/National Food Policies: Michael Brennan, David Marshall
- Urban Agriculture/Community Gardens: Jeremy Bloom and Jonah Fertig
- Portland's Food Industries and Enterprises: Jackie Potter and Dan Wallace
- Food Security: Jim Hanna

5. Other

-Farmers' Market Update: The City is considering revisions to the Farmers' Market Ordinance. The Farmers' Market Association is interested in taking over. Councilor Marshall stated that the item is currently being discussed at the Public Safety/Health & Human Services Committee. He will bring any updates to the group.

-School Kitchen: Portland Public Schools' new central kitchen will be voted on 9/25 by the City Council. The group voted to support the new kitchen.

6. Confirm date for next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2012 at 10:00 AM.

Agenda items include:

- Presentation by EcoMaine
- Joe will invite the group, "Compost to Garden" to present.
- Sub-committee will report back to the larger group.

7. Adjourn