

MINUTES
Mayor's Initiative for a Healthy and Sustainable Food System
November 9, 2012
City Hall, Room 209, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

1. Introduction of meeting attendees.

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves. Present: Mayor Michael Brennan, Christopher Tripp (COP Mayor's Office), Sam May, Lisa Fernandes (ELFC, Portland Permaculture), Jonah Fertig (Local Sprouts Cooperative), Ron Adams (Portland Schools Food Service), Anna Sommo (Cultivating Community), Stephanie Aquilina (Cultivating Community), Craig Lapine (Cultivating Community), Karl Schatz (Slow Food Portland), Jeremy Bloom (Internet Farmer), Joe Fournier (Rosemont), John Naylor (Rosemont), Dawud Ummah (Center for African Heritage), Ted Kellgher (Drummond Woodsum), Amanda Beal (ELFC, Maine Food Strategy), Justine Simon (Salt & Sea), Bethany Sanborn (COP), Daniel Wallace (Coastal Enterprises), Kyle Molton (Chellie Pingree Office), Tim Fuller (Healthy Portland), Jackie Potter (Citizen), Mike Dixon (Citizen), Ian Houseal (COP), Jim Hanna, Ralph Carmona.

2. Review and approval of the minutes from October 12, 2012.

The minutes from the October 13 meeting were reviewed and approved by the group.

3. Updates:

a. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture's visit to Portland.

The city of Portland held a meeting with the Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Marrigan and Chellie Pingree. There was lengthy discussion about what the city is trying to do around food sustainability, including the mix of agriculture and aquaculture.

Also a meeting was held with GMRI and the Nature Conservancy about agriculture and aquaculture, the need for sustainable food and fishing, and how these can be linked for access to federal dollars. Follow up meetings and discussion will happen.

b. Farm stand ordinance.

Farm stands can operate in residential zones and in schools. Unsure about ordinances.

c. School kitchen

Hopes to have the kitchen operational by the end of July. Currently putting in bids for equipment.

d. Subcommittee activity.

Jackie Potter pulled together a small group to discuss supporting the farmers market. Mayor Brennan asked that all subcommittees meet 1-2 times over the next month and report back during January meeting.

4. Presentation by Amanda Beal on the Maine Food Plan

Amanda Beal presented on the Maine Food Strategy. (Please see Powerpoint Handout for full presentation notes). <http://mainefoodstrategy.org>

Goals of the Maine Food Strategy include: 1) engaging multiple partners across sectors, 2) develop strategic plans with feedback loops, 3) empower and facilitate grassroots network, and 4) develop systems to measure progress over time.

The Maine Food Strategy is taking a values based approach to this project. Currently they are in the design stage, lasting through November. Lisa commented that this first stage is very important in ensuring the design of a participatory process. Stage two will include regional meetings, vetting of priorities, a statewide food summit, public feedback, and the formation of work groups.

Why we need the Maine Food Strategy:

- 1) No state is more dependent on imported food and imported oil than Maine.
- 2) Fifty cents of every food dollar is spent outside of the state.
- 3) Currently, approximately 40% of all food is wasted.
- 4) 24% of youth under the age of 16 are food insecure.

Mark Lapping discussed the increase of food/income related diseases (such as diabetes). Tackling this needs to be part of the plan. Also, the learning elements around healthy food consumption, preparation and growth need to be incorporated, as does the lack of jobs.

Mark also added the need for an appropriate matrix for evaluation, possibly looking toward a Portland Organizational Matrix. We need this to help understand what is working and what is not, and how we can better define goals. Jonah spoke to the need of involving producers, farmers, and fisherman so their voices are heard.

Ian asked if supply chain mapping and gap analysis will be part of this process. Mark responded that it will be done through working groups and that current gaps include cold storage facilities and slaughtering facilities. Lisa added that the group will be reworking the Maine food map (and working toward a Maine food atlas) and that the mapping module will be part of Phase III of the strategy.

Dawud added that it feels like we are stuck in place; that critical points need to be enacted right now to address the problem now. Dawud also spoke to the fact that many people who are impacted by this are not at the table, nor have been invited, that they have developed an underground entrepreneurial network to discuss many of these same issues. Need deeper involvement by others that are not invited. Those on the outside have important ideas, labor

availability and understand the issue in a different way. Suggests that we need to start with small projects (action) now to feed/involve those who need this the most.

Jeremy added that our planning process may never keep up with entrepreneurial creativity and the underground movement. This begs the question of how can we better involve the people that are already doing this work?

Final comments by Mark included that the food sector is wealth creation. Support for farms and the local food sector is essential. FAME is beginning to loan money into the agriculture sector. This is a big shift! Mark also noted that we have many opportunities at this point, including an increase of grain production in Maine, as the drought in the Midwest has caused some issues. Focusing on where we currently have gaps and identifying what is already happening on the ground is vital.

Mayor Brennan stated that there are areas in which we could move forward immediately and we do not need to wait until the planning process is over. Defined benchmarks and a matrix would help the City of Portland.

Making connections between agriculture and aquaculture are vital to city growth and sustainability. Fishing is critical for Portland's future.

The Mayor also spoke to the need to ensure that city policies are food friendly. This will be looked into.

Subcommittees have been asked to meeting 1-2x during November/December to report back at the January meeting.

5. Confirm date for next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled January 11, 2012