

Minutes
Mayor's Initiative for a Healthy and Sustainable Food System
February 8, 2013
City Hall, Room 209, 10:00-11:30AM

1. Introductions of meeting attendees.

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves. In attendance: Mayor Michael Brennan, Councilor David Marshall, Christopher Tipp (COP Mayors Office), Joe Fournier (Rosemont), Ian Houseal (COP), Donna Yellen (Preble Street/ME Hunger Initiative), Jonah Fertig (Local Sprouts Cooperative), Marika O'Brien (Farmer/Non-Profit Urban Farming Consultant), Jeremy Bloom (Internet Farmer), Mike Dixon (Citizen), Jim Hanna (CC Food Security Council), Dawud Ummah (Center for African Heritage), John Naylor (Rosemont), Molly Thompson (Rosemont), Tim Fuller (COP/Healthy Portland).

2. Review and approval of minutes from January 18, 2013.

Minutes were reviewed and approved with addition of Mike Dixon to attendees. Also noted, minutes do not fully express the extent of work and content of Urban Ag./Comm. Gardens suggestions. Request that additional material is made available via City of Portland website.

3. Subcommittee activity (continued)

a. School department policies

No additional report at this meeting.

b. City/state/national food policies

We will be drafting a letter of support to our legislative delegation in Washington in support of certain measures in the Farm Bill and other local food legislation.

c. Urban agriculture/community gardens

No additional report at this meeting.

d. Portland food industries and enterprises

Met with 4 local businesses (Calendar Island Coop, Ocean Approved, Rising Tide Brewery, and Urban Farm Fermentory) to discuss what the city could do to help. It was reported that the conversations were positive in nature and some issues were identified. These include:

- i. Access to communal working waterfront (docks, lifts, etc.) (basically an available ocean/land interface).
- ii. Portland needs more cold storage.
- iii. Access to a communal commercial kitchen space.
- iv. Better container availability (both land and sea).

- v. Keeping East Bayside light industrial (although light retail would be helpful—may need different zoning).
- vi. Keeping cruise ship passengers in town.
- vii. Food trucks on Anderson St...change in policy?

Committee also noted that Aquiculture done the right way could be a great growth opportunity for Portland.

Building infrastructure in Portland would reduce the use of Boston/Massachusetts resources. Portland still needs some infrastructure basics.

e. Food security

Discussion around food security was specific to food pantries and fee/registration/licensing issues.

Current food pantry practices may not be consistent with city code. This issue is being looked into by City Council's Transportation, Sustainability and Energy committee. Language is an area of concern (i.e. what defines food prep?)

What might we need to address?

Food handling is really the issue. How do we currently define food handling?

Possible recommendations:

- 1) Food Pantry Exemptions
- 2) Making sure Portland Code is consistent with State Code
- 3) Exemption if establishment offers non-hazardous pre-packaged food*

* this recommendation may be difficult as most pantries offer dairy and meat products.

Further discussions will take place with Corporation Council to clarify definitions and gain a better understanding of the policy side of the issue.

We are looking to create maximum flexibility for food pantries to serve their populations.

Also interested in permitting to understand who runs these pantries and make sure that both food and persons are protected. The city does not want to create barriers or burdens to service delivery.

Look into outreach to food pantries who are unfamiliar with the process to provide support.

Healthy Portland has a nutrition education grant. Looking to connect with food pantries to include food cooking classes and healthy cooking techniques.

f. Other

Outreach Strategies:

- 1) Community Forum (another broader community discussion)
- 2) Community Planting Day (part of United Way Day of Caring)
- 3) Web Outreach

Also discussed was the need for increased diversity at the table and in this process. Inclusion of new voices and different perspectives from lower incomes, races/ethnicities, etc.

Need to look into Sen. Alford's Food Sustainability Bill.

4. Confirm date for next meeting:

~~The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2013 at 10:00 AM.~~

The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2013 at 10:00AM.