

1. Agenda

Documents: [AGENDA 03.15.13.PDF](#)

2. Packet

Documents: [HSFSPACKET031513.PDF](#)

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

Agenda

Healthy Sustainable Food Systems

DATE: 3/15/2013

TIME: 10:0 AM

LOCATION: City Hall, Room 209

AGENDA

1. Welcome Introductions of meeting attendees.
2. Synopsis of identified recommendations and progress.
3. Other updates:
 - a Draft letters of support: State & Federal legislation
 - b Fruit trees
 - c Food pantries
 - d Community gardens
4. MOFGA GMO legislation.
5. New business.
6. Confirm date for next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM.
7. Adjourn.

Agenda
Mayor's Initiative for Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems
March 15, 2013
10:00 – 11:30, City Hall, Room 209

1. Welcome Introductions of meeting attendees.
2. Synopsis of identified recommendations and progress.
3. Other updates:
 - a. Draft letters of support: State & Federal legislation
 - b. Fruit trees
 - c. Food pantries
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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.

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Mayor's Initiative for Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems

Preliminary Outline of Recommendations

The Mayor's Initiative for Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems has worked to develop a plan to create sustainable, functional, and healthy local food systems. Over the past 9 months, the initiative has grown to examine food policy, local food in schools, community gardens and urban agriculture, food industries and enterprises, and food security issues. The following are recommendations in each of these areas as we move forward.

Food Policy

1. Letter of support for Federal Legislation (Rep. Pingree's Bill)
2. Letter of support for State Legislation (Sen. Pres. Alford's Bill)

Local Food in Schools

1. Locate local non-dairy protein sources to serve in the schools
2. Increase scratch cooking capacity

Community Gardens/Urban Agriculture

1. Creating Urban Farm
2. Rooftop Gardens
3. Increase number of Community Gardens/reduce or remove wait list
4. Community Coop Gardens
5. Increase Outreach
6. School Garden Education Program
7. Increase Self-Growing
8. Soil Remediation Programs
9. Fruit and Nut Trees on City Land

Food Industries and Enterprises

1. Waterfront access
2. Aquaculture Permitting
3. Increase Cold Storage
4. Commercial Kitchen
5. Better Container Transportation
6. Increase public access to East Bayside
7. Food Truck policy change
8. Keeping Cruise Ship passengers in Portland
9. Consistency and Flow between permitting, inspections, and zoning

Food Security

1. Food Pantries Registration and Licensing
2. Streamlining Food Pantry language in State/City codes
3. Healthy Portland food education classes-connect with pantries
4. SNAP benefits at Farmers Market

Outreach Strategies

1. Community Forum
2. Community Planting Day (w/ United Way)
3. Web Outreach

March 2013

Dear Elected Officials:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to urge you to support LD 718 An Act to Protect Maine Food Consumers Right to Know about Genetically Engineered Food and Seed Stock. This bill would require labeling of all food items with ingredients containing more than 1% genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Since the first commercially available GMO crop was approved in 1996, GMO crops have pushed many of their traditional counterpart crops out of the marketplace. By 2011, more than 90 percent of soybeans and cotton and over 85 percent of field corn cultivated in the United States were genetically modified. This prevalence means that nearly 75 percent of processed foods sold in grocery stores contain GMOs.

Genetically modified crops could pose risks to traditional agriculture and plant breeding, the environment and human health. Consumers need these foods labeled so they can make informed choices about their food purchases.

Although the biotechnology companies allow very little research on their patented crops, some independent, peer-reviewed research has found that genetically modified foods can compromise organ functions and cause deformities, neurological and reproductive problems in laboratory animals. The potential long-term risks to public health from genetically modified foods are currently unknown. Given this uncertainty, many consumers want these foods labeled so they can make an informed choice about what they eat.

Maine has a long and rich tradition of healthy food production. Maine people know and trust their local farmers. GMO labeling would allow consumers to make informed choices on processed food purchases. It is time to let the market decide the fate of GMO foods by allowing consumers to make an informed choice. Mainers have a right to know how their food was produced.

Over 60 countries including Japan, China, Australia, Russia, New Zealand and the European Union require labeling of all GMO products. Consumers deserve the right to know what is in the food that they are providing for their families. In fact, a 2008 poll by CBS/New York Times found that 87% of United States consumers wanted all genetically modified ingredients to be labeled.

We support you in taking action to ensure Maine people's right to know what's in the food they eat by supporting this bill requiring labeling of all GMO in foods.

Sincerely,

Organization: _____

Contact: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

Please attach a copy of your organizations logo to be included on the final letter presented to legislators.