

**Minutes**  
**Mayor's Initiative for Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems**  
**March 28, 2014**  
**10:00 – 11:30, City Hall, Room 209**

**1. Welcome introductions of meeting attendees**

Tim welcomed meeting attendees. In attendance were Kathy Savoie, Sara Schwartz, Lesley Heyl, Craig Lapine, Meghan Quinn, Jim Hanna, Jackie Potter, Jeff Edelstein, Kristen Walker, Jeremy Bloom, Kendall Hinkley, Ralph Carmona, Phyllis Reams, Dave Seddon, Cole Nadeau, Kyle Molton, Tina Fischer, Ron Adams, Susan McCleskey, Espahbad Dodd, Stephanie Pooler and Mayor Brennan..

**2. Review and approval of minutes from February 28, 2014 meeting**

**3. Follow-up from 3/19 food policy council discussion with Mark Winne**

The group shared their impressions from the Mark Winne presentation and discussed the major takeaways. Mark stressed the importance of policy making in addition to community organizing and got the group thinking about the relationship between food councils and government. Members feel as though the mayor's initiative achieves grassroots membership as well as having political leadership, which makes it a sort of hybrid between two models. Looking forward, the mayor wants to review the organizational structure of the initiative, identify strategic initiatives as well as set benchmarks. During this discussion, Jeff Edelstein of the Greater Portland Sustainability Council gave highlights of his organizations work and drew attention to the idea of "serial advocacy", a term that describes any number of community groups operating in a silo and independently trying to advance their initiatives. Jeff would like to see community groups coming together to support each other, integrating and connecting. The group briefly discussed the concept of creating a plan for the initiative, but feel as though the plans should reside in the appropriate city department while the initiative stays focused on outcomes. It also removes the burden of financing from the initiative and puts it back onto the city department that oversees the action.

**4. Summer Meals for Kids**

Tim gave an update on the summer meal program organizing efforts with Connect Ed and Mark Dixon. There currently exists a need for the coordination of site activity and increased participation. From the recent meeting the group felt that participation can be improved by better organizing the efforts of community groups who are involved in the summer meals program, by better coordination of activities that occur at the sites, and by

better communication. There was mention of creating a Google calendar that would show what events are happening where, but the calendar does not replace the overarching need for there to be an actual person to coordinate the summer meals program. Dave Seddon of the Maine Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics said that there is a feedback loop taskforce in place that might be able to help the strategic plan for summer meals. During the summer, Opportunity Alliance serves about 1200 meals a day, and the City of Portland serves about 300, which is less than half of those students that are eligible. On a slightly different topic, Ron Adams held a local food showcase which approximately 500 students attended. The funding in part came from the USDA Farm Bill Grant which Representative Chellie Pingree has been working hard to make available.

#### **5. Status Update of LD 1819**

LD 1819 was approved unanimously before committee and now moves to the Senate. If it passes the Senate it then moves to the House.

- a. Policy subcommittee chairs are Ralph Carmona and Ben Tettlebaum and are tasked with monitoring policies in progress.

#### **6. Update on school lunch marketing research project**

Craig informed the group that this project is still in the research stage and has enlisted the help of USM business students. The current percentage of locally grown foods in schools is between 14 and 17%, with the goal being 30% by 2015.

#### **7. Summary of New England Food Policy Report and the Food Hub Bill**

These updates are forthcoming.

#### **8. Food Initiative Updates**

**Kyle Moulton** gave the D.C. update saying that Congress is moving into appropriations hearings and Chellie will be attending 3-4 meetings per week. She is working to get the farm bill money out the door, and was successful at getting the senior farm share funds released.

**Jim Hanna** announced that the Cumberland County Food Security Council is now housed at Good Shepherd and he will continue on as staff until the end of August.

**The Maine Nutrition Council** has an upcoming meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at UMaine Farmington. **The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics** has a meeting at Maine Med on May 15 and has been writing letters of support.

**Slim Peace** is looking for new non-immigrant members and their new session begins April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

People were urged to get their events to Jeff Edelstein to be put on the **Sustainability Newsletter**. The deadline is the Monday before the first of every month.

**Urban Agriculture** subcommittee chair Jeremy Bloom said the sheep mowing contract is in discussion. There is a **Permaculture** conference July 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. There is also a **Cultivating Community** Workshop on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Jeremy asked for help writing policies that would assist low income people who want a community garden plot and also help those who don't have access to land.

**Garbage to Garden** is doing a city-wide clean up on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and wants to raise awareness for Earth Day.

**9. Confirm date for next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 10:00am.**

**10. Adjourn.**