

2.22.08 – KC Healthy Food Policy Initiative Meeting Feedback from Roundtable Discussion Questions

1) What value would a Food Policy Council bring to Kansas City?

Group 1:

- Cohesive voice representing various aspects and stakeholders of the food system
- Raise awareness of various issues around the food system
- Address the childhood obesity crisis
- Stimulate good conversation/debate to bring legitimacy to issues around food and health
- Networking/collaboration/connections between different community stakeholders to learn and share knowledge
- Authoritative voice that can be effective in going beyond talk and into action through accessing important decision makers
- Use our voice to gain control of the food system

Group 2:

- Create a unified voice to promote an agenda that brings together private and public groups
- Creating the financial leverage to balance the economy of scale
- Creating a space for different groups to bring their individual priorities, skills, and resources
- Eliminate use of rendered products with animal feed

Group 3:

- Verbalize a place we want to be
- Focus efforts of various organizations and governments
- Reduce fragmentation
- Increase awareness about the issues around food – develop a more mindful public and increase excitement around the issue
- Could submit information to state and federal government about what's happening at the local level

Group 4:

- Help low-income folks gain access to healthy food
- Affect nutrition program regulations
- Enforce wellness
- Neutral group to advocate in schools
- Address issues of peak oil – transportation costs, localizing agriculture
- Come up with a coordinated message
- Local farmer support
- Perform a cost-benefit analysis of unhealthy eating

Group 5:

- Accountability – monitoring of school nutrition, health statistics
- Reduce obesity in children
- Re-invigorate local agriculture
- Become part of regional self-sustaining food production
- Develop sustainable agriculture with high tech approach
- Establish models for local growers – business and methods

Group 6:

- One voice, one group of experts
- Research coordination – less biased/neutral
- Economic value – awareness/understanding
- Increase political power – here is a solution
- One place for the media to go – quick response for food news
- Connecting the dots – help folks understand how unassuming policies affect the food system
- Focus on kids for a better future
- Submit changes in a coordinated fashion

Group 7:

- Bring together organizations
- Help organizations be more effective through coordination and information
- Educate the public about hunger problems
- Information synthesis for developing plans and priorities
- Strength in numbers
- Mobilize collective efforts (funding)

Group 8:

- Equitable geographic representation KS/MO
- Provide affordable food through advocacy
- Education – schools, healthy food
- Supporting local agriculture
- Farming food as solution to various crises
- Policy to help contain urban sprawl
- Collaboration/work together for metro sustainable food system
- Legislative liaison

2) Which Food Policy Council model would best suit the Kansas City area?**Group 1:**

- Community-based to start
- There are challenges to doing this work through a statute because of the fact that KC is bi-state and the greater KC area is made up of several municipalities, counties, etc.
- Potential conflict with St. Louis if done at the state level in Missouri

Group 2:

- Community model due to the multi-jurisdiction aspect of Kansas City
- Could be governmental
- KS or MO could lead without the other and maybe the 2nd could catch up

Group 3:

- MARC – house FPC
 - Don't know what structure this is?
 - Wide variety of folks involved
 - What is their mandate?
 - Best avenue – others seem very complicated
- Push would be for a statute – Executive order seems too wimpy
- Problem – 2 states, 5 counties, and how many municipalities?
- What will bring the most political power?
- Have to pull the FBs to the table, foundations, major companies, major law firms

Group 4:

- MARC model – knowledge of working across state lines
- Bi-state
- Concern that if the FPC is housed in the City of KCMO that KCK concerns will not be addressed
- Advisory Board/Council

Group 5:

- MARC – must work with Kansas and Missouri (work in progress – Missouri Farmers' Union Initiative) Food Policy Councils

Group 6:

- This city council would be as responsive as they have ever been because we have the goal to be the “greenest city.”
- “Is it good for the children” is always in the forefront
- Many current models
- The Greater KC
- Funding – what is the precedent?
- Policy Food Charter – Endorsement from both states/legislation to give it power
- Resolution or sanctioning of the effort – certain members of government must sit on council, i.e. Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Economic Development
- Investigate what others in “like” cities have done
- Funding
 - Each government chips in
 - Commitment from private foundations
 - Administration (in-kind) support from government
 - Other in-kind

Group 7:

- Probably executive order wouldn't fit because we are in 2-state area
- Need to assess available models in the context of our region (what is our region?)
- Any model that could be effective

Group 8:

- Bi-state statute, proclamation, endorsement, support
- Independent council – w/bi-state, 8-county jurisdiction
- MARC concerns/objectives – historic lack of stand on issues
- Small group think tank to produce white paper – to define action steps for the council model
- Pick 2 or 3 issues (policies)

3) What specific policy changes or implementations do you want a Food Policy Council to advocate for in the Kansas City area?**Group 1:**

- Address School lunch
 - increase healthier choices
 - decrease amount of choices
 - model and use methods that truly help kids make healthy food choices
 - get curriculum implemented into schools that teach basic healthy life skills (cooking, gardening, etc.)
 - develop a culinary program with a health approach
 - increase the number of school gardens

Group 2:

- Help people in the urban core have access to healthier food
- Reduce elite aspect or stigma of local/organic food
- Reduction of food waste
 - local access (food for tonight's dinner)
 - food that's not local or organic doesn't last as long
 - need infrastructure to get extra food
- Change school cooking from thawing frozen food to actual cooking
- Change KC from being reactive to proactive
- Help standardize local certification of "local" and "organic" and "authentic"

Group 3:

- Total ban on trans-fat in processed food – no substitutes and no HFCS
- No soda in school
- Priority for use of land for food production
- Financial incentive or organization to support infrastructure – (warehouse, transportation networks)

Group 4:

- Establish a commercial kitchen site for processing, canning, and preserving
- Uniform distribution system
- Access to healthy food for low-income folks
 - Bus routes
 - Corner stores
 - Gardens

Group 5:

- Farmers Market in all sections of the city
- Development of food co-ops
- Initiate community food production
- Linkage between higher educational institutions and farming courses, services, etc.
- Allow local schools to operate budget and food for their schools
- Can school system hire farmers?
- Have high school kids grow food on school land and in school green houses
- Planning process to anticipate prices and trends

Group 6:

- Strengthening “community” in community garden ownership
- Policy issue – farmers market table too small, spinach takes up a lot of room or more expensive produce
- Define “community” – which community and where?

Group 7:

- Understand the needs arising from the community in order to maximize effectiveness and efforts
- Health, affordable food at schools and other institutions
- Community knowledge on healthy food (so kids don't reject good food)
- Land use planning in the urban/rural environment
- Education for changing food and lifestyle habits (health, cooking, knowledge, time)
- Communicate
- Policies to achieve 5-9 a day!
- Critter control for home gardening!
- Shift priorities to important activities (diet and exercise) to enhance other policy goals
- Water

Group 8:

- Create a water urban/rural fee
- School cafeterias – healthy food – tasty and appealing
- More fitness
- Eradicate junk food in schools
- Make local food affordable
- Ban trans-fat and high-fructose corn syrup – metro, citywide or disclaimer

- Encourage labeling – organic, local, no hormones, etc.
 - Need sustainable agriculture incentive like the TIF incentive given for economic development
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Questions/Concerns:

- Need to define the community
- Need more investigation into what the precedent is for cross-jurisdictional efforts
- Possible bi-state proclamation
- Governments need to encourage people to participate – if they don't participate then they don't have a voice
- Staff support – money for staff person, interns, non-profit umbrella