

KC Healthy Food Policy Initiative
Core Working Group Meeting Notes - 7.17.08

Present:

Kevin Anderson
Bill Barkley
John Boudreaux
Maureen Branstetter
Gretchen Burak
Ted Carey
Erika Devore
Brandi Fisher
Greg Garbos

Cheryl Gibson
Ron Hamilton
Mary Hendrickson
Susan Harvey
Dean Katerndahl
Katherine Kelly
Gretchen Kunkel
Annie Latham
Steve Mann

David Ross
Charles St. Clair
Sarah Shmigelsky
Otavio Silva
Tina Wurth
Jane Zieha

Project Plan Review -- Gretchen Kunkel provide updated copies of the Project Plan - timeline, work completed thus far and deadlines for remaining work – no discussion

Strategic Position Brainstorm – Gretchen Kunkel/Charles St. Clair posed these questions: Where do we want to see the FPC in 10 years? What should be put into position the first 3 years?

Food Policy Council Position - What services will the GKCFPC provide?

- Education - ongoing
- Keep thinking about policy – want to do programs – but how to facilitate policy changes in govt., schools, institutional buying, focus and advocate for change
- A forum for the community
- Katherine K.: Connections with public officials can affect change – connections should rollover through time
- Mary H.: Source for brainstorming and problem solving, look at issues from a policy perspective, collaboration on policy changes
- Advocacy & Education
- Bill B.: Credible voice for all stakeholders, to be credible need good data and analysis
- Steve M.: Professional lobbyist in both the Missouri & Kansas state legislature
- John B.: Forums – invite the community at large to participate
- Dean K.: FPC can become part of the larger regional sustainability agenda that is arising
- Otavio S.: Fair representation from all sectors of the population
- Annie L.: Corporate Governance – the FPC will work with business, institutions to better understand and follow ideals the group has set forth
- Greg G.: Highlight collaboration – the group will be a functional example of what can be accomplished, be a mentor to other FPC locally and regionally
- John B.: Public voice for community - balance commercial interests
- Brandi F.: Resource for groups who cannot be involved, outlet to direct missing participants to have ownership and involvement on different levels
- Annie L.: Foster community involvement/ownership

Who/Where is the Community?

- Community – continue to define who and what it is?
- Otavio S.: All sectors included – economy, grassroots – engage those we may not agree with
- Ted C.: How does the current mainstream food system become a part of the community? They will only want to be a part of it to the degree it will be successful.

Membership Discussion

- Otavio S.: Stay independent, do our work well we will build credibility and respect
- Government is as good as elected officials but would be hard to maintain mission & vision, \$\$ is also difficult to come by and has strings attached
- Otavio S.: Balanced council – independent and inclusive
- Mary H.: Need collective voice, representatives in Agriculture community specifically departments in USDA – Dept. of Agriculture., Dept. of Conservation
- Bill B.: Decision makers from business etc should be welcome to join or should have liaison who represents these individuals
- Will there be a conflict of interest with having the individuals on the council?
- Mary H.: We want to affect what they are writing (policies).
- Bill B.: At least build a dialogue with these folks to hear barriers
- Dean K.: MARC's experience, won't be advocacy if on board, compromises, advocate for policy, core group advising or liaison different structure, if they aren't on the board they will be less engaged but don't want them to feel as if they are a target of the group
- Erika D.: The Core Work group is already set-up this way, advocacy for small group and then present to larger group and other participants
- Ron H.: Would legislature have a different agenda than our group? Might have conflict of interest or they may support us.
- Katherine K.: Could have in by-laws that elected officials can't be on the board.
- Mary H.: Gray area if we aren't inclusive. Understand not wanting to lose control, but would rather be inclusive.
- John B.: Legislators would want to be involved because of interest
- Dean K.: Are government people here for personal or professional reasons?
- Better to have them (mainstream food system reps.) here and understand how to work with them and how to stand up to them.
- Katherine K.: Working committees will present suggestions and priorities to board, Elected board will make decisions about these recommendations and vote on policy changes
- Decision makers in state government?
- Have government representation (SRS – Kansas)
- Will there be tension??
- Rotation basis, continue to expand core group

Geography of the Greater KC FPC Discussion

- Group agreed that the FPC should follow the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) of 16 counties – 9 in Missouri, 7 in Kansas (see listing/map, more info at www.marc.org)

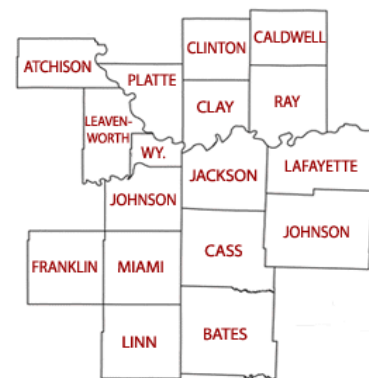
KANSAS

- Atchison County, Kan.
- Wyandotte County, Kan.
- Leavenworth County, Kan.
- Miami County, Kan.
- Johnson County, Kan.
- Franklin County, Kan.
- Linn County, Kan.

MISSOURI

- Bates County, Mo.
- Caldwell County, Mo.
- Cass County, Mo.
- Clay County, Mo.
- Clinton County, Mo.
- Jackson County, Mo.

- Lafayette County, Mo.
- Platte County, Mo.
- Ray County, Mo.



Geographic outlines of other groups

- The Mid-America Regional Council serves members in 9 counties and 120 cities and towns in the Kansas City region. (Clay County, Mo., Jackson County, Mo., Johnson County, Kan., Leavenworth County, Kan., Miami County, Kan., Platte County, Mo., Ray County, Mo. Wyandotte County, Kan.)
- Harvesters – The Community Food Network serves 13 counties in and around Greater Kansas City, covering 7,600 square miles and 1.7 million residents; Kansas: Johnson, Miami, Wyandotte; Missouri: Bates, Carroll, Cass, Clay, Henry, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte, Ray

Geography Group Discussion

- Annie L.: Limiting counties could exclude people, organizations, farms, etc.
- Bill B.: Primary service area should be defined by local, regional, state, federal??
- Otavio S.: Need to define the metro area – we can't represent Western Kansas or Eastern Missouri. Deal with policies that affect Greater KC.
- Clarify the geography to define the data needs – specifically baseline & outcomes. This data will help define the issues that need to be changed, if the spectrum is too large will not be able to achieve the objective.
- Otavio S.: Need to address policies that effect the Metro region – narrow it down
- Mary H.: Understand that the service area is fluid
- Will we build to a larger state level program? Gretchen K.: Not necessarily, will try to collaborate with other efforts in the region, not be subordinate, balance all the efforts

Workgroup Presentation: Food Production/Local Agriculture Committee

Members: Greg Garbos, Steve Mann, Katherine Kelly, Ted Carey, Sarah Shmigelsky, Otavio Silva, Carolyn Boland (absent)

A full hardcopy of the local agriculture and food production draft plan was provided to the meeting attendees.

Define a healthy local food production system -- VISION: Production of meat, vegetables, grain, fruit, and dairy products is integrated into the life of the Kansas City metro area so that local, healthy, fresh food is more accessible to the Greater Kansas City population and local, regional production is more economically viable and sustainable.

Local Agriculture and Food Production Discussion

- How much farmland is in CRP?
- Katherine K.: See what research is out there to support our goals; develop a series of white papers for legislators – what could/should be doing
- Mary H.: The terms “self-reliance” vs. “self-sufficient” – goal is to be interdependent – MH likes self-reliance better
- Greg G.: Tools and techniques – take small acreage and make a living – old (ancient) tools combined with today's technology – artisan farming
- Ted C.: Debated issue of organic - more research will be helpful
- Mary H.: Affordability will continue to be a concern, costs of food has been externalized – local food doesn't want to externalize, wants to be fair – fair wage, working conditions, etc. Policy has the largest impact; transfer payments/public funding a) good for economy b) health c) environment
- Otavio S.: 3 ways to maintain costs – Subsidies – production end, distribution end, and consumer end
- Annie L: Corporate responsibility
- Otavio S.” Small solutions won't solve the problem, equitable distribution of subsidies
- Bill B.: Current environment is changing with high energy costs and rising inflation – might be a favorable time for local. Food costs – inflation of 7% in June 2008
- Greg G.: Adding efficiency, more food with less labor, season extension
- Ron H.: To the labor end – are Americans willing to do the labor?
- Katherine K.: What about labor and fair wages, for ourselves (farmers) and our workers (Social Justice)

- Steve M.: Advocate for social justice issues that affect food
- Mary H.: Economic Development – long term strategy – people are always in crisis - want less people in crisis for a shorter amount of time
- Katherine K.: Advocate for living wage – studies show that when wages go up people’s eating habits change (for the better)
- Sarah/Otavio: Utilize city, county programs already available aka TIFFF funding, redevelopment for urban areas
- Greg G.: Raise buying power of low-income, micro-financing, little money can go a long way
- Tina W.: Expanding volunteers in community gardens, interested in doing work, reap the benefits
- Mary H.: In Russia a high percentage of food comes from farms of 1 acre or less and home gardens – culture is the reason – they take vacations and work on good plots. What are the policies around vacation?

What do you want to know from the larger group (at the 7/24 Lidia’s meeting)?

- Who has access to those not at the table?
- Do you think the work we have done is good?
- Does it address what they care about?
- Are we developing a useful tool?
- Would like folks to leave committed to the group – committed to a work group.
- What are you concerned about?
- How do you see your organization participating?

Core Work Group Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, August 14, 2008 from 11:30-4:30, Location TBD

Thursday, August 28, 2008 from 11:30-3:30, Location TBD