

**KC Healthy Food Policy Initiative
Stakeholder Meeting
7.24.08 - Lidia's Restaurant**

Lidia Bastianich spoke for about 10 minutes and voiced her support for the KC Healthy Food Policy Initiative and the importance of developing grassroots efforts around the food system.

Development Update

Food Policy Council Refresher and Selected Structure

Mary Hendrickson & Katherine Kelly

Mary reviewed the purpose and mission of Food Policy Councils along with a refresher of the various models that Mark Winne discussed at the Feb. 22 meeting. Katherine outlined the FPC model the core group found would best fit the Greater Kansas City effort, this model includes:

- A grassroots coalition that develops policy recommendations -- advocate, educate and coordinate
- Membership is inclusive from different constituencies around the Kansas City area
- A coalition that develops partnerships to ensure food policy happens - Policy is more than ordinances and laws within government, but implementation of policy change within profit and non-profit organizations, businesses, schools, institutions etc.

Process of the Greater Kansas City Food Council - Gretchen Kunkel

- Reviewed the core groups efforts to develop a strategic plan - Summary plan by 10/31/08 and Comprehensive plan by 12/31/08
- 5 committees have developed within the core group:
 1. Access
 2. Infrastructure
 3. Institutions
 4. Local Food Production
 5. Schools

Core Working Group Presentations

Each of the 5 committees presented work done thus far. Each group answered the following questions (visit www.kchealthykids.org for PowerPoint Presentations):

1. What is the vision?
2. What are the critical issues?
3. What are the strategic goals?
4. What broad strategies should be implemented to achieve the goals?
5. What are the action steps to implement the strategies?
6. What are our measures of success?
7. What resources do we need to accomplish the goals?

Questions Posed to the Stakeholders

1. Do you think the work the core group has done thus far meets your expectations?
2. Does the work address what you care about?
3. What about the work concerns you most?
4. Will you and/or your organization stay involved if offered a mechanism for continued participation (e.g., serving on a committee, promoting an issue, writing a letter)?

Discussion following presentations

- The people that serve lunch should be educators
- Schools could have horticulturists on staff at schools
- Greg Garbos: Who should be at the table? – grocers, food distribution, big agriculture, city council - work with the Climate Protection Plan (KC)
- Bruce Wiggins: Relate this initiative to green collar jobs, social justice issues. What are the organizational aspects, e.g. membership? Look at current local food objectives in the Kansas City, MO Climate Protection Plan.
- Linda Hezel: The structure and framework are a good start. Need greater emphasis on protecting and preserving agricultural land. Clay County's focus is on paving over agricultural land – producing food is not valued, reward communities. Multi-generational contribution to teaching to grow, preserve – bring cultural richness to the conversation. There are homes association groups with ordinances against food gardens – need to remove these barriers.
- Ben Kjelshus: Concerned about poverty and rising food prices
- Marsha Chapin: Economy makes it difficult to provide healthy food in schools - need legislation to increase funding and awareness of school nutrition.
- Keshandra Hadley: Education so people know how and why they need to choose healthier foods. Larger food chains are providing better food in urban areas but also need to support smaller stores/chains. Also need to address better transportation for access. Resources to develop programs, ex. access to donated greenhouses.
- Crystal Weber: This is an ambitious plan – where will the funding come from? A flow-chart could be helpful for project and to identify resources. Overlap between this initiative and the Climate Protection Plan – work together. Low-income areas – more community gardens, need to educate neighborhoods on how to develop and maintain gardens.
- Margo Quiriconi: Identify societal trends not working for healthy food and nutrition, limits on families time, obligations; concerned about “mission drift” – be sure to keep your “eyes on the prize”; how will you get leverage – the correct level of penetration?
- Janet Baker: Be careful of unrealistic expectations, have a time line, could lose momentum. Long term strategies and structures that stand through change of individuals.
- Bruce Wiggins: How do we relate to agribusiness? Bring into organization without being threatening - develop the right terms.
- Kelly Gilbert: Each committee has information gaps – need to join/connect with other organizations, might be helpful to have a research committee with representatives from each group.
- Linda Hezel: Applaud inclusion of environmental aspects - think about all species and how ecological aspects are connected and the health results from these connections.
- Kathi Whitman: Look at the past – what was successful? Look outside our borders for examples of success.

KC Healthy Kids Staff will post information and updates to the www.kchealthykids.org.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:30