



# New Haven Food Policy Council (NHFPC)

## Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2018

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### Attendees:

**Council members:** Austin Bryniarski, Frank Mitchell

**Affiliate and community members:** Carlah Esdaile Bragg, Susan Harris, Tom Chu, Mark Duda, Paul Bronson, Dakibu Muléy, Anna Grace Barry, Maria Markham, Cara Donovan, Genesis Vicente, Latha Swamy, Meg Hourigan, Bradley Flemming, Lorraine Grant, James Cramer, Sarah Jonelis, Vee Cangiano, Deborah Greig, Adeline Kim, Lori Martin

Austin called the meeting to order at 8:37 AM. Introductions around the room were made.

### Announcements

- Paul Bronson announced that Vertical Church will be launching their food pantry out of the Fair Haven police substation on May 19.
- Common Ground's annual seedling sale will be on May 11 & 12.
- Common Ground is planning a screening of Dolores with CitySeed to highlight the farmworkers movement. Details are being finalized tentative for early May.
- New Haven Farms is having a Free Acoustic Garden Party with CT Folk and the New Haven Land Trust on Ferry Street on Sunday April 29.
- Meg Hourigan shared that CT Alliance is hosting a Policy & Advocacy Webinar on Friday April 27 at 10 am. It's open to everyone affiliated/interested in food policy councils.
- Abby shared that there will be a Vegan Soul Potluck Brunch on Saturday April 21, from 12-3 pm at 425 Newhall Street.
- CT CORE will be having their Advocacy Day tomorrow April 19 in Hartford from 12-2 pm.
- Summer Meals Blitz is on June 16. Rosa DeLauro will be in attendance.

### Items for Council Vote

- Approval of minutes 2/21/18: Not enough council members present to vote. Tabled for next meeting.

### Policy Advancement Committee (PAC) Updates

- Austin shared that Meg Hourigan has been keeping the council informed on Farm Bill updates. The USDA is talking about using mobile technology for SNAP recipients (Ex. using an app on phone).
- PAC is thinking about how the work of the council can support the City's Transformation Plan – making sure our goals and values are consistent with that plan.
- Maria Markham shared that the PAC is looking to start an awareness-building marketing group to raise awareness of alarming data such as that found in the Hunger Report. Not enough New Haven residents know the data that has been found and it's important that they know these numbers. The idea is to push out this information using different social media outlets. Contact Genesis or Maria to put a group together.
- Austin asked "Are there any policy barriers anyone's facing?"

James Cramer asked if the PAC can find out: How much money people can make without losing their state/federal benefits. People receive a lot of services and don't want to take a job because they don't want to lose their benefits. Meg Hourigan shared that there's a Center on Budget Policy & Priorities that may have some of this information.

Lori Martin would like to know more about the liability around food [rescue]. Connecticut has a law but it's not clear on food donation safety and food rescue especially that of hot prepared foods.

- Next meeting on Monday April 23, mActivity at 10 am. Parking is available.

### Food Access Working Group (FAWG) Updates

- Billy is working on applying for a CNCS federal grant to help fund programs like Witnesses to Hunger.
- James Cramer shared that most of our local food pantries and soup kitchens are conducting a survey to see what foods people want to eat. The intent is to make a variety of nutritious foods available. They will share the results once the surveys have been completed.
- Summer Meals Blitz will be on June 16.

### Witnesses to Hunger Update

- They are focusing on which programs and issues they want to tackle

- Funding is important so that they can provide transportation, child care, and food to those who attend their meetings. United Way has been a great support in helping them get funding.
- Their next meeting is on Saturday, May 19 at the Wilson Library from 12:00-1:30 pm (meeting open to all)
- Carlah Bragg from Cornell Scott shared that their meeting is on the same day as the Hill Neighborhood Festival. Parking may be limited. She also offered to share their meeting times on Cornell Scott's social media page to spread the word.

#### "Stir the Pot" Potluck Series Update

- At our last Stir the Pot, Mark Firla spoke about the history of NHFPC's involvement on summer meals advocacy. He spoke about the work around the Summer Meals Blitz.
- Reading of articles related to "Feed the Resistance".
- Austin shared that they are working with libraries to get copies of the book.
- Arts Paper & Daily Nutmeg will be writing about our last Stir the Pot.
- Next date will be in the NHFPC newsletter
- There was positive feedback about the locations changing.
- If you know of a location/topic you'd like to speak about in the months coming, contact Austin.

#### BoE Meeting & Supper Service in the NHPS

- Austin shared an update that the BoE passed a resolution that created a Food Task Force to include Gail, 2 students, 2 teachers, & 2 food advocates.
- Next meeting is May 7th.

#### Annual Meeting

- Tentative for May 8<sup>th</sup> in the evening sometime between 5:30-8:30 pm.
- Will be open to interested individuals, affiliated organizations.
- Information to RSVP will be included in the weekly NHFPC newsletter.

#### New Business:

- Wage Theft- Austin has been attending ULA meetings. ULA is already doing work around wage theft. Wage theft deals with anti-racism, immigrant rights, and restaurant work. A lot of local restaurants aren't following the law. Contact Austin if you're interested in getting more involved with this.
- Austin is thinking about starting a wage theft/labor working group.

### Official Responses and or Recommendations from Previous Meeting

- Austin to share the requirements for becoming a NHFPC council member:
  - Looking to fill 4 seats. Individual can be nominated by the NHFPC, self-nominated, or be nominated by the Mayor.
  - Requirements: must be a New Haven resident, can't serve on the same commission for more than 9 years, & can't serve on any other city commission. More than 2/3 of councils can't be from the same political party.
  - If anyone is interested the council would be happy to write a letter please contact Austin.

### Action Items

N/A

**Meeting adjourned at 9:42 am**

### **Meetings:**

Policy Advancement Committee: Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 AM at mActivity

FAWG: Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup>, 12:00 PM at United Way

Next Food Policy Council Meeting – Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM