

Food Policy Task Force Meeting Minutes

February 19th 2014

Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks

Meeting called to order by Nikki Highsmith Vernick, CEO of Horizon Foundation, at 9:05 am and welcomed taskforce members to today's meeting. Ms. Vernick gave an overview of Horizon Foundation's work in Howard County and then introduced Kelly Dudeck, Howard County Food Policy Director.

Taskforce Member Introductions

Ms. Dudeck reintroduces the Howard County government officials that are ex-officio on the taskforce then introduces the workgroup chairs. The rest of the taskforce members introduce themselves.

Overview of Taskforce and Timeline

Kelly Dudeck introduces Elizabeth Kromm, Policy Director from the Office of the County Executive, and Joshua Feldmark, Director of Environmental Sustainability, to give an overview of the Taskforce's current mandate and timeline. Ms. Kromm notes that the taskforce currently will meet for one year and has a cross section of individuals touched by the food system. Mr. Feldmark remarks on the three goals of the taskforce (economic vitality, public health, and environmental sustainability).

Goals of the Taskforce

Ms. Dudeck introduces Larry Twele, Nikki Highsmith Vernick, and Joshua Feldmark to discuss outcomes for the taskforce. Mr. Twele discusses the economic development outcomes the taskforce should be focusing on, including the economic sustainability of local farmers. Ms. Vernick highlights the public health outcomes that will need to be considered to meet the vision of "All people having access to, and are consuming healthy, affordable, locally-grown food. Mr. Feldmark goes over the environmental outcomes to meet the vision of "having a diverse and resilient food system that protects our cultural, ecological, and economic assets.

Overview of Food Policy in Howard County

Kelly Dudeck gives a brief introduction of her role with regards to Food Policy in Howard County. Ms. Dudeck then presented on the current state of Food Policy in Howard County. After the presentation, Ms. Dudeck introduced Greg Heller, President and CEO of American Communities Trust, to give an overview of food based projects across the country.

National Food Projects

Greg Heller briefly overviews American Communities Trust's role with Howard County and projects in ACT's current/past portfolio. Mr. Heller then gives a presentation on different food projects happening across the country including kitchen incubators (CropCircle Kitchen), workforce development programs (DC Central Kitchen), and aggregation/distribution centers

for regional food (Common Market Philadelphia). Mr. Heller mentions that these types of projects should be discussed as part of the physical infrastructure for Howard County's food economy.

Mobile Market Projects

Greg Heller introduces James Johnson-Piatt, Principal at Urbane Development, to discuss different solutions to healthy food access. Mr. Johnson-Piatt covers the projects of implementing local, healthy product into current corner/convenience stores and other models of food delivery including mobile farmer's markets.

Howard County Initiatives

Kelly Dudeck discusses current initiatives that are underway in Howard County to enhance the food economy, including a mobile market and food hub. She asks for the workgroups to discuss these projects and add input into the goals/outcomes they should meet.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.