



PIKES PEAK REGION FOOD POLICY ADVISORY BOARD

Mission:

Foster a healthy and resilient local food system that contributes to economic vitality, healthy food access and environmental sustainability in Colorado Springs and El Paso County.

Meeting Minutes

704 E. Boulder, 80903

City of Colorado Springs Sustainacenter Conference Room

March 2, 2018

8:30 - 10:30 am

Board members present: Megan Andreozzi / Johnathan Shankland / Clarissa Dominguez / Joanna Zaremba

Staff members present: Sabrina Cotta

Guests present: Sean Svette / Zac Chapman / Michele Ritchie / Erika Liljestrand / Aubrey Day

1. **Call to Order** – Megan called to order at 8:30 am.
2. **Public Comments** – Zac said he is ramping up programs around food production and would like to engage with the board.
3. **Report on Policy** – Sabrina gave an update on the Bee ordinance and said it is official. Working with other boards for recommendation and showing up at the process was important to its success.
4. **Report on Event** – Sean gave an overview of how the Foodshed Forum on 2/24/18 at UCCS. Over 50 people attended. Morning presentation was from Rebecca Jewett from the Palmer Land Trust about their work to preserve irrigated farmland in the Arkansas Valley. Participants engaged in open discussion about Market Access, Food Access, Food Policy, Food Literacy, Venetucci Farm. Currently, they are processing the notes, surveys and information to put them all in a digital format. They are excited to keep the conversation moving and keep people in touch. Joanna brought up the trend consistently heard that turnover is staff hurts local food. Sean suggested asking the question what is this without me similar to a job description.

1. **Food Literacy Discussion:** Food Literacy group discussed a possible fall event at the What If Festival. The website for the forum is close to going up. Food Literacy also discussed the possibility of a fall Food Forum event having a focus of connecting farmers to institutions. Sean talked about a personal invitation being the best way to connect with people. Michele said the Food Literacy Group also talked about trying to engage institutions with farmers and opening up ways to connect farmers to facilitate them selling to institutions. Some of the farmers talked about restaurants claiming that their food is locally sourced when it is not. How can we legitimize this? The avenue may be talking to the farmer. Joanna mentioned that we talked about this as well in previous meetings. Sean said maybe the Local Food Working group could work on this, and perhaps if they become a 501C3 so we can apply for grant funding. Megan did the 501C3 application for the Local Food Working Group, but there is some uncertainty about whether it was turned in and maintained. Megan will find out the status. Sean wasn't sure if the status was under Pike Peak Permaculture. Michelle brought up that 501C3 will bring legitimacy with some grants. Additionally, Sean has a note to include water in all literacy going forward.
2. **Food Access Discussion:** Zac defined food access as regionally produced food that is accessible for low-income populations. Action Step: 1) Partner with Care & Share for a successful gleaning operation. CSFR already has Fresh Food Connect for backyard growers who overproduce. Had 45 gardeners sign up. Arkansas Valley farms are the challenge. Perhaps they can partner with Care & Share with a wide volunteer base to mobilize to drive down and pick food in the fields. 2) Also expand double up SNAP access. They are applying for an EBT reader and pilot a small-scale CSA buying site at main Hillside neighborhood site. Double up SNAP is likely to be cut at the federal level this year, but Livewell and some other organizations are working on finding funding at the State level. His takeaway from Rebecca's is more small-scale gardens in the city instead of lawns and educate people about the Ark Valley and supporting it. He's been thinking about the rural/urban connection.
3. **Policy:** Joanna said Rebecca's water presentation showed a map of land with previously irrigated land in Crowley County and talked about the history and what happened as well as the concerns with Pueblo buying water rights in the Arkansas valley. She suggested Rebecca come and give this presentation to our board.
 1. Ideas from Forum Policy Discussion for Comprehensive Policy Plan
 2. Increase number of animals allowed, possibly tiered with lot size
 3. Unlimited rain barrels (Michele said this is determined at state level)
 4. City-wide composting program
 1. Zac is doing a feasibility study on residential composting based on the Scraps Mile High model with a larger scale composting bin. He said he would reach out to Craig Johnson and Mercedes Perez-Whitman about helping.
 5. Dual Use Parkland

6. Targeted Landscaping with Pollinators, native plants, etc.
 7. School Gardens
 8. Pollinator Right of Ways (Craig Johnson, Judith Rice-Jones wanted to help)
 1. Michelle said part of I70 was converted into a pollinator highway.
 2. Sabrina suggested the Adopt a Median program might be low hanging fruit and we could make those plants native and pollinators.
 9. No Styrofoam in Restaurants/No plastic shopping bags
 10. Reduce Farm Stand Ordinance Fee
 11. Require Xeriscaping (low water use) in New Developments
 12. Green Meeting Guidelines
 1. Judith said at the Food Forum she would send UCCS' guidelines.
 2. Sabrina will send out the city's Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Information
 13. Soil Testing before planting edibles on City Property (group said this would be costly)
 14. Farmer's Market Labeling/Requirements
 15. Tiered Water Use--Lower rate for Backyard Gardeners (Johnathan's suggestion. Sean said PPUG has community gardens on Tier 1 rate.
 16. Agritainment Support at City Level
 17. Only using Organic Pesticides in Parks
 18. County/City Goat herd to control weeds/fire mitigation, etc.
5. **Discussion on Topic** – Sabrina suggested two options for how to proceed with with the comprehensive food policy plan. 1) We can look through city code and see what changes we have. 2) We can look at practices of city practices, not code and recommend to council that parks adopt these policies around. The process would basically be the same for an El Paso County comprehensive food policy plan. She's working on keeping us in the loop about things going on. She wants all of the boards to get better at getting involved with other things going on like SmartCOS—water conservation. We could look for comparable cities again and compile what they policies they have on specific topics. Sean said there may be some support from UCCS students in the fall. Aubrey said El Paso County applied for a grant with Colorado Springs Health Foundation to have funding to do a policy audit. If they get the grant, they could have the policy audit done by the end of the year. Zoning was initially a big deal for environment. Aubrey is our official liason to the El Paso County Public Health Department. Sabrina will take the themes from PlanCOS, strategic plan and notes from minutes and group everything into pieces to want to wait for the policy audit and what will be non-code policy change. Part of the process may be inviting parks to come in and having them present to us--an education component with direct info from departments. Maybe they come and present for 20 minutes and then we have discussion afterward. Joanna suggested we keep inviting people from different organizations/experts to have them come in. Megan suggested we could also each meet with groups/people individually and report back to the board.

6. **Discussion on Topic** – Joanna brought up the question of how to educate the FPAB on the issues it needs to know about. Megan suggested asking Zac and Michele keep us informed about community needs as well as. Inviting groups in to talk to us and educate us about issues of concern. Joanna also proposed that the board and local food advocates shift to a more positive tone when discussing local food issues, highlighting the good and growing it instead of only focusing on what isn't working. She said she believes more people will want to get involved if we intentionally shift our tone.

7. **Discussion on Topic** – Joanna said Adrienne Larrew asked about the details of El Paso County's new Agritainment Development Code Change. Aubrey said she would find out more for her. Action Plan: Develop a comprehensive local food plan to bring to City Council to be adopted. Johnathan suggested looking at our mission and at PlanCOS will make it easy for us to move forward.

8. **Discussion on Topic** –Clarissa talked to the owner of the composting business but it is on hold because he is getting deployed. She's going to try to talk to him to find out more.

9. **Discussion on Topic** –Sabrina updated the group that now there is Smart water technology in all the parks. Water budget doesn't have the amount water to meet the demand.

10. **Discussion on Topic** –Megan suggested getting of events again like last year and having people sign up to get the board out in the community again. She asked about getting business cards again.

11. **Discussion on Topic** –Sean brought up how are we sharing questions and answers to questions that come up. He suggested a website called Trello as an option. Joanna suggested perhaps communication students could help take our meeting notes and put them in Trello, so we would have an easier format to build ideas upon.

12. **Discussion on Topic** – Megan and Sabrina said interviews for 3 voting and 2 non-voting board members will take place March 15th.

13. **Discussion on Topic** – May Meeting: Reviewing mission, rules and procedures. Ethics training from the City Attorney. Sabrina suggested the board consider having a structure around public comment and how long, where they sit, etc. We will wait until May meeting to adopt rules and procedures, and we will hold an election.

14. **Discussion on Topic** – Next Meeting: April 6th. Big Green will give a presentation. They have the capacity to put in 75 gardens at once. They are working to fundraise to staff gardens in the summer. www.biggreen.org Erika will talk about developing a communication plan for the board at the next meeting. We will decide technology we use and what platform will we will use. Sabrina noted only two board members maximum can communicate via email or the email is considered a meeting.

15. **Upcoming Events** –Sustainafest: April 14th, 12-6 pm at the Sustainacenter. Joanna suggested we share a table with UCCS. Megan suggested the board split up the day and take turns manning the table.

16. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.