



**General Membership Meeting
November 29, 2016 9-10:30am**

Chair: Heather Manzo, Penn State Extension

Attendees: Dan Dalton (PASA), Dawn Plummer (PFPC), Dora Walmsley (PFPC), Hanna Ridge (Ethical Farming Fund), Jason Beery (UrbanKind Institute), Jonathan Raviotta (Pitt School of Medicine), Julie Block (PFPC), Karlin Lamberto (PFPC), Kate Safin (EEFC), Ken Regal (Just Harvest), Marisa Manheim (Grow Pittsburgh), Marlene van Es (Trellis Legal), Meghan Scanlon (Interested Citizen), Mim Seidel (Chatham University), Sarah Baranskas (PFPC), Tom Samilson (Community Kitchen Pittsburgh), Cynthia Caul (DHS Immigrants & Internationals Initiative), Ron Gaydos (Pittsburgh Chamber of Cooperatives), Julie Pezzino (Grow Pittsburgh), Julie Hagan (Interested Citizen), Cindy Javor (Penn State Extension), Emily Schmidlapp (Interested Citizen), Helen Gerhardt (Just Harvest), Stephanie Boddie (GL/Oasis Foods Bible Center), Gavin Deming (WPC/Ballfield Farm), Heather Manzo (Penn State Extension), Felecia Bute (FMB & Associates), Jennifer England (412 Food Rescue), Madeline Sheinfeld (Chatham University), Henry Pyatt (City of Pittsburgh), Redding Jackson (Women for a Healthy Environment), Marcus Houser (PPS/Freight Farm)

- **Welcome & Introductions (Heather, Manzo, 5 minutes, chair)**
- **Partner Presentations (5-10 min)**
 - *Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center, Eleanor Neuman (Allegheny County)*
 - <http://www.wprdc.org/>
 - Eleanor: Data Center is Collaboration between County, City, and University of Pittsburgh. Data Center has been discussing opportunities to partner with PFPC on collecting data on regional food.
 - Core concept: When working across issues that impact large system, open sharing creates common language and awareness around current initiatives.
 - Eleanor opened question-- should PFPC publish as an umbrella organization, or should individual organizations publish on their own?
 - Dawn commented that working groups have been discussing what the data needs are.
 - Eleanor elaborated on process, if you want to be a publisher, you go through [Bob Gradeck](#), Project Manager at Pitt or Eleanor (Eleanor.Newman@AlleghenyCounty.US). All content is published in map or spreadsheet format
 - Mim asked for clarity on who is responsible for integrity of information. Eleanor confirmed accuracy of information is the responsibility of publisher. If PFPC is publisher, there would need to be alignment on the content presented.
 - Julie asked benefit of PFPC being publishing body, Dawn commented that the benefit is it gives policymakers a central hub to solicit information from, although Dawn raised concerns about whether PFPC has capacity to support.
 - Eleanor commented that if PFPC decentralizes publishing (individual organizations instead of PFPC as a whole), information could still be pulled together under a "food data group" to help consolidate information.

- **Local partnerships:** PFPC is looking at the connections between Equitable Development and Accessible Housing through the lens of the Food System to identify root cause issues and foster collaboration.
- **State/Regional Network Updates:** Dawn shared ideas that have been discussed in Farm To School network across the state, including Philadelphia using Farmers Markets to serve Summer Meals
- **Steering Committee Update (Julie Butcher Pezzino, 5 minutes)**
 - Julie reported that the primary discussion in last Steering Committee meeting was around Guiding Principles, which the SC reviewed and approved.
 - Upcoming discussions include organizational structure and relationship with host institute
- **Working Group Reports (5-7 minutes each)**
 - **Regional Food Economy** (Stephanie Boddie, Co-chair)
 - Two primary goals: better understand workforce (people who bring food to table) as well as food procurement.
 - Interns have been evaluating information on workforce development to identify opportunities to support farmers and food workers
 - For procurement, working group looks to universities for information on how to understand and improve process of food procurement.
 - **Urban Agriculture** (Marisa Manheim, Co-chair)
 - Goal is to understand role Urban Ag can play in a more sustainable food system. Over last 6mo, working to set policy priorities.
 - Priorities came from conversations with key stakeholders in several Pittsburgh neighborhoods.
 - Learned: everyone wants to meet each other and collaborate farmer:farmer, so prioritizing intentional education around issues.
 - To help promote education, the working group will develop quarterly gatherings to share education, promote networking, and draw larger support group to advocate for policy initiatives.
 - Topics for education: {soil remediation and testing, land tenure, compost and economic opportunities}. Additionally, equitable development is considered and woven into all topics.
 - [<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/3420/text>]
 - Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW): food activists & farm workers calling on large food purchasers (i.e. Walmart, Whole Foods) to support fair food, and wages for food systems workers. CIW is in town this week and holding the following public events:
 - Movie produced by CIW called 'Food Chains' being screened at Duquesne University tonight at 8:00pm → panel discussion to follow
 - Meet to picket at Wendy's in Lawrenceville tomorrow, 11/30 at 4:00pm.
 - **Food & Health Equity** (Erika Fricke, Co-chair)
 - (Helen): Working Group Priorities:
 - Summer Food: observed summer food sites this summer to collect surveys through County on getting kids access to Summer Food to understand how to increase participation.
 - Dawn: one key takeaway is that activities promote participation, but can be challenging to create, so there's an opportunity to improve

- Helen noted all surveys were returned to county so original information was not accessible, however there's a summary of PFPC information that will be shared.
- School Food:
 - Harvard School Food Report: The action group here would love your participation!
 - Dawn: Several PFPC members are attending [School Food Focus National Gathering](#) in Atlanta this December.
- Working to develop definition of “healthy” for both the PFPC and federal government request for feedback
- Water access is an ongoing topic of conversation, with no concrete plans yet.
- **Committee Reports--all are welcome to join these committees.**
 - **Governance Committee** (Mim Seidel, Co-Chair, 10 minutes)
 - Presentation of key components of governance proposal on PFPC Guiding Principles
 - Process of developing guiding principles: Committee started in early May (Mim Seidel of Chatham, Terry Smith of M-Powerhouse are co, chairs, Marisa Manheim of Grow Pittsburgh, Tom Melton of Food Bank, Cindy Javor of Penn State Extension, Dawn and Dora PFPC staff), Goal of developing guiding principles is to clarify organizational structure
 - **Membership structure:** three tiers of membership:
 - **Supporting Member:** interested members of food system & community who want to stay informed.
 - **Collaborating Member:** participate in working group or committee
 - **Steering Committee:** recommending expansion to 15 stakeholders in food system to give broad & diverse representation. This group will be responsible for making decisions when a vote is necessary.
 - **Next Steps:** *This will be shared, and questions and feedback will be welcome before this is finalized!!*
 - Guiding Principles will be complemented by a Values Statement and definitions addendum that will outline key values for the organization.
 - Members will hear more about voting process for Steering Committee by mid-December so that the new Steering Committee will be in place in early 2017.
 - **Questions & Comments:**
 - Helen asked for clarification on whether SC meetings would be in person or over phone, Dawn clarified priority would be in person.
 - Dawn commented that there's still discussion around meeting frequency that will be clarified
 - Cindy noted there was a lot of research, thought, and collaboration that went into development.
 - **Fundraising Committee** (Ken Regal)
 - Funding needs are to cover staff support.
 - Discussing funding opportunities with Hillman Foundation, Sampson Foundation, Claneil Foundation, Heinz Foundation, Pittsburgh Foundation, and if awarded may provide contracted services on a New Sun Rising grant they are submitting to the USDA Community Food Projects RFA
 - **Communications Committee (Dora Walmsley, 5 minutes)**

- 2017 Calendar, reminders and RSVP's: please participate in Doodle Pools as they come up! We advance plan as much as possible to ensure full participation in meetings.
 - Dora noted that we're partnering with John Hopkins Center for Livable Future for member evaluation tool to optimize communication methods and meeting frequency
 - [Food Day Report Out](#): PFPC participated in national event through large Sunday Supper event in downtown Pittsburgh with a free meal to connect civic engagement with food systems.
 - Summary of impact: Over 500 registrations, more than 6,000 impressions on Social Media, 54 zip codes represented, and more great attention (outlined in link above)
 - Julie extended thanks & congratulations to Dawn & Dora for their work on the event. Dora extended thanks to Innamo Co, City Council, and all volunteers & collaborators.
 - Stay tuned for a full report out!
- **Attending Member Updates**
 - Hannah Ridge, Update from Ethical Farming Fund who recently received a USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program Grant for their Local Food Chains Project
 - Heather asked what could be the best way to support and participate, and Hannah mentioned success of grant is measured by local food pledge, which she encourages members to participate in.
 - Hannah clarified that not all farmers have been identified, and there is opportunity for more to join & participate.
 - [12/6, 5:30-9pm Pittsburgh Chamber of Cooperatives Holiday Meet-Up](#)
 - Chamber of Cooperatives is celebrating its first year, and inviting community to support and attend (Future Tenant Gallery in Cultural District, info through link above)
- **Announcements**
 - 12/2, 9-12:30 Climate Action Plan Workshop - Email Karrah Beck at karrah.beck@pittsburghpa.gov
 - 3/5-7, 2017 [Anti Hunger Policy Conference](#)
 - 11/30 [UpPrize Submission Deadline](#) - BNY Mellon, Bridgeway Capital, & Forbes Funds come together for social innovation. More info through link to submit your idea!
 - StudioMe video recording resource
- **Upcoming Events**
 - 11/29 #GivingTuesday
 - 12/1 [Homewood Children's Village Community Dinner](#)
 - 12/13 [GPNP Public Policy Committee Meeting](#)
 - 1/21 [19th Annual Summit Against Racism](#)
- **Job Announcements**
 - [Allegheny Co. Economic Dev. Business Development Coordinator](#)
 - [Susquehanna, Extension Educator \(Agriculture Business Development & Entrepreneurship\)](#)
 - [Monroe Co. Extension Education \(Sustainable Agriculture & Entrepreneurship\)](#)

Get Involved! Join a Working Group or Committee!

- WORKING GROUP SIGN UPS - Google Group Instruction:
 - Food Access & Health: pfpcfah_wg@googlegroups.com
 - Regional Food Economy: pfpcrfe_wg@googlegroups.com
 - Urban Agriculture: pfpcurbanagwg@googlegroups.com