



Hamilton

**MINUTES
COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY STAKEHOLDER
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

4:00 p.m., The Hayloft

Dundurn Castle

610 York Blvd., Hamilton

Present: Liz Shaver-Heeney, Robert Clackett, Vicki Edwards, Karen Burson, Ursula Samuels, Maciej Kowalski, Sarah Wakefield, Simon Taylor, Judi Childs, Carolyn Cade, Tabaruk Jahan, Angela Parle, Emma Cubitt, Melanie Golba

**Absent with
Regrets:** Susan Coverdale, Councillor McHattie, Brian Kreps, Tina Moffat, Adam Watson, Councillor Pasuta, Russell Ohrt, Councillor Bratina

Also Present:

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA AND WELCOME

Introductions were made. Sarah welcomed Robert Clackett from Planning and Economic Development and Ursula Samuels from Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability.

Additions to agenda: 5.5 Research Opportunities

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Mover/Seconder)

3.1 Approval of March 4 minutes were deferred until May meeting.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Subcommittee Reports

Enhancing Food Access and Services

- Committee held its first meeting, chaired by Brian Kreps.
- Topics discussed: community gardens, work with poverty issues, drop-in centre groups, working with faith groups, waste production and composting, good food boxes, importance of place-based approaches (i.e., do not want people to have to travel far for food), mapping which areas have a wealth of food access and which have fewer food resources available in the area (possibility of working with City GIS department), community gardens, the possibility of enhancing the food access guide to show more areas where food is available
- Brian reported on McQueston Community Centre's work to increase food access in their neighbourhood

Food Policy Subcommittee

- notes from the subcommittee meeting were circulated.
- Four policy targets were suggested:
 1. Development of a community-wide *Food Report Card*
 2. Establishment of *Community Gardens*: at least one garden in each city ward on city land where there is interest and support for one.
 3. Establishment of *Neighborhood Produce Stands* where there is interest and support for one
 4. Development of a "*Buy Local*" policy (will require a plan, marketing strategy)
- the subcommittee asked for feedback on which initiatives the CFSSC as a whole would like to see pursued.

Discussion regarding above subcommittee reports:

- Farmers' markets – city has approved a feasibility study for the Ancaster farmers market. City is concerned that there are not enough farmers now to service all the needs/requests for farmers markets. Karen Burson will bring more information back re feasibility study.
- Robert Clackett will report back regarding zoning for food stores, particularly in low income areas.
- Discussion evolved around how the CFSSC and Hamilton Community Garden Network can support each other.
- working on establishment of Community Gardens and Neighbourhood Produce stands was suggested as a way to work on the 3rd stage of the food security continuum. These grass roots initiatives could be connected with existing "hubs" in the city to expedite the process. Currently a community development worker at Wesley is working with four neighbourhood hubs and may be able to assist. Carolyn Cade will ask him to contact the CFSSC.
- the Buy Local policy target was discussed in terms of institutional procurement. MUSH (municipal, university, schools and hospital sector) are large purchasers of food. A target of purchasing a certain percentage of local food could be set for these sectors.

- The City has s identified legal difficulties regarding a buy local food policy.
- some institutions (e.g., non profit day cares) would not have an issue with buy in but will have an issue with the budget. If there is a way these organizations can be subsidized, it would help them buy local produce.

Infrastructure Subcommittee

- Food Terminal: Consultant, George Morris Centre, has been hired to carry out Phase 1 of the feasibility study.

Education and Outreach

- Meeting is planned for next week
- In the interim, Simon Taylor has accessed Healthy Living Hamilton's Do It Well (www.doitwell.ca) web page and will be using it to communicate
- Display that was developed for Green Communities Conference is available to use
- Vicki will email display posters to CFSSC members
- It was suggested that information on display be formatted into a pamphlet design
- Sarah asked each subcommittee to have a look at the wording describing their mandate and provide feedback to Vicki before pamphlet is developed

5.2 Launch Committee Report

- Launch is planned for April 30
- A media release will be distributed to all media outlets on April 14
- Everyone was asked to distribute the flyer through electronic mailing list
- If anyone needs hard copies, please let Vicki know
- Five panelists will be present; Councillor Pasuta will moderate
- Vicki has advised speakers to speak about their efforts to develop a local and sustainable food system for Hamilton
- There will be opportunity for audience to ask some questions, but it will not be an open forum (hopefully one or more will be organized in future.)

5.3 Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

Potential speakers previously discussed:

- someone from Emergency Preparedness Committee
- city planner re food
- Poverty Round Table representative
- food wholesaler
- Wayne Roberts
- Paul Finklestein
- Peter Catona
- Katherine Pigott
- Mark Zareb
- Jeff Krump

- Debbie Field, Toronto Food Share
- Christian Gleaners representative
- Brendan Moher, Halton Good Food Box
- Lori Stahlbrand, Local Food Plus
- Grant Robertson, from National Farmers' Union

- It was suggested that we ask Candice Wormsbecker from Waterloo to speak about community gardens at either May or June meeting.
- Suggestions for fall meetings: Debbie Field and Lori Stahlbrand
- After discussion, it was decided that speakers will be invited to every second meeting. Public will be encouraged to attend meetings at which speakers are present.

5.4 Applications for Membership

- Have received official go-ahead to fill remaining vacant spaces.
- Robert Clackett from City Planning has joined the committee as the planning representative
- Vacancies are for the following sectors: agricultural, food industry, emergency food service providers and those directly experiencing food insecurity (NB - Ursula Samuels from CAW is serving as an interim representative until the application process is completed, at which point she will be officially added to the committee)
- Recruitment letter will be distributed at the launch. Application deadline is May 15.

5.5 Research Opportunities

There is opportunity for Sarah to recruit student research assistants this summer through the University of Toronto to work on projects related to the CFSSC committee or subcommittees. Students will get course credit for the work they do. Any potential project ideas must be forwarded to Sarah within the next week; can be one large task or a series of smaller related tasks but must be research related

Sarah is currently doing research on perceptions of local food in Hamilton. Stage 1 involved interviewing farmers. Julie Fleming has completed her thesis and it will be available soon. The project will also include research on the perceptions of retailers and local consumers. Sarah is considering working with hub neighbourhoods as identified by Hamilton Community Foundation. A research assistant for this project will be starting soon. The project will involve community-based processes (ie, events) to collect data, which hopefully can support the goals of the CFSSC.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION & OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Karen Burson shared information on the following:

- poster for *The Food and Climate Change* event with Dr. Wayne Roberts, on May 5. Please distribute.
- Karen will send link to a BBC film called *A Farm in the Future*.

- Karen will also send link to the Planners event at the RBG at which she will be speaking.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Carolyn Cade/ Melanie Golba)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

CARRIED