

Triangle Region Food Council Networking Call

June 19, 2017

Agenda

Purpose: The goal of the call is to share goals, successes, challenges, and ideas with triangle region food council leaders.

Attendees: Neal Curran (DFFN), Megan Bolejack (Community Food Strategies), Gini Knight (Community Food Strategies), Ashley Heger (OCFC), Andy Petisch (CAFN), Beth Hopping, Rochelle (DFFN), Kimmetha (Johnston Co Farm & Food Council)

3:00-3:10 Welcome and Introductions

- Neil, DFFN
- Ashley, OCFC, Council Coordinator
- Andy, Capital Area Food Network, President
- Beth, DFFN
- Rochelle Sparko, DFFN, CFSA
- Kimetha, Johnston Farm & Food Council
- Gini, Community Food Strategies

3:10-3:40 Updates

Share any successes or challenges that you are having as council.

- Kimmetha (Johnston Co) - Not a lot of activity, particularly for summer time. Don't have one designated person in charge organizing or leading the council. A challenge - getting farmers on board and involved; overall recruitment
- Rochelle (Durham Farm & Food Network) - Coordinating Council meets regularly; received a \$5K grant from Burt's Bees; grant application in with Triangle Community Foundation to pay for fall Candidate's Forum; Natural Resources Action Circle - working with community gardens and backyard growers to connect with food pantries;
- Beth (DFFN) - Differing to other DFFN members
- Andy - Completed a Wake County Food Security Plan in collaboration with Wake County and Community Food Lab; County has sponsored CAFN in having a AmeriCorps Vista (our first employee!! And full time) working on implementing Food Security Plan and coordination of CAFN activities; Held a broad membership meeting (try for 3x/year) for folks that are interested in being involved, used 'speed dating'; Fundraising is a challenge, particularly to implement food access work; working together filing for 501c3 status, a food bank is their fiscal sponsor until that happens; limited resources and time are still a challenge in getting the work done; trying to build on successes on one area to feed into other areas
- Ashley (Orange County Food Council) - Just hit 1 year; recruiting 3 new council members; hoping to have them by Aug/Sep; Working on short-term and long-term goals

and document to explain who and what they are; Work Groups: Food Access & Local Food Economy topics; becoming more active as a council and working to promote the group more, getting involved in festivals and other activities; Indy Week writer reached out about urban food policies - if anyone has other ideas, please share.

- Neil (Durham Farm & Food Network) - Since March, we've done some personnel shifts, also due to challenges with time commitments, etc; Received another grant to work with food pantries to have more resources, be a 'one-stop' shop to serve client needs; working with Jared Cates to come up with policy priorities, local policy action that they can easily take on; County Commissioners interested in establishing a Food Policy Commission, so DFFN is doing some more research around what that means and potential value
- Community Food Strategies -
 - [Race Equity Webinar Series](#), co-hosted by Care Share Health Alliance; we're hosting watch parties for these series: June 26, Race Matters; Jul 10; Jul 31; Aug 14 - [Health Equity in Action – Case Studies from the Carolinas](#)
 - Statewide gathering - Nov 30 and Dec 1, at [WinMock](#), outside of Winston Salem - save the date coming out soon. 2-3 folks from each council to hopefully attend. CFS has funding to help.

3:40-3:50 Q & A

- Urban Farmers and Homesteaders Policy - Triangle Area - connected with Anya Gordon, Irregardless Cafe; Andy will suggest - [Sweet Peas Urban Garden](#), micro greens operation in Raleigh;
- Tips for outreach for recruiting new members - Targeting to fill three holes in the council, retail, producer. Also recruiting for work groups, particularly for team leads.
 - Ashley can share one-page write up.
 - CAFN has 6 - 7 different action circles; possibly having the speed dating or creating some engagement with attendees at meetings
- How Action Circles are led, particularly for CAFN's 6 - 7 circles: Coordinating Circle (AKA Board, management and key communication), all other circles have at least two people from the Coordinating Circle to report back and forth; Each circle has a leader, maintaining records, etc
 - Andy would be happy to share by-laws, structure based on dynamic governance.
 - It's a challenge to hold 6-7 circles.
- Frequency of Coordinating Councils and Work Group meetings -
 - DFFN - both meet monthly
 - Andy - Coordinating Circle - monthly, Circles - frequency depends, varies from more than once/month to every other month
 - OCFC - Currently main council (13 members) meets monthly, as well as work groups meet monthly.
 - Johnston - currently meeting every month, but energy is dwindling, so they may start to meet less frequently
 - Difficult to find balance to keep momentum and avoid burnout

Next Steps

- Community Food Strategies will send Save the Date for Statewide Gathering, Nov 30 - Dec 1
- Megan - share webinar flyer
- Andy - share by-laws, and reach out to Sweet Peas
- Ashley - share one-pager about membership recruitment

3:50- 4:00 Closing

Neil, Ashley, Andy, Beth, Rochelle, Kimmetha

What worked well

- Like hearing where everyone is at, and what each council is doing
- All works well - having an order, updates, and free conversation
- Continuing to share information

What could be improved

- Possibly less on updates, maybe having one specific group presenting more on a topic
- Possibly have a newsletter or google group to share info between these calls
 - Inclined to try an email list of sorts to share information; and could have an opportunity for capacity building as a group
- Could use this more as a resource hour
- Could we talk about ways of collaborating as a region

A specific topic

- Helpful to hear more about specific policy initiatives
- Share/brainstorm specific strategies

Thanks everyone for participating!