

# **Pasco County Food Policy Advisory Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

March 09, 2016 @ 10:00am – 12:00am

Type of Meeting: Regular Meeting

Location: 8731 Citizens Dr, New Port Richey, FL 34655 BOCC Board Room

Meeting Facilitator: Travis Morehead

FPAC Members: Lester Cypher, Dell deChant, Dr. Whitney Elmore, Fanchone Gude, Susan Hoeller, Deanna Krautner, Jeff Write, and Susan Zanatta

Facilitator: Todd Engala, MURP, Pasco County Long Range Planning, Planner II

- I. Call to order: Mr. Morehead called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.
- II. Roll call: Quorum Established – Susan Hoeller and Susan Zanatta absent from meeting.
- III. Approval of minutes from last meeting: The minutes were unanimously approved on motion made by Mr. DeChant and seconded by Dr. Elmore.
- IV. Mission and Vision Statement: Mr. Morehead read the Mission Statement aloud.
- V. Public Comment: *No public Comment*
  - a) Open issues
    - 1) Countywide Food Assessment Update from Council
      - (a) Travis Morehead – Mentioned that much of the data we are interested in can be obtained on the Tampa Bay to End Hunger web page.
      - (b) Dr. Whitney Elmore – Update on list of producers continues to be a work in progress, information obtained on current list through tax appraiser’s office, USDA and personal list. Findings and summary to date include: lack of diversity of crops; not much food production; a lot of Pasco’s agriculture production is not for human consumption; we have specialty items like kumquats and corn for fish food. Todd mentioned that 13% of Pasco is agricultural land unsure how much of that is considered swamp land, this might be able to be determined with tax appraiser information. Todd expressed concern over producers not wanting their names out on a public list. Incentives could also help address this.
      - (c) Dr. Whitney Elmore noted that significant change is needed to achieve more diverse crops. The citrus industry is creating some of this change. Different cropping methods are needed to diversify and will allow producers to hang on to their property. Incentives for this will require future discussion. Producers have needs related to distribution of their product and creating an interest in local production.
      - (d) **Motion:** Dell deChant motioned for our council to advocate for incentives

necessary to create needed changes.

**Second:** Dr. Elmore

**Discussion:** Fanchone Gude noted that locally most of our produce goes someplace else. Our citrus and blueberries go out of county for processing. Incentives could improve this. Dr. Elmore agreed that many steps are needed to connect producers with processors and distributors. Gude also noted that labor is also challenging to find – out of county processors often bring staff into the county to collect. Dr. Elmore noted an agricultural labor shortage and that private public partnerships are needed to help. Gave example of using jail inmates as pickers and getting incentives for producers. Gude noted that employee regulations and publicity can create problems. Dr. Elmore suggested a resolution in favor of advocacy for producers, processors and education to include incentives. Dell deChant suggested all parts of the system need to be advocated for to bring all steps back into Pasco.

**Vote:** All in favor - Motion Carried

- (e) Food System Analysis – Caitlyn Peacock for Tampa Bay to End Hunger suggesting starting with a pilot. She stated they pilot smaller scale with one producer, one market at a time. Offered to help foster local relationships to educate and get stakeholders on board and bring them to the table. Gave additional example of piloting healthy options at a corner store. Indicated that on their web site specific to analysis are data specific to farmers markets, snap vendors, emergency food outlets, school meals, WIC data sets available. Travis Morehead suggested Lester and Caitlyn talk regarding potential pilots and asked Caitlyn to participate in Board presentation. Also suggested a work group be created to complete the analysis.
- (f) Dr. Elmore mentioned model programs for incentivizing businesses for putting community gardens in developments. A location is already breaking ground in Dade City and location hopes to hire a staff member, the producer is willing to help and will provide partial support for funding of staff. Caitlyn mentioned the Healthy Food Financing Bill that is being considered for profit businesses to include forgivable loans and decreased interest loans. Del DeChant asked if member could be kept up to date on that bill.
- (g) Lester discussed lack of canneries in Pasco and suggested he is thinking about building one and is working with a location in Citrus for equipment. Lester's operations requires approximately 7-8,000 cans to keep up with what they are growing.
- (h) Travis Morehead indicated he was unable to find any processing plants in Pasco. Lester indicated he is aware of a co-op in Brooksville but believes it is for individuals to use. Guda suggested looking into neighboring counties to reduce costs associated with processing. Todd Engala suggested looking at a Metropolitan Statistical Area approach may be more productive.
- (i) Dell DeChant discussed analysis of recycling and waste and indicated the county itself use to process mulch but no longer does. Todd Engala indicated that 30% of waste at Hays Road is food or yard wasted. Dell further indicated that the City of NPR continues with mulching and has 100% re-use of the mulch and promotes the program. Bay Mulch Inc is pioneering mulch and mixing it with food waste to create fertilizer. Caitlyn is working in Hillsborough to reduce food waste and trying to recover and get to people who need it. Dell DeChant

referenced and article from National Geographic and suggested to read “Too Good to Waste”. Also noted that Eve Spangler is working with NPR and has some technology that could be useful for the process and he advocates for a pilot.

(j) Jennifer Seney Pasco County Recycling Coordinator was invited to inform the members on happenings in Pasco related to recycling. She stated Pasco does not land fill they use an incinerator to produce energy. 15% ash is created and is landfilled but they are the first to be permitted to use ash for road way lining and hope to have a zero waste result. Pasco has a free market open system for garbage collection. So each resident has a relationship with a hauler and those haulers are held to a minimum standard. Pick up at curb side 2 times per week and recycling 2 times per month. 11.6% brought in is food waste and 9% is yard waste. Seney indicated that the best place for intervention to reduce waste is at the source. Separation of garbage is not required and recycling is not required. A public/private partnership and or policy with commitment to work together to address waste is needed. The incinerator is reaching capacity. Paper and cardboard recycling at the curb would be a low hanging fruit. Looking at bio solids to produce compost and selling may be more achievable in a city environment. Seney indicated that have staff capacity for education but lack the ability to impact collection. Dr. Elmore suggested that we approach cities to come to the table as their ability to impact at the curb recycling may be easier. Seney stated that there are also issues with wet food creating more sludge in the system. She suggested the FPAC tour the plant to better understand the operations. She indicated the best place to address recycling is through the master plan for solid waste and also suggested working with cities.

(k) Deanna Krautner indicated that each of the previous discussions are parts of the assessment and need to be written up for inclusion. She volunteered to format the information provided.

- 2) Urban Agriculture Ordinance – “Garden and Community Farm Ordinance”
  - The FPAC went through the ordinance see attached draft for revisions. Todd discussed the suggestion of creating a table to reflect differences between types of gardens for easier reading. Travis Morehead said he would create that. Deanna Krautner expressed concern over the word Urban leaving out other happenings in the county. Discussion of options resulted in suggesting “Garden and Community Farm Ordinance”. Further discussion was had regarding hours of operation, general dimension, hoop house size and noise issues needing to be addresses.
  - (a) Deanna Krautner suggested incorporating mobile food truck language.

b) The next FPAC regular meeting is June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

VI. New business

- a) Workshop Scheduled – 04/13/2016
  - Garden and Community Farm Ordinance
  - Food System Analysis Outline

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.