

MINUTES OF THE
NAPA COUNTY LOCAL FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING **DRAFT**
March 16, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**

(Reminder: Audio portion of meeting is being recorded.)

The meeting was held in the Ag Comm Conference Room, 1710 Soscol Ave., Napa, CA 94559 and called to order at 4:38 p.m. by Chair Carrie Strohl.

Roll call was taken and the following council members were present:

Juliana Inman, Kristin Miller, Lizzie Moore, Karen Schuppert, Leigh Sharp and Carrie Strohl

The following council members were excused or absent:

Holly Dawson, Diane Dillon, and Robin Dunbar were excused. Lisa Bissell Paulson, Kathy DeMaggio , Jeannie Kerr and Jessica Mennella were absent.

A quorum of the Council was not established due to fewer than eight (8) members being in attendance as required by the bylaws. As a result, no action was taken on items requiring approval of the Council.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The approval of minutes was tabled until the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

3. **REVIEW OF MEETING AGENDA**

Carrie advised that the meeting was being audio recorded and that the minutes are posted online. Carrie asked for any changes, additions or input to the agenda. There was none.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

i. The Council first heard from Brent Hebb, owner of B&B Gardens. He discussed a new way of getting nutritional food to kids in schools using Freight Farms. A Freight Farm can be purchased for roughly \$82,000 each, costs about \$300 a month to run and requires only 10 gallons of water daily. The containers can pay for themselves within 2 years if grown to capacity. Juliana proposed putting this on the agenda for the next meeting. Greg reminded all to ensure inviting the right people to the next meeting to learn about these Freight Farms.

ii. Next to speak was Katie Aarons, parent and former teacher of Napa Valley Unified School District. She has been working with the District for 5 years regarding what foods the schools are serving to the children. The District has been contracting with Sodexo for 35 years and they are not serving fresh, healthy choices to the students. The District has \$339,000 in commodity credits to use for lunches per year. She named Fairfield, Vacaville, Davis, Petaluma and Sonoma as areas that all have self-operating kitchens and serve their children healthy meal choices. Napa does not have a self-operating kitchen at any of the elementary schools. Carrie suggested inviting someone from another location to learn how they are addressing this and then they will have a follow up with Katie in May regarding the Agenda.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Council Focus for 2016**

- i. The LFAC Focus for 2016 document that Greg, Joy, and Carrie created was provided. It is a result of the themes that came out of the survey taken from the last Food Council meeting. This document restates the mission, vision and goals of the Food Council as well as outlines the goals, subcommittees, activities and assigns council members to each subcommittee and activity. Carrie asked if any adjustments needed to be made to the Council Member assignments. There were none. This document will also serve as a guide as to what the report to the Board of Supervisors will contain. Carrie hopes to have a draft of this report ready for the May meeting.
- ii. Joy gave a review of the Local Foods website over the last two years. She provided a summary report for all. We are in negotiations now to extend the contract for another 2 years. The focus of the future of the website will be on driving and publicizing it more.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Napa Farmers Market Update

- i. David Layland reported on his search for a new location for the Napa Farmer's Market. He touched on sites that he looked at and the problems with each of them. Karen Schuppert assisted him in this search. After completing this search, they are recommending to the market board of directors to accept an offer by the Gasser Foundation to locate the market in the parking lot of the Century Theaters.

B. Food Council Update to the Board of Supervisors

- i. The last report of the Food Council to the Board of Supervisors was handed out for reference. Carrie asked all to review the letter and use it to help make suggestions for what to include in the next report to the Board. Lizzie suggested including things that the Food Council has done to date. Greg advised the Board will look at what changes the Food Council has made in the community and they will also want to see what the Food Council sees as possibilities for the future. Juliana thinks that the barriers encountered when trying to increase diversity of crops in Napa County should be addressed. Greg said the focus of the Food Council must be consistent with bylaws and promoting community food policy that is innovative and increases agricultural diversity.

C. Report out on assigned tasks

- i. Lizzie gave an update on the status of the Food System Assessment. She, Leigh and Julia recently had a conference call where Julia advised she is working on a draft of the scope of work that will go with the RFP for the Assessment. Juliana proposed adding a column on the LFAC Focus for 2016 handout for volunteers and community members. Lizzie added that if the Council did hire a consultant for the Assessment then the Council Members will only act as informants for this process. The vision statement of the Food Council would become the focus for the Food Assessment. The Food Assessment is a way of measuring the strength

of the food system. Julia is available to speak at the next meeting for 30 minutes to discuss what is considered a healthy food system.

- ii. Leigh and Dianne reviewed the bylaws, specifically looking at things like designated member categories, scheduling of meetings, attendance requirements, and possibly purpose of the council. Leigh reported that after review they felt the bylaws addressing member categories do not have to be adjusted, but the Council needs to do a better job with recruitment practices. Leigh proposed changes to the language regarding meetings as far as defining a quorum. Currently, the number of council members required to be in attendance to establish a quorum is set at eight (8) of the fifteen (15) total council members, regardless of whether or not there are vacancies. She suggested changing the quorum requirements to attendance by a majority of occupied council positions. Carrie feels strongly about adding attendance and participation requirements to bylaw language since currently there are no such requirements. She wants an update and draft bylaws revision presented at the next meeting.

7. **COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS**

- i. Lizzie announced the Sonoma County Food Forum meeting set for tomorrow, March 17, 2016, from 8:30-2 at Luther Burbank Center in Santa Rosa.
- ii. A discussion of the Farmers Guild Meetings took place. Lizzie advised the next meeting is Thursday, March 24th at 6:30. These are monthly meeting held at Grange Hall on Hagen Rd., Napa.
- iii. Juliana advised on an item of State Law that provides a reduced property tax for property owners who allow their property to be used for farms and gardens. The problem with the law now is that it only applies to cities with populations of 250,000+. Juliana proposes that we work to amend the law so smaller cities like Napa would be able to take advantage of this. She is willing to ask the legislators about this and will send Carrie the bill in the meantime. This will be on the next meeting agenda.
- iv. Juliana advised that the Safeway on Jefferson has a non-compete clause in their lease that precludes the property owner from leasing it to another grocery store. She suggested the Food Council draft a letter to Safeway encouraging them to waive this clause because there are other grocery stores that are willing to come in. This letter is an action that would require a vote by the Council and should be presented for action at the next meeting.
- v. Greg announced the Napa Green GMO Workshop next Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at the library.

8. **NEXT SCHEDULED SPECIAL MEETING DATE**

The next scheduled meeting is set for May 25, 2016, 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Ag Commissioner/UCCE Conference Room. The meetings following that are July 27, 2016, September 28, 2016 and November 16, 2016, all starting at 4:30 p.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m. by Carrie Strohl.

CARRIE STROHL, Chairperson

ATTEST:

LINDA KELLER, Council Secretary