

MINUTES OF THE
NAPA COUNTY LOCAL FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
May 25, 2016

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

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

The meeting was held in the Ag/UCCE Meeting Room, 1710 Soscol Ave., Napa, CA 94559 and called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Chair Carrie Strohl.

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

Lisa Bissell Paulson, Juliana Inman, Jeannie Kerr, Kristin Miller, Lizzie Moore, and Carrie Strohl

The following council members arrived after roll call was taken:

Holly Dawson, and Leigh Sharp

The following council members were excused or absent:

Diane Dillon, Jessica Mennella, and Karen Schuppert were excused.

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

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The approvals of the January 27, 2016 and March 16, 2016 minutes were tabled until the next meeting due to lack of quorums.

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. Juliana requested item 6. C. of the Agenda be reviewed earlier in the meeting as she was to leave early.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carrie opened the floor to public comment. She asked that public comments be limited to 3 minutes each.

- i. David Layland advised all of the Napa Valley College Boot Camp , Explore the World of Agriculture, Ages 14-27. This will be held the week of June 13 – 17, 2016. The cost is \$50.00. He had flyers if interested.
- ii. Julia Van Soelen advised all of a Food Safety Workshop series for small produce farmers June 6, 13, 20, and 27 in Petaluma.
- iii. Julia Van Soelen extended an invitation to the Northern California Gleaming Community Jam. It takes place in Roehnert Park on Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 10-4.

Lisa asked if these events can be posted on the Local Foods Website. Carrie requested adding a submit event button on the website. Joy will look into both of these matters. Carrie commented on Julia's Facebook page and how many events and articles are posted on it. Julia will share it with Local Foods Facebook page.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Board of Supervisors Report

- i. A rough draft of the Report to the Board of Supervisors was handed out. This report covers 5 years and is scheduled for presentation on July 12th. Carrie was looking to the Council for additional details and items to put on the report. Holly suggested including Highlights and Accomplishments on the Report. Carrie agreed and will put a heading "Highlights and Accomplishments" above the summary table for the entire 5 year period that the report will be covering. Joy confirmed the Local Foods website launched in October 2014. Juliana proposed adding a visual component to the Report. The supporting documents to be included with the Report will be the Bylaws and Mission Statement. Carrie asked for any additional comments or input that the Council may have to email or contact herself, Joy, Juliana, or Greg with them.

B. Bylaw Changes

- i. Leigh Sharp reviewed the Local Food Council's By-Laws and the proposed changes to them. She emailed an edited copy and a clean copy of the Food Council's By-Laws. Her focus in reviewing them was on two main items: Attendance and Participation. Leigh added a new section to the By-Laws titled "Service and Termination of Advisory Council Membership". She also provided a proposed revision to the definition of a quorum. A discussion on changing the member composition of the Council also occurred. Carrie suggested that the Council is strongly encouraged to include members of the public to be on ad hoc sub-committees. She asked all to think about who they will invite to be on other ad-hoc subcommittees. Greg advised that whatever changes were decided on must be run by County Council for their approval first.
- ii. A vote on the by-law changes were tabled as there was not a quorum.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Food System 101

- i. Carrie introduced Julia Van Soelen who proceeded to give a presentation on what a food system is. Julia will share her presentation with the Council. She defined many words and presented ideas associated with Food Systems to give all a basic understanding of what they are. Julia specifically pointed out LexiconofSustainability.com that has a series called Lexicon of Food which defines complex, new emerging food system terms and also gave a handout from them on Food Policy. Julia explained we need PSE (Policy, Systems, Environment) approaches in order to build a sustainable food system. In her opinion Napa needs to: 1. find opportunities to diversify production and 2. buildup community food security for a healthy food system. Carrie asked all to think of something to bring to the next meeting to discuss regarding Food Systems.

B. Safeway Non-compete Clause Letter

- i. Carrie tabled this item as this was Juliana's Agenda item and she left the meeting early.

C. Amendment Request for AM551

- i. Juliana explained to the audience her proposal to ask the Assembly Member to carry a revision of State Law AB551 to redefine what urban areas are so that smaller cities (those with populations less than 250,000) could take advantage of property tax reductions if the property is used for urban agriculture. Greg gave specifics of the law and the fact sheet that the University of California issued on this law. He asked Joy to send this out as well as AB551 to all Council Members. Juliana wants everyone to read the information before the Council takes action on it at the July 27th meeting. Meanwhile, she will draft a letter to the Assembly Member and see if there would be support carrying legislation to modify the bill. Greg advised that if the Council goes forward with this, it may have to go through the process with the Board of Supervisors first. Juliana mentioned other counties may be interested in joining this effort if the Council were to move forward with it. Joy will do research to see if the tax benefit is viable for Napa and American Canyon.

D. School Food Presentation

- i. Katie Aaron gave a presentation on the Napa Valley Unified School District food service challenges. She provided many statistics and shared some of the challenges she and other concerned parents are currently addressing. The School Board has now made it a priority to address these concerns. Katie and the parent group have been speaking with other school districts in the area that use self-operating kitchens and source locally versus Napa that hires a 3rd party management company, Sodexo. Julia said in her experience she feels that self-operated kitchens still face the same challenges as 3rd party management companies like Sodexo. It was agreed that at least now this topic has the attention of the School Board and that small changes are being made. It is also an item that should continue to be discussed at the Food Council Meetings.

E. Farmers Guild

- i. Kate Olen and Seth Chapin came to share resources and give an update on the Napa Farmers Guild. The Farmers Guild started in 2011 with a group of people passionate about the local food system and who wanted to change it from the ground up. The Guild has now grown into 10 Chapters. The Napa Chapter began in January and hosts its meetings on the 4th Thursday of the month at Napa Grange. The first two months of meetings were solely used to identify what the community wanted to explore and learn about. They also took surveys to find out the knowledge base of their members. This month they will be exploring pest and disease management using organics. Later in the year they will explore honey bees and preservation. Kate offered all if they want to be added to their list to send an email to NapaFarmersGuild@gmail.com. Joy will put this on the Local Foods Website.

F. Report out on assigned tasks

- i. Lizzie advised she is wrapping up the work that has already been done and now working on the next step - Julia doing the assessment.

7. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

- i. Lizzie submitted her letter of resignation to Carrie. Carrie thanked her for her service.
- ii. Joy advised there are two people going to the Board of Supervisors for appointment to the Food Council.

8. NEXT SCHEDULED SPECIAL MEETING DATE

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

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m. by Carrie Strohl.

CARRIE STROHL, Chairperson

ATTEST:

LINDA KELLER, Council Secretary

