

**Colorado Springs Food Policy Advisory Board**  
**May 12th, 2017, 8:30am – 10:30AM**  
**704 E. Boulder, 80903**

**Mission:**

Foster a healthy and resilient local food system that contributes to economic vitality, healthy food access and environmental sustainability in Colorado Springs and El Paso County.

**In Attendance:**

Sophie Javna, Clarissa Dominguez, Megan Andreozzi, Lyn Harwell, Aubrey Day, Ellen Johnson-Fay, Joanna Zaremba, Nicole Nicoletta, Jonathan Shankland

**Aubrey Day:** First meeting of advisory group of food system assessment. Current Goals: context of food system, understanding attitude, and opportunity for policy and assessment. She shared current questions they are looking at.

**Nicole Nicoletta:** Mayor of Manitou Springs; Local Food Plan for Manitou Springs

- Nicole spoke about Manitou Springs' recently adopted first-ever master plan, which is also a comprehensive hazard mitigation plan. She spoke about the Health, Human Services, Health & Well-being and what they are doing.
- What they're doing:
  - Community outreach and public meetings;
  - Small group focused on food and food access.
  - Senior Services—Nicole and Luther Green met with Chef Coleman with Silver Key, and Silver Key signed on to get food from local farmers.
  - Using inventory of city-owned land and parks to look for possible for garden spaces. Lots of city-owned parcels zoned open space.
  - Special City Council committee to put together a city-wide composting system. First on City-owned property. Jeremy Tacket will lead that special committee. Have a list of their available demand. They will be working on educating the community. Eventually want to allow everyone drop their food snacks. First, starting with bio-mass.
  - Veterans around local food production issues—will be in connection with the small business alliance.
  - Summer youth food program—goal to have a local food truck.
  - Poetry and Pottery—8 weeks use Soda Springs pavilion and bring out pottery wheel to throw pots; write poetry and have crock pots of soup. Bridge gap between elected officials, kids on the street, tourists.
  - Trying to touch base with all demographics that the community needs.
  - Have a food pantry in relationship with Care and Share.
  - Parks—green only; no chemicals sprayed in parks.
  - Westside Action Plan—completed bike path, green spaces, etc. Great incentive plan for developers, businesses, etc. to come into plan. URA—she would love to see senior housing with local food.
  - Ideal if you can have a few council members champion policies. City planner is an important ally. Zoning changes, policy changes to make it really easy to grow and sell.
  - Ellen made the point that the number of restaurants that get it and are proud to serve local food. She also brought up that Utilities used to give out free compost bins that were animal-proof.
  - Allies—county commissioners?
  - Food procurement—Lyn said he thinks its the way to connect with the mayor.
  - Lyn brought up Rise Southeast: Enhance Southeast Colorado Springs, funded by El Pomar. District 4 for County Commissioners—Longinos Gonzales; Nic thinks we should build relationships with our local officials and engage our allies. El Paso County Health and Livewell Colorado started the food assessment. Nic suggested working with our current allies. Main ally for Sophie has been Conrad, who runs sustainability at UCCS.
  - Rod Chisholm is garrison commander at Ft. Carson. They are open to sustainability and are progressive.
  - Nicole suggested a possibly round table of county commissioner, city council, and Rod Chisholm and have a three-minute elevator speech. Megan suggested meeting with each of the districts. Nicole is going to mention that we are looking for people to engage with the FPAB in her weekly column in the Manitou newspaper..
  - Monthly webinars from the Colorado Food Policy Network—Clarissa suggested. She will send Joanna the Land Use info so I can get on that list. Megan will get us all on the policy network emails and asked us to do the webinar when we can.
- Medians – Downtown Partnership, no, we have to go through the parks department
- Social Media: Jonathan/Robert

- Jonathan had some social media ideas for content. Engaging restaurants: are there any barriers that affects how you are able to acquire local food? He will go to the Sourdough Belangerie and Christa Heineke, who runs food and bev at the Broadmoor who does a lot of local food. What is the city doing or not doing to make this happen? With Plan COS, how do we integrate food into all of the policy? His sales manager at the hotel is really connected with military: who are the food procurement officers? Food security is probably the angle to take. Who are the larger stakeholders involved? Joanna said UCCS sources locally, Colorado College sources a certain amount of local food as well. Sophie had an idea to put together a Local Food Manifesto that local chefs sign to share to Mayor Suthers. Peter Wysocki (COS city planner) was anti farm stand. Megan suggested we could approach the other people on the planning commission who are also citizen volunteers.

#### **Strategic Plan/Plan COS:**

- Joanna - updates on focus groups?
  - Local Food Working Group meets June 26<sup>th</sup>—Joanna will facilitate a Plan COS focus group at the meeting.
- Albuquerque-Jonathan
  - They approach food from a climate and homeland security issue. In ABQ's plan in every initiative, there's a food piece. Transportation...food deserts, etc.
- Wichita-Clarissa-
  1. No regulations because it's not on the radar. They have a food assessment. They're looking at forming a board to help. The state has a list of things they've started doing.
- Atlanta-Sophie
  1. Focused on zoning. We need to know what our zoning laws and what are we up against. Jonathan asked where we look for statutes for the City. Ellen brought up the idea of the county and the CSU Extension and connecting with them.
- Portland-Nanna
- Ft. Collins-Megan
  1. Local food, land use, community gardens, health & wellness is in every single element of their sustainability plan. 20% of food purchased by staff for city functions in 2013 and saw an increase in 20% in a single year. They engage with the community. Asked survey questions...Urban agriculture code changes. FAQ, including what is urban agriculture, etc. We need to find out if our city has anything like this.
- Tuscon-Joanna
  1. Advanced and have local food in their plan. We can go to our elected officials and show we are behind all of these comparable cities with regard to local food.
  2. Tourism is a key piece for influence locally. What data exists around tourism and what they value? Local food is probably on that list. Sophie suggested we make it patriotic, focus on victory gardens.
- 2. Megan will ask Jill to have a legislative intern that can research and compile all of the policy related to local food. Clarissa started this research, and she found some easier ones. Sophie wants to know the current policy around urban infill. She found idea of "land banking." A land bank buys up infill and strikes a deal with the city to get it really cheap. They sell the land really cheaply to organizations. It ties into Blight into Bright and creating unique urban spaces. Could TOPS start to make growing food part of their goal for park land purchased?
- 3. Megan brought up issue of farm stand that the issue is if people grow on open land, someone has to manage property and grow the food. Someone has to manage the space or it will go to weeds, etc. We don't want code enforcement to have to do more work. Sophie said with land bank that they would manage parcels. Ellen suggested Pikes Peak Urban Gardens to step into land bank gap. Jonathan's question is who steps in and takes over once we make more food available. Ellen suggested CSU Extension as a possibly entity to step in.
  - Land Link website—Clarissa brought this up...she thinks it's more rural but they connect farmers with land they need. They have limited land now. Sophie suggested we could put together an urban land link for our area.
  - Food Security—we can look at this as another thing to bring up. Joanna suggested we could look at Emergency Preparedness.
- 4. **Work for us to do:**
  - PlanCOS—look at the themes and think about how food works into those. How does each bullet point tie into local food. Megan will outline all the districts and who we need to have conversations with and have 2-minute speech. Megan will connect with Jill and Richard.
  - Fill out the Doodle poll...Megan suggested using our next meeting and extending it for an hour to make it about plan
  - Clarissa will quietly gather info about bees and hives in the background.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30AM – 11:30AM**

#### **ON GOING ITEMS:**

**Schedule of events for presenting/introducing our board:**

Colorado Springs Young Professionals – Joanna to follow up  
 July 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Slow Foods Nations Event – Denver Summer  
 Downtown Partnership Membership Meeting  
 Pikes Peak Environmental Forum – October (last Friday of the month)  
 Closing Food Assessment – Food and Wine Dinner (CC/Helen Hunt/Antlers)

- Fact sheets:
  - Procurement - Lyn
  - Farm to Institution-Nanna
  - Backyard Gardening-Clarissa
  - Fair Food-Sophie
  - Food Literacy-Nanna
  - Farm/Rancher-tabled it for now
  - Local Food/CSA - Nanna
- El Paso County Food Systems Assessment - How can we help, if at all?
- Seeds – Keep this in the conversation!
- City Median – Sponsored by FPAB
- Olympic Training Center
- Meetings set with County Commissioners/City Council Members
- Beehive Ordinance
- How can we place "local food" in the city plans for next year? Tie them to transportation?
  - Food sovereignty - How are our goals aligned with the rest of Colorado initiatives?
  - Quarterly network calls - LiveWell Food Policy Network (discuss and divide)
  - Closing Food Assessment – Local food wine dinner
  - Survey Questions – Sent to Food System Assessment with these added questions:
    - What is your form of transportation?
    - Where is your local grocery store that you shop? How far of distance from your home?
    - What is your neighborhood?
- Social Media Schedule: ONCE a week, monthly groups decide who does instagram/facebook
  - April – Megan/Nanna
  - May – Johnathan/Robert
  - June - Clarissa/Sophie
  - July - Joanna/Lyn
  - August - Megan/Nanna
  - September - Johnathan/Robert
  - October - Clarissa/Sophie
  - November - Joanna/Lyn
  - December - Megan/Nanna
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#### Urban Agriculture and Land Use

DEFINE: The urban farm and homesteading group will focus on defending and expanding the rights of homesteaders in this city through policy identification and policy change.

-Subcommittee will work with Media group to connect/communicate with urban farmers and homesteaders to receive feedback/suggestions for policy change

-Promotes urban farm and homesteading events and info on the website, facebook page, and through other promotional materials.

-Develop urban homesteading/farming comprehensive plan for 2017-2018

#### Food Literacy

DEFINE: The literacy group focuses mainly on education rather than policy. They promote nutrition, local food, and cooking skills through celebratory event and educational campaigns.

-Works with schools to promote food literacy in classrooms

-Plans events that promote nutrition, local food, and cooking education

-Develop city literacy comprehensive plan for 2017-2018

#### Rural Policy

DEFINE: The rural policy group is the main advocate for rural farmers and bridges the physical distance between rural and urban in order to promote the benefits of rural production in our city.

-Identifies the benefits of rural farming to our city, bridging the physical and communication barrier between rural farmers and urbanites.

-Connects with rural farmers to learn about policy challenges and barriers they are facing.

- Working with Media subcommittee, spreads awareness of these issues and promotes resources/knowledge of rural farming through facebook, website, and other promotional materials.
- Works with rural farmers to develop a comprehensive rural farming plan for 2017-2018

#### Backyard Farming

##### Community Retail/Economic Growth

DEFINE: The community retail group focuses on promoting and enabling local procurement in our city.

- Identifies policy, bureaucratic, and educational barriers that inhibit retail of local foods from the perspective of restaurateurs, farmer's markets, local grocery stores, etc.
- Researches procurement in other cities to develop a guiding model for our city.
- Develops a comprehensive community retail plan for 2017-2018.

##### Communication/Media

DEFINE: The communication/media group works with all other subcommittees to develop promotional material for the FPAB and our initiatives.

- Keeps up steady communication with other subcommittees to develop and deliver promotional materials.
- Regularly updates website and facebook page, and makes recommendations for changes.
- Works to promote FPAB events and spread knowledge of group through social media, poster campaigns, and local newspaper postings/articles.