



Agenda



AMENDED

Santa Fe City and County
Advisory Council on Food Policy
Thursday, June 28, 2012
9:00 to 10:30
Angel Depot Conference Room
1222 Siler Road, Santa Fe, NM

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE 6-22-12 TIME 11:45am

SERVED BY Katharine Hoffman

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 22 and June 7, 2012
- E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR
- F. PRESENTATIONS/TRAININGS
 - 1. Rancho Valle Farmland Preservation Project in La Puebla (Sarah Noss, Matthew McQueen & Michel Cisco)
- G. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS
- H. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS
 - 1. Executive Committee
 - a. Financial Update
 - b. Presentations and Trainings Criteria and Calendar
 - 2. Governance Committee
 - a. Conflict of Interest Policy
 - 3. Policy Committee
 - a. Assessment
 - b. Food Production and Land Use
 - c. Procurement
 - d. Education and Outreach
 - e. Federal
 - i. Farm Bill
 - 4. Policy for items that come up between meetings (S. Warshawer)
- I. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR
- J. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL
- K. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: July 26, 2012

NOTE: All meetings of the council are open to the public. Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to meeting day.



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Advisory Council on Food Policy
Thursday, June 28, 2012
9:00 to 10:30
Angel Depot Conference Room
1222 Siler Road, Santa Fe, NM

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE 6-20-12 TIME 10:15 am

SERVED BY Kathryn P. [Signature]

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 7, 2012
- E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR
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 - 1. Rancho Valle Farmland Preservation Project in La Puebla (Sarah Noss, Matthew McQueen & Michel Cisco)
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SANTA FE CITY AND COUNTY
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FOOD POLICY
THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2012**

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**SANTA FE CITY AND COUNTY
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FOOD POLICY
1222 SILER ROAD, SANTA FE, NM 87501**

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2012

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Santa Fe City and County Advisory Council on Food Policy was called to order by Katherine Mortimer, Chair on this date at approximately 9:15 a.m. at the Angel Depot, Conference Room, 1222 Siler Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

B. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated a lack of quorum as follows:

Members Present

Katherine Mortimer, Chair
Tony McCarty
Duncan Sill
Pamela Roy
Susan Perry
Steve Warshawer

Members Absent

Sherry Hooper
Bianca Sopoci-Belknap
Mark Winne
Maria Bustamante-Bernal
Lynn Walters

Staff Present

Rubina Cohen
Marcus Grignon, AmeriCorps

Others Present

Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

Due to lack of quorum the approval of the agenda and the minutes of March and June 2012 were not approved.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March, 2012 and June 07, 2012

E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR - None

F. PRESENTATIONS / TRAINING

1. Rancho Valle Farmland Preservation Project in La Puebla (Sarah Noss, Matthew McQueen & Michel Cisco)

Ms. Noss, the Director at the Santa Fe Farmer's Market Institute, introduced Michel Cisco from the New Mexico Land Conservancy (NMLC) and intern Ariel Cashnic (?) at NMLC.

Ms. Noss said since 2009 many land conservancies in northern New Mexico have worked on how to preserve farmland. They met monthly for a couple of years and tried to determine ways to encourage the use of conservation easements on farmland, take off development rights and tie water rights to the land. The resolution on farmland preservation was brought before the FPC and was passed by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in April, 2010.

When farmland was presented to the State for easements, the State felt the Conservancy didn't meet the criteria and needed delineated governmental policies for Santa Fe County to support them. In the work to create the governmental policy, 14 acres in Rio Arriba County came up for sale and the Land Trust was started.

The Farmers Market Institute and the Land Trust determined only 5 of the 14 Rio Arriba acres were usable for farming and they looked for other properties. They were approached by the owner of La Puebla who heard about their program and wanted to sell their land to the Institute. The cost of their land could be lowered through the tax deductions and credits they could receive.

Ms. Noss said the Conservancy and the Institute want to show there could be a way to lower the cost of the farmland with an easement and tax credits, rather than sell the property and subdivide into smaller lots. This project could be a model for owners of agricultural land.

Mr. Cisco said he worked with the La Puebla owners since 2009 and prepared an application for the NRCS Farm and Ranchland Protection Program to pay up to 50% of the development rights donated. A match to leverage federal funding is where Santa Fe County came in and the County was approached to help purchase the easement.

There are three partners (the Land Trust, NRCS and the County) and the Farmers Market would buy the property at a reduced value after the easement.

Ms. Noss said a lot of the land is owned by the pueblos and some by Santa Fe National Forest and there isn't a lot of privately owned land in the area. They have been seeing leap-frog development and the Farmers Market's concern is to ensure farmers could be on the land and farm until they retire and given the land prices, that would be hard for new farmers to come in. This is an opportunity to support agriculture in Santa Fe County and preserve 17 acres of farmland.

Ms. Noss said COLTPAC, (County Open Space Land and Trails Program Advisory Committee) has long been interested in preserving agricultural land and is enthusiastic about the project. Mr. Cisco added that COLTPAC is very supportive and after they pay for the easement, would have no responsibilities and the Land Conservancy would take care of everything.

Ms. Noss said the COLTPAC staff said money in the 2012 open space is identified and available for the project.

Ms. Noss said she met with farmers to determine agricultural restrictions and want the land to be in agricultural production; if grazing land they want to ensure the land is irrigated and used. If the land is farmed they want to ensure a high value crop would be produced that a farmer could make a living from.

Ms. Sperry asked Ms. Noss to define "high-value crop."

Ms. Noss said it would be things that sell at the Farmers Market. She said she looked at crop yields the previous day to see the income potential for the property and at the kinds of vegetables grown in the area. She said there is potential to hire locals to help with the land and disseminate farming knowledge. The farm would probably be open several times a year to the public and the landowner wants to provide access along the river for trails etc.

Mr. Sill asked about the service water rights

Mr. Cisco said there are two ditches; the Maestas ditch off the river and another across the road that feeds the southern portion of the property.

Mr. Sill confirmed that there would be details about crop application rights in the feasibility. He asked if there was already a commitment from the Professional Ranch Land Program and if the encumbrance of the COLTPAC fund was confirmed with the Finance Department.

Mr. Cisco said the Land Conservancy has a cooperative agreement with NRCS to complete the conservation easement funding. He thought the money (\$70,000) had been approved and allocated at the last BCC meeting from the County and that would leverage \$190,000 from the federal Farm and Ranch Protection Program.

Ms. Roy said she thought about other models and how the project could be made accessible to entrepreneurs that might not have cash flow. She said when the Food Policy Council looks at land use they have to consider a way of creating land use for agriculture and food security but a leap-frog development is still the bigger issue. She asked that there be a future discussion on the role the Food Policy Council.

Ms. Sperry asked clarification of leap-frog development.

Mr. Sill said a resolution is intent to move toward policy adoption but is not a policy and for something to have teeth would have to go through the consideration and adoption of an ordinance to become law.

Chair Mortimer explained, as opposed to sprawl when you have the center and keep going out with lower-level development; leapfrog is when you jump over undeveloped space.

Mr. Sill said part of the land development code work is to transfer the development rights and modifications would need to be considered. He said he brought the issue up with the County Manager that the County would have to fund the assessment. He said that would happen in the early part of July and he would ask the County Manager make sure the Food Policy Council is kept up to date.

Ms. Noss said it is important for food security to utilize whatever means possible to make the land affordable and to get the land, use the land and keep it whole and keep the water rights. Mr. Cisco added that a requirement for some kind of restricted public access to the property would be written into the easement.

Mr. Warshawer said currently he leases and has cattle on the property. He became aware of the property in 2009 and recognized the land's value and suggested the landowners do land development and agricultural preservation in one process and get something on the land right away. He said the condition of the land changed in a few years.

He said he wouldn't vote on anything because of his personal interest but if the FPC endorses the project it is necessary to look at how they would be involved. The transaction is complicated and Food Policy Council's endorsement wouldn't ensure the project would happen and the Farmers Market Institute acquisition of the property wouldn't assure it would remain in agriculture.

Mr. Warshawer said the biggest problem is what the land value would be set at and what the basis used for the value is. He said if predicated on high value crop production, the project likely wouldn't stay in agriculture; there are reasons why high-value agriculture hasn't been practiced there.

He said historically most of the irrigated land moved toward livestock and forage production for a number of reasons. The safest course would be to base valuation on livestock and forage production which historically has been sustainable agriculture in the area. He said a more prudent course would be to recognize how the agricultural heritage of the area has changed over time and design a program that respects that change.

Mr. Warshawer said the underlying question is how the process would move forward and who would be involved in the formative processes. He wished there was more money on the table and thought the value couldn't be made low enough. He anticipates the project would be funded piecemeal for years instead of being designed from the beginning to support itself.

Mr. Warshawer said he supports any time a landowner tries to keep land out of development and make it available for agriculture, but how to do that is extremely challenging.

Ms. Cohen said the White Paper has general statements in terms of what the FPC would like to see in land use. She suggested the Food Policy Council could be involved by the Land Use Committee getting involved in the program. She asked if the project was one that the Committee could participate in after the acquisition.

Ms. Noss said the project is unfolding in a step by step process and first was to get the land owner more comfortable with the process. She said Mr. Cisco did a great job of getting the Farm Land Protection money but in order to receive the money the easement would have to be in place by March 31, 2013.

She said the next step is the appraisal and that would give the financial reality of what lowering the price of the farmland would be and how far the land owner would go in lowering the price. The landowners want to put the land into an easement no matter what and are moving forward with the easement and that is significant. She agreed that high value crops might not be the way to go.

Ms. Roy said she appreciated the Mr. Warshawer's layout of the many ways to look at this; the Food Council should look at the bigger picture and this could create a foundation to better understand issues.

Mr. Warshawer said the problem is they want to do everything. The Food Council's job is to endorse any project with validity and merit within the context of the White Paper and the question is where they would go with the

project. Mr. Warshawer said the goal should be 100 % transparency from anyone involved and they should be aware that some of the higher potential has more costs, more money and more complexity involved.

Ms. Noss said Equity Trust in Massachusetts is a consultant and has done a lot of farmland preservation. She agreed the project was a step by step process and offered to come back to the Food Council monthly to report.

Chair Mortimer said the Food Policy Council wouldn't be able to vote today but a vote could be done by e-mail. She said it appeared everyone agreed a memo could be issued to support an agricultural easement. The Council would continue to work with those involved to ensure the outcome met their goals in the White Paper.

Mr. Cisco said at the BCC July 10 meeting, County Commissioners would approve whether to fund the project and at that time they would know if Santa Fe County would be a partner. There would be about eight months to do the easement that generally takes 9 to 12 months.

The group discussed the letter of support.

Ms. Roy said this is a way to show everyone is working together; the County, Federal and non profits, etc.

G. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Roy mentioned she and Mr. Winne would be gone for the July Food Policy Council meeting.

Ms. Walters's and Ms. Bustamante-Bernal's absences were discussed. Chair Mortimer said Ms. Walters' hasn't been calling and Ms. Cohen offered to follow up with Ms. Bustamante-Bernal.

Ms. Cohen said once the new members were approved she would get them on the roster. Ms. Roy added that Martin Vigil would be approved at the next BCC meeting.

H. INITIATIVES and ACTIONS

1. Executive Committee- No Report
2. Governance Committee -No Report
3. Policy Committee
 - a. Assessment

Mr. Grignon said he had information from the community as well as the food providers that were surveyed. He said there were four policy recommendations and the community input would be added to the Food Assessment that Ms. Cohen put together.

Mr. Grignon summarized feedback received for policy recommendations:

Recommendation #1-

- They are unable to grow food on site because of a shortage in staff/volunteers. The Community Farm should be looked at (Mr. Grignon said he met with the Community Farm and help is needed and is why more food isn't being produced).
- The community meetings raised questions: who would maintain the food if different cooperatives were developed for the food system programs; could help be offered with special needs people to grow food; is there work to be done that isn't as labor intensive.
- Is collaboration with the community college and community gardens planned; who would fund. Transportation is an issue if they moved forward with the Community Farm idea; a bus to take people to the farm every day was suggested and to get more people involved by collaborating with the community college or youth organizations.
- The Salvation Army and Growth Inc. said they have spots available to grow food on site.

Recommendation #2-

- In a one-stop shop application there was a concern about accessing all of the food assistance programs and the administrative costs and how to make more people aware of food pantries.

Recommendation #3-

- Seniors should receive free food that fits with their health concerns. There is too much neglect and loss of government support programs.

Recommendation #4-

- A stop gap for vouchers was recommended. Farmer's Market vouchers would be good for accessing fresh local food that is unattainable for many; affordability for low income people is an issue; strings shouldn't be attached to the vouchers such as address, citizenship etc. Concern was the Farmer's Market sometimes has a limited food supply etc. and is expensive. It was suggested that vouchers be given at the food assistance programs. People without an income or homeless would sell things in order to afford things like hygiene products.

Ms. Cohen asked if council members should rethink the recommendation for the one-stop shop.

Mr. McCarty said the Northern New Mexico Service Providers Alliance is working on the same concept and creating a cloud that shows other available agencies. He said the one-stop shop should stay as a recommendation because what has always been done isn't working.

Ms. Cohen asked how they would stand behind the recommendation when so many people don't like the idea.

Mr. McCarty said they want to access the heaviest users of services. Studies have shown it is the simple things people need to know how to do; such as instead of dialing 911, having someone program the doctor's office number into the person's phone. He said they have to try something new and change the game.

Ms. Roy said it would be helpful to hear the Alliance's progress. She said there should be more awareness of food pantries and what they offer and information that could be handed out in food stamp offices etc.

Mr. McCarty said Bienvenidos has an e-mail list with the food pantries and meal services.

Ms. Sperry said the County Extension Service put the Farmers Market information etc. on a small laminated card. She suggested people have something like that for portability that could be updated cheaply.

Mr. McCarty said when he went to a farmers market in Paris everyone was given a free shopping bag with the farmers market listed on the bag. He expressed frustration that everyone worked in silos and created ideas but no one brought the ideas together.

Ms. Roy suggested the bag have Farmers Market on one side and the food programs on the other. Mr. McCarty added it could list items to go into the bag for people who want to donate to the food pantry.

Chair Mortimer said portals could be created where people could access different things and people could be trained in a lot of the systems. She said there could be a table at the Farmers Market or the Pancake Breakfast on the Plaza etc. so people could sign up while there.

Mr. McCarty said the Service Provider's Alliance has to commit to train everyone else's staff so they knew about the other programs and how they work.

Ms. Cohen said the members had discussed reworking Recommendation #3; to mandate that senior centers have a dietitian.

Chair Mortimer said they might state their goal is "to provide dietary information to staff and participants at senior centers etc."

The members talked about dietitians and the ratio of dietitians to the number of people they could serve.

Ms. Sperry said the recommendation should be to train a person to educate staff and provide information. She said the centers want someone to help the staff better prepare food appropriate for their needs and secondly to have enough information to answer when asked "what are the foods with a lot of carbohydrates" for example. Staff could be easily trained to provide that information.

Ms. Roy suggested more assessment be done to find out what exist and what the issues are and then develop a set of recommendations.

Mr. Grignon said these are talking points for the Food Council to develop their own policy recommendations. He said the senior centers had stressed they want more young people so the youth could be taught about canning, drying meat etc. He said Girls Inc. expressed interest and is ready to do that in the fall.

Ms. Perry recommended the County Extension Service because that is part of their vision.

Chair Mortimer suggested finding a way for seniors to work with the Cooking with Kids program in schools.

Ms. Cohen said there are a lot of great ideas about how to put policies forward and that would need to be communicated when the FPC goes to the City and County. She offered to send an e-mail with the four policy recommendations to the members so they could write their ideas and bullet points. She would collect those for the FPC to discuss in more detail.

Ms. Roy asked if the group could get together for the discussion because the discussion is the rich part.

Chair Mortimer said the Assessment Committee hasn't been working as a committee. She said the Committee should do that; meanwhile others could send their comments if they couldn't attend. She said there is a logical filter of raw data collected and how to turn that into use for a policy recommendation seemed to be the job of the Assessment Committee.

Mr. McCarty didn't want to lose the youth experience in Recommendation #5 and to tie that to the County Extension.

Mr. Warshawer said when looking at access to local food it wasn't just about the Farmers Market. He said there should be a way to strike a broader coalition about what the vouchers gave access to.

Mr. Warshawer had to leave the meeting at this time.

Ms. Roy thanked Mr. Grignon for doing an impeccable job and on an amazing effort of listening and giving back to the communities. She said he organized the last two meetings and provided a cooked meal from the Farmer's Market. She also thanked Lynn Walters and Mark Winne for providing support and attending a meeting.

Ms. Roy said the next step is a plan to give back to groups who have been generous with their time and support and the idea of Farmers Market tokens, etc. and would cost about \$1500. She asked for approval to move forward with the plan. There were no objections.

- b. Food Production and Land Use- Not Discussed
- c. Procurement- Not Discussed
- d. Education and Outreach- Not Discussed
- e. Federal
 - i. Farm Bill

Ms. Roy handed out updates on the policy on the Federal Farm Bill passed by the Senate.

Ms. Perry mentioned a Senator's assistant had acknowledged and thanked her.

Ms. Roy said she couldn't believe how many people responded within moments of an e-mail she sent. She said that ignited discussion with Senator Bingaman's office and other groups working with the Senate. She said she met with Congressman Lujan last Friday and he would take the information to the Hispanic Caucus and get Congressman Baca on board.

She passed out information on the framework for the food plan.

Mr. McCarty asked about the Farm Bill and the legislature.

Ms. Roy said it would be tough; the House has a different view of how to handle the food stamp piece and would look at taking a larger chunk. She thought it would be between November and December.

I. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR - There were none.

J. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL- There were none.

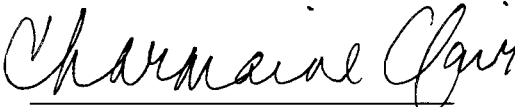
K. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING: July 26, 2012

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10: 39 a.m.

Approved by:

Katherine Mortimer, Chair

Submitted by:



Charmaine Clair, Stenographer