

**Pasco County**  
**Food Policy Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

September 30, 2015

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: Dell deChant, Travis Morehead, Deanna Krautner, Dr. Whitney Elmore, Susan Hoeller, Susan M. Zanatta, Lester Cypher, Jeff Wright and Fanchone Gude

Guests: ***Kelly Miller, Kira Atkinson, Kacey Atkinson, Emmanuel Roux, Karen St. Jean, Derek Spilman & Lauren St Martin***

I. Call to order

***Travis Morehead called the meeting to order at 10:00am.***

II. Roll call

***The roll was called by Mr. Morehead and all FPAC members and Todd Engala were present except for Dr. Whitney Elmore, who had provided notice of her inability to attend to Mr. Engala.***

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting.

***Minutes approved without modification.***

IV. Mission and Vision Statement

***Mr. Morehead read the Mission and Vision Statement aloud.***

V. Public Comment

***There was no public comment.***

VI. Open issues

1. Food System Items

a) Countywide Food Assessment Update from Council

*i.* Dell deChant – Review of urban agriculture ordinances

***Dell deChant commented that three ordinances have been submitted to the FPAC members for review.***

*ii.* ***Travis Morehead moved the discussion of backyard chickens up on the agenda and said that he had read articles stating that backyard chickens are not the source of avian flu and that allowing backyard chickens enables residents to have greater food security, especially if there is a mass break out of avian flu in the commercial producers. Todd Engala reported that backyard chickens had been a volatile issue for the County and stated it could be separated from an Urban Agricultural Ordinance. Fanchone Gude recommended that before any action is taken with respect to backyard chickens, FPAC should invite a representative from the commercial chicken producer industry to present industry views. Dell deChant made a motion to separate the backyard chicken issue from the urban agriculture/community gardens ordinance and Deanna Krautner seconded it. A vote was taken and all Council members agreed unanimously with this motion. Lester Cypher recommended that aquaponics be included in the ordinance and everyone agreed.***

*iii.* ***Dell deChant - Noted that the state of Florida encourages beekeeping and that there is a state law regulating this activity. Susie Hoeller volunteered to research the statute and send a copy to FPAC members. Dell deChant asked whether the FPAC should obtain more ordinances to review from other jurisdictions. He noted that Austin, Texas has an excellent one. Rebecca Stonefield from the Pasco County Planning Department suggested that FPAC review more than three other ordinances before bringing a recommendation ordinance to the Board of County Commissioners. Susie Hoeller stated she would look for a county wide ordinance as a model besides just city ordinances and she recommended that the FPAC review more ordinances first before drafting one. Todd Engala then suggested that the FPAC hold a workshop to work on the new ordinance. Lester Cypher made a motion to hold a workshop, which was seconded by Jeff Wright, the motion carried with one dissenting vote by Dell deChant. Lester Cypher recommended that FPAC support edible landscapes, such as fruit trees in the new ordinance and Susie Hoeller mentioned vineyards as something***

*to consider as well. Rebecca Stonefield then advised FPAC to make sure that their work is coordinated with other existing ordinances, such as the Pasco County home occupation ordinance. Deanna Krautner asked that we include mobile food markets/food trucks in our ordinance.*

- iv. Travis Morehead – Review of farmer market census - Reported that five (5) farmer markets replied to his census. Trina Messano stated that she manages a farmer market in downtown New Port Richey and that Pasco County does not have sufficient guidelines for farmer markets in the unincorporated areas. She said that she has to apply for an expensive special events permit (as a flea market) every time she wants to organize a farmer market outside of New Port Richey city limits. She also indicated that she has been told by the County that food cannot be served outside without a roof. She asked FPAC to look into this. Travis Morehead said he will look for guidelines on farmer markets in other jurisdictions and Jeff Wright recommended that FPAC include this issue in the workshop.*
- v. Fanchone Gude – Provided literature displaying the number of farms and agriculture producers within Pasco County the source was US Department of Agriculture 2012 Census of Agriculture. There has been a decline in the number of farms from 1,210 to 1,065 while the population has increased 46% from the earlier census. She reported that citrus root weevil is a big problem and that the production of hay and pine trees is included as agricultural production. A copy of the US Department of Agriculture 2012 Census of Agriculture was distributed to the FPAC members.*
- vi. Lester Cypher – Survey of food deserts and supermarkets - Lester Cypher distributed a preliminary sketch/map of the food deserts in Pasco County. He said that he had spoken with Publix and that Publix was willing to deliver food to a central location for each food desert. This would not be donated food. Lester Cypher also reported that the Volunteer Way takes its mobile pantry around the county once a month delivering produce and vegetables so the children can learn better and elderly people can maintain their health. Lester Cypher said he has been talking to a person at the Pasco County Parks Department about planting fruit trees in county parks not just palm trees to create edible landscapes. Karen St. Jean from the Urban Food Park project said she would be happy to work with Lester Cypher on these efforts and she referenced her concept of a “Farm in a Box”.*
- vii. Deanne Krautner - Reported that the Pasco County Health*

**Department would complete its audit of the products sold at the 203 convenience stores in the county by the end of 2015.**

**viii. Susan Zanatta – Public school students’ food choices and access to healthy food sources - Susan Zanatta said that the Pasco County schools donate produce and milk that is close to expiration and that this resource can be coordinated with the Volunteer Way. Susan Zanatta also spoke about the work that the five dieticians in the Pasco County school district do to educate students and their parents about healthy food choices, including distributing flyers on this topic. The problem is that junk food is cheaper than nutritious food and so many people are not able to afford nutritious food. Susan Zanatta reported that the Pasco County School District is working on a new fresh produce bid to purchase more fresh produce from Florida growers. Fanchone Gude suggested that perhaps the schools could develop more programs to teach families how to grow their own food. Susan Zanatta said that several schools have gardens and are teaching children where food comes from and how to grow it. Susan will provide a list of these schools to FPAC.**

**b) Community Garden Ordinance Examples (*Urban Agriculture Ordinance*) -**

***This topic was covered above and it was agreed that five ordinances will be reviewed at the workshop.***

**c) Set future dates and times for FPAC meetings-**

***The workshop will be held on November 4, 2015 from 10-12 Noon – specific room at West Pasco Government Center to be announced TBA. The next FPAC meeting will be held on December 9, 2015 from 10-12 Noon – same as above regarding location.***

***The 2016 schedule is attached herewith.***

## **VII. New business**

- 1. Kira and Kacey Atkinson has offered FPAC a table at the next Pasco EcoFest in November (the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>) @ Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park. Kira requested that volunteers from FPAC run it and provide supplies. Jeff Wright and Travis Morehead said they would be at the Pasco EcoFest with their other organizations and that they would assist with staffing a FPAC table.***

## 2. Council Members Presentation

- a) Travis Morehead – Backyard Chickens - ***This topic was discussed above when it was moved up on the agenda.***

- i. <http://pinellascountycitizensforbackyardpoultry.weebly.com/ordinances.html>
- ii. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/05/14/bird-flu-outbreak-mostly-spares-backyard-chickens/27337741/>

- b) Dr. Whitney Elmore – Update on Community Garden link on County Web-Site

***Todd Engala read Dr. Elmore’s update aloud.***

- c) Lester Cypher – Food Policy ideas and game plan

***Lester Cypher’s document on this subject was distributed but there was no discussion.***

## 3. Guest Speakers

- a) Ed Caum (Confirmed) – Tourism Department –

***Mr. Caum did not attend the meeting but his representative, Lauren St Martin said that the Tourism Department is working on culinary and seafood tourism. Dell deChant stated that this is “old school” and recommended that the focus be on agri-tourism instead. The FPAC did not take a vote on this recommendation.***

- b) ***The Urban Food Park LLC and Inc. (consulting company and non-profit) representatives gave an update on their proposed project which has been submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). They are looking at sites in the Harbors area and the project would include an incubator for food businesses, classrooms, vocational programs, an edible garden, healthy product vendors, yoga, wellness and educational programs for the community perhaps in cooperation with USF and UF. The next step would be to formalize a consulting agreement with the BCC. There was a strong recommendation by members of the FPAC that Pasco County companies be considered for inclusion first as the project moves forward.***

- c) ***Dell deChant suggested that FPAC put all the valuable data it is collecting on the FPAC website. Todd Engala said he would work on this to create a Website with a Resource Page.***

- d) ***Susan Zanatta stated she plans to learn more about the Aurora Community Gardens and report back to FPAC. One of the audience members said that there will be a community organic garden being set up at the intersection of Grand and Georgia streets in New Port Richey on November 7 from 2-4 PM.***
  
- e) ***2016 FPAC Regular Meeting Schedule: Set next year's regular meeting schedule***

VIII. Adjournment

***The meeting was adjourned at 12 Noon by Travis Morehead.***

***Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan (Susie) Hoeller, FPAC Secretary***