

Food Policy Advisory Council

Meeting Notes

March 11, 2020 10:00am – 11:30am

Pasco Economic Development Council Board Room, Suite 101

Pointe Village, 16506 Pointe Village Way, Lutz, FL

FPAC Member Attendees: Fanchone Gude; Dell DeChant; Jennifer Parker, Patricia Jackson, Jeffrey Wright.

Staff and Public: Mary Helen Duke, Viviana Martinez, Chloe Kidd; Caitlyn Peacock.

Introductions

Dell DeChant called the meeting to order at 10:05am. After initial introductions, Mr. Dechant turned the meeting over to Chair Jeffrey Wright.

Tampa Bay to End Hunger Food Assessment Presentation

Caitlyn Peacock, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger presentation (see attached powerpoint). She summarized data for Pasco county. In theory there is enough food. Distribution and access is an issue. They stopped doing retail surveys due to COVID-19. Food policy analysis. Hunger gap map. Meal gap by zip code. Analysis shows food insecurity rates. Meal gap measured at 569,775. 2017 data. ACS data used from US Census. Food deserts. Concentrations of 500 people not within a grocery store. 20 Census Tracts are defined as food deserts in Pasco County. Census tracts do correlate with availability of services. ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). The future success of communities is directly ties to the financial stability of fragile ALICE households. ALICE map correlated to the households shown in the Community Food Needs Assessment.

Meal gap by zip code. Over 40% near City of New Port Richey ae ALICE neighborhoods. And South Harbors. And Zephyrhills. New Port Richey has the lowest meal gap in Pasco County, probably due to the high number of meal provider programs. Ms. Peacock described the Pack-A-Sack program. Zip Code 34655 lost 250,000 meals since last number.

The TBNEH database allows you to type in zip code and find nearest food provider locations. Farmers markets. List is incomplete. There are two newer sites. Now looking to map the food system. List is updated every 12 – 18 months. Zip Codes with Highest Meal Gap is 33544. Meal cost in Pasco County is \$3.28. TBNEH works with the school nutrition program.

A little over \$100 million goes into SNAP for Pasco County annually.

Duke referred to the Pasco County Community Food Assessment Study conducted in 2016/2017 and noted GIS data for school community gardens is available. Information on how to access this data had been provided to Ms. Peacock previously, but was not reflected in the presentation.

Ms. Peacock noted next steps. Looking at local codes and ordinance that may be causing barriers, etc. Just onboarded a food system analyst. Will do within the next 2 months. A group of law students are going through codes. Can look at what has been done and what hasn't. TBNEH will share study results and the study outline with county staff.

Duke explained the insights of the 2016 Pasco County Community Food Policy Assessment. Ms. Duke recited the insights listed in the Pasco County Food Policy Assessment Study. Additionally, the study inventoried farmers markets and included a review of Pasco County Codes and Ordinances.

Ms. Peacock stated the goal was to identify the lowest hanging fruit to change ordinances.

Duke explained that timing of Land Development Code update that TBNEH wants may be different that what the Planning and Development Department timeline is. There is a process to follow. It must go to the ordinance development team, county attorney's office, Planning Commission, etc. She explained a similar request of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program with a score card and unrealistic expectations. The county is working to make the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development code more concise rather than adding more duplicative verbiage.

Dell DeChant thanked TBNEH for excellent report. He encouraged taking the next step with a deeper analysis.

Patricia Jackson stated the need to stay focused. Helpful as new information comes to inform how we work on our goals. New things may come along. Complete analysis, share information. Take information. They can bring to us, because we asked for an update. It's something we said we wanted.

Jeffrey Wright stated it's our job to see if and how if that fits into the Strategic Plan. We can either determine if it matches up with goals. Need to tweak a goal or change a goal? Is that goal still relevant. This is information that we can either use for the 3 goals we've come up with. I don't see changing the 3 goals.

Fanchone Gude asked is another committee doing this? What is the goal? I am always confused? TBNEH is already doing this. Are they supposed to be coordinating with us?

Patricia Jackson stated we are in a different position. We are gatherers and gain input from different sources. A small group.

Duke – FPAC's role is to make policy recommendations to the BCC.

Jennifer Parker – Make this a department. I have struggled since the strategic plan. No short term progress. There are mechanics already in place to do that. I don't know that that is the impact that I want. I want to impact people tomorrow.

Jeffrey Wright noted it was a great discussion. 30 minutes left of meeting.

Minutes

It was noted a quorum is present.

- *12/11/20 minutes and 2/28/20 meeting notes*
Dell DeChant moved to approve both sets of minutes. Motion seconded by Patricia Jackson.
Unanimous approval of both sets of minutes with corrections.

FPAC Membership Member Restructuring

Item was discussed. Dell DeChant supports. Jennifer Parker agreed. Motion by Dell DeChant to approve. Seconded by Jennifer Parker. Unanimously approved.

2020 meeting schedule

Chair Jeffrey Wright noted the schedule is in the packet. Duke noted special workshop dates to be determined via doodle polls. Will set up next 3 to 4 weeks.

Goal 1 Discussion Continuation

Jeffrey Wright returned the discussion to Goal 1 remarks. Struggling with the cost. When we meet with the County Administrator will he truly getting traction on it. There is a question of duplicating, lack of communications. We need a coordinator or position or two. Need people to coordinate all the tentacles the county has. It's hard to pull it all together.

Find some communication method that works. The County does do a lot of things related to what our goals are. There is a synergy to coordinate efforts.

Patricia Jackson stated there is a need to look at goals. As we dig deeper, perhaps we need to tweak the goal or abandon the goal. Tweak recommendation to create a position to coordinate. We are still working on the same goal, on a smaller scale and in a different way.

Jeffrey Wright asked is that what you were thinking?

Jennifer Parker stated she supports decision of group. Whether it's communications or a person. We need to figure that out. That investigation may need to answer what that looks like. We are working on the same thing. We need to better understand the depth of the need.

Jeffrey Wright stated we need to reduce the spinning wheel. Drill down to the meat of the issue. Get to the point where we can have an ask. We need short term and audacious long term goals.

Dell DeChant stated a challenge is membership on committee. I know. This is a small group and we are lacking critical mass. More meetings would not be productive until we have more staff. We need resources and personnel to advance this. We have asked too much. We need to ask for a position for a FTE to facilitate this project.

Dell DeChant stated he has not heard of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council speak of any connection to resiliency. Food security is not there.

Duke noted that food security has been mentioned at TBRPC meetings she's attended. The Director of Resiliency and Citizen Engagement at TBRPC has a background in food distribution. The UDF Honors Resiliency Practicum had a student study Pinellas County's farmers market from a resiliency perspective. Duke noted FPAC staff should be part of the county resiliency staff. A strategic plan is always tweaked.

There was general discussion of need for dedicated FTE or PTE FPAC staff and with a long term goal of the department discussed in Goal 1.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 11:40am.

Prepared by:

Mary Helen Duke (signed electronically)

Mary Helen Duke
Sr. Planner – Project Management

Approved unanimously by FPAC June 10, 2020.