



Food Policy Advisory Council
Meeting Notes
June 9, 2021 10:00am – 11:30am
Hybrid Meeting In-Person and via WebEx

FPAC Member Attendees in Person: Jeffrey Wright, Patricia Jackson, Dell deChant, Dan Mitchell, Shari Bresin (non-voting), Caitlyn Peacock. Fanchone Gude
FPAC Alternate Attendees in Person: Ron Becker, Arianne Corbett
FPAC Member Attendees via WebEx video: Alyssa Smith
Staff: Sonide Simon, Planner II, Long Range Planning; Craig Bacon, Information Technology, Patti Crist, Project Coordinator III, Mary Helen Duke, Principal Planner – Resiliency
Public: Anna Chavez

I. Introductions

Chair Jeffrey Wright convened the meeting and, following a roll call with the above members present, noted that a physical quorum of members, as specified in the enabling resolution, was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Wright called for review and approval of the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. DeChant moved that the minutes be approved for the March 10, 2021 quarterly meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jackson and passed unanimously with no abstentions.

III. FPAC Membership

Chair Wright noted that the Food Systems Attorney position is still vacant. Staff will send notice of FPAC member opening to Tampa Bay Bar Associations. Non-profits were encouraged to discuss the open position with their attorneys. Other open positions noted were Alternates for the food system attorney, grocer/distributor, and school district.

It was noted that at the May 18, 2021 BCC meeting, the FPAC attorney member criteria, six year review and council extension request for another six years was approved. Previous FPAC enabling resolutions were consolidated into Resolution 21-185. In addition to reconstituting the enabling resolution, some minor tweaks, mainly editorial, recommended by the County Attorney's Office were incorporated.

IV. Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Regional Resiliency Action Plan (TBRPC RRAP)

Chair Wright opened discussions. Ms. Duke noted an excerpt from the RRAP on Goal 9 was included in the packet and feedback was requested on individual objectives and specific action items. Action

items are recommended to local governments, but not mandatory. TBRPC cannot dictate that local governments do this, since there is no funding attached, so this is a recommendation only. Ms. Duke reported Goal 9 – Food systems become more sustainable and resilient, and access to healthy foods is improved was added to the Regional Resilient Action Plan. Draft 1 was recently released to the Resiliency Coalition Management and Planning Committee. A copy is attached for review and feedback. The agenda memo details the excerpt of Goal 9. Feedback from FPAC was requested. Ms. Corbett asked if there was still time for feedback? Ms. Duke noted TBRPC will be bringing the RRAP to the BCC via a workshop this Fall, so yes, there is time to submit feedback. Ms. Duke advised that today's discussion was on Goal 9 and advised members they could also comment on the whole document. Discussion followed. Ms. Duke explained the draft is the version forwarded to the TBRPC Resiliency Management and Planning Committee for feedback. Ms. Corbett recommended adding a new action item to Objective 9.2 that was similar to the third action item listed in Objective 9.3 regarding collaboration. Dell deChant asked how that would be integrated into Objective 9.3? Ms. Corbett said this would be more about getting local government more involved in collaborations. There are so many opportunities. There are ways to think strategically to link our large food operation and be more intentional about connection. Chair Wright agreed and Dell deChant agreed. Mr. deChant suggested changing replacing food waste with food production to accomplish that end. Ms. Corbett mentions working with hospitals and schools as partners. Dan Mitchell stated, so it's institutions and distribution. Ms. Corbett noted that it is already happening. It would be helpful for the county to think about it. Dan Mitchell noted incentivization was important. After discussion, the following language was recommended: "Local governments encourage collaboration with farms, local fresh food processors and distributor to support local food production, processing, and distribution, the LMI community and economic goals. Partners would include neighboring jurisdictions, neighborhood associations, institutions, schools, hospitals and prisons." Mr. deChant noted Goal 9 would not have been in the RRAP without our input. Chair Wright noted it is moving slowly and we must be patient until things get traction to create resiliency and sustainability. Mr. deChant noted there is no funding associated with this. It is a platform, a start for reform. Ms. Duke will forward the feedback to TBRPC staff.

V. Waste No Food – Plant for Pasco Initiative Status

Sonide Simon, Planner II provided a status report and introduced Anna Chavez, the Creating a Regenerative System Waste No Food Program Coordinator for Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger, who participated by Webex. Ms. Simon noted this is part of Plant for Pasco initiative. We are officially partnering with the Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger. It was noted that a new press release on the program will be sent out. This time to a wider audience. Ms. Simon presented the Plant for Pasco webpage and the draft of the Waste No Food webpage that is not live yet. She asked FPAC to read the introduction to see if it makes sense. The Waste No Food webpage goes to TBNEH. FPAC is helping to market the program by hosting a WNF webpage on the FPAC website. Roll out is anticipated in three weeks. FPAC members were asked to share the program information with friends, family members and networks and organizations. FPAC members were asked to help sign up two donors each. Ms. Duke noted we have a stakeholder list of local, regional, statewide, and national groups and individuals. Ms. Simon noted at the beginning of the project there were 4

program participants. Now there are 24. The food service industry, grocers and community farms in Pasco should be targeted for surplus food donations and/or to provide or receive food scraps for the composting project. She asked for each FPAC member to identify and help sign on two potential WNF donors or recipients. Ms. Chavez noted donors from the food system industry including restaurants, bakeries and farms are needed anywhere in Pasco County.

Chair Wright inquired about guidelines on food being donated. Ms. Chavez clarified that charities or compost sites are protected from liability by the Good for America Act. Food goes to charities and food scraps goes to composters. Expired food is not accepted for food distribution but could be accepted for composting. Donors must register through the Waste No Food App. Guidance on how to use the app will be provided. Mr. DeChant noted it was for the food stream as well as for the compost stream. There are two pickups. Viable food or composting. Ms. Chavez noted there are two pick-ups. Leftover food goes to charities. Food scraps goes to farmers for composting. TBNEH coordinates pickups or drop offs. Mrs. Peacock noted that June 15th is the beta launch by TBNEH. Ms. Peacock noted that TBNEH requires each nonprofit to be vetted through a partnership they have with a community college, prior to being approved as a Waste No Food donor. Food safety 101 certification is required. Ms. Peacock noted they partner with Hillsborough Community College to do the vetting for food safety certification. Chair Wright requested a link to the app. Ms. Duke noted we will send it out to everyone on FPAC. They can sign up from website or App. Can be either or. TBNEH prefers they sign up thru TBNEH WNF website. The App is the tool. Ms. Peacock stated the TBNEH is the landing page. Can do it either way, but TBNEH prefers signups be done thru the TBNEH website, so individual assistance may be provided. The APP is most functional. App glitches should be solved by June 15th.

Mr. Mitchell inquired about eligibility. Could it be pantries or anyone with 501© 3 status? Ms. Peacock stated that TBNEH vets them. Must be a 501© 3. The Good Samaritan Act protects the nonprofits. There are two tiers. Compost can go to individuals. Individuals cannot receive edible food donations directly from restaurants. They can only receive through the nonprofits. Ms. Jackson noted that Anna has been great to link the donors to the recipients. She has served as a go between for delivery at times. Ms. Peacock noted the county waste management report reported restaurants and consumers as the biggest contributors to food waste stream. It's a tool, a mode for communication.

Ms. Jackson state Ms. Chavez has been great. Can contact and see if someone can pick up and deliver. She has done that .

Ms. Peacock stated technology is a tool. It's all about relationships to connect donors to NPOs.

Ms. Simon noted there is a letter in the packet that is used to solicit donors.

Chair Wright noted this is tying together food waste, restaurants, and consumers. He requested a link to the website so he could sign up as a donor.

Ms. Simon thanked Ms. Chavez and the TBNEH team, Ms. Bresin at UF/IFAS, the county Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Department who will be handing out the clean compost bins and Jeff Wright as a future donor. Ms. Duke thanked TBNEH and Ms. Simon for leading the county's efforts on this marketing project with TBNEH and UF/IFAS.

VI. Farmer's Markey Survey

Ms. Duke reported no responses had been received from the 20 or so farmer's markets the online survey tool was distributed. Actually, it was sent out twice. We will need to look at doing it by mail or face to face. Volunteers are needed to reach out to farmer's market organizers. Mr. Wright noted he did not recall receiving it. His correct email address was noted. Mr. Becker requested that the survey for Tasty Tuesdays be sent to either him or Andy Figart. Mr. DeChant noted that MOMs and Kinship Urban Farm are both now defunct. Ms. Duke noted the list becomes outdated almost as soon as it is created. She will send out the contact list for additions. Mr. Mitchell thought there might be more than listed. It is difficult to do face to face without official credentials. Ms. Duke offered to provide FPAC members who want to do surveys with an official letter. Ms. Peacock noted TBNEH are getting an intern for Pasco for the Waste No Food program who can help update the list.

Dan Mitchell left the meeting at approximately 10:55am.

NEW BUSINESS:

VII. Milan Italy Best Management Practices. Ms. Duke noted we have been working on developing a FPAC Strategic Plan. Only 4 to 5 members responded to the priorities poll and we tried it a couple of times. Ms. Duke recommended FPAC regroup on this. Apparently, there is no interest in participating in the polling. Ms. Duke assigned Justin Alexander, Resiliency Intern to look at Milan Italy's Food Compact for their Best Management Practices. What BMPs could Pasco look at from Milan? There were some good, practical things they were doing in Milan that could be mirrored in Pasco County. In each packet, there are fact sheets on BMPs. They were presented to the groups for informational purposes.. Ms. Duke asked the members if this is something to look at working on as a group and consider revising and adopting?

BMP#1 Institutional Coordination & Task Management. Ms. Duke noted the first one is looking at institutional coordination and task management. What government led efforts related to food security should we be looking at. School based, senior nutrition, homeless programs. Some may need to be added. County staff could have one annual meeting on Food Security within the County. Organizing the meeting and having the meeting. Ms. Peacock said that was great. Community Services, Community Development, PCSD, etc. Key internal and external partners. Also, law enforcement is recommended for inclusion by Ms. Peacock. Could this be a Food Security Day for Pasco County? Invite FPAC, BCC. Must be advertised. Have a Food Security Forum. Chair Wright said that's great. Dell deChant agreement. Staff, time, resources, and participation with enthusiasm. To what extent would you want to invite non-governmental agencies, etc. Ms. Duke stated from a Strategic Plan perspective, should it be internal, external. Is this a 2 hour, 2 hour, 4 hour session. Several FPAC members recommended a 4

hour session. Different programs could be invited to share status. TBNEH, PCSD, Sr. Nutrition, TBRPC, etc. Take annual report and have a presentation and bring in other key agencies.

Ms. Peacock suggested starting with Information sharing. Then an ask of how we could work more efficiently together. What are the issues and challenges? What are successes. Identify challenges. Chair Wright said this is a great idea. This is what FPAC is here for to education people who work and live here. Need to plan our own work session to plan logistics of it. Let's not get into minutia today. Dell deChant. Agree. Put it on a program to develop a plan for it. Also invite municipalities to participate.

BMP #2. Framework for Food Security. Adopt targets for food security relevant programs. That would require significant work. Ms. Duke noted there are 6 BMPS. We don't have to go thru all these today. The next is Framework for Food Security. TBNEH just completed policy analysis. Portney Safran has reviewed. Conducted a comprehensive review of policies hindering and helping food security. Ms. Peacock will share report with Ms. Duke. They are working with St. Petersburg now. They did a crosswalk of all three counties, including Pasco. Ms. Duke noted Ms. Safran had not contacted her. There is a New Port Richey report and a Pasco County report. Ms. Peacock will send copies of the reports. Ms. Duke stated it is important for the local governments to be able to see what the other governments are doing.

Chair Wright looked at the other BMPs. Stated each appear valid. Food deserts, etc. But today's time is limited. He asked FPAC members and Alternates to read it and we will carve out more time on the next agenda to look at in more detail. We could spend a whole meeting on this one thing. We should not just skim it. We should plan a work session, set that date and work towards a Pasco Food Security Day. Invite the public.

Dell deChant asked who did this. Ms. Duke noted that Justin Alexander did this, with significant feedback/input/instruction from Ms. Duke. Ms. Duke directed substantial revisions to the multiple drafts. Ms. Duke assigned the task to get it where it was one page. Wanted it to be very simple and concise. We can develop additional action items. It was noted this was a great job.

VIII. Public Comments:

Chair Wright called for Public Comments. There were none.

IX. Next Meeting Date: Chair Wright noted the next meeting date falls on a holiday for some members. Discussion followed. Optional dates and board room availability was investigated. It was determined the next meeting date should remain as September 8, 2021, since only one FPAC member/alternate was impacted.

OTHER BUSINESS:

X. John Hopkins Food COVID Survey: Ms. Duke reported the survey filled out for John Hopkins Center for Living. A few days ago, we were asked to apply for two FPAC members to attend their Community of Practice program and food forum conference. Approximately 22 hours of commitment by the two FPAC

members, plus attendance at the Power of Food Forum in Kansas City. A \$1,600.00 stipend would be received for FPAC. The stipend would also be registered for the Power of Food Forum, with hotel and travel. Am uncertain if that is part of the \$1,600.00 stipend. A draft response from FPAC was developed. Each individual would need to also apply. It would be submitted together. Patricia Jackson is interested. Dell deChant also is interested. Chair Wright noted he does not have the time. Ms. Duke noted it may be possible to do it virtually. We could reserve the conference room upstairs. But John Hopkins may only want two people.

Chair Wright noted two people were interested and it was agreed they would be the applicants. Ms. Duke will send out the application. Edits to the FPAC application are welcome. Ms. Duke requested the individual items be sent back by Monday morning.

Ms. Duke noted the other agenda items were informational only.

Chair Wright asked if we want to discuss. Ms. Peacock requested a doodle poll. Ms. Duke asked what time of year would be best to do this? Lots of conferences in late Fall. Late summer, before the Fall might be better. Chair Wright said this is for a workshop to plan it for next summer. Dan Mitchell noted World Food Day is Oct 16. The USF Urban Food Sovereignty Summit will be Oct 14 – 16. A workshop will be set for some time this August to plan.

Shari Bresin noted the grant opportunity Mary Helen sent two weeks ago. What role could FPAC play. This could be an email. We are working with UF/FAIS. Grant has to do with composting and waste reduction and what IFAS can do with other organizations.

XI. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 11:36am. Motion made by Dell deChant. Seconded by Patricia Jackson. Passed unanimously.

Prepared by:

Mary Helen Duke

Mary Helen Duke
Principal Planner - Resiliency

Approved by FPAC: 9/8/2021 (date)