Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council

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Sam Adams, Mayor • Jeff Cogen, Judy Shiprack, County Commissioners

2010 Year End Report

The Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council (FPC) is a citizen-based advisory council to the City of Portland and Multnomah County. The FPC works on issues important to our local food system, including land use, food access, and economic development.

FPC members represent a wide range of expertise from local food producers, culinary arts, community planning, soil and water conservation district, landscape design and construction, neighborhood associations, and non-profit organizations addressing hunger, public health, and urban food production.

Mission: The FPC brings together a diverse array of stakeholders to integrate the aspects of the food system (production, distribution, access, consumption, processing, and recycling) in order to enhance the environmental, economic, social, and personal health for residents in the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

Vision: All City of Portland and Multnomah County residents have access to a wide variety of nutritious, affordable food, grown locally and sustainably.

Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council Members

Chair – Tammy VanderWoude, nursing student at Linfield College
Vice-Chair – Anita Yap, City of Damascus

Members
Dave Barmon, Fiddlehead LLC
Jean Fike, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
Amy Gilroy, Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute
Katy Kolker, Portland Fruit Tree Project
David McIntyre, Art Institute of Portland, International Culinary School
Robin Scholetzky, Ecology and Environment
Josh Volk, Slow Hand Farm
Mark White, Powelhurst Gilbert Neighborhood Association
Tera Couchman Wick, Food justice consultant
Ryan Wist, Scenic Fruit Company

*Affiliations are for identification purposes only.

2010 FOOD POLICY COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The local food system continues to be center stage focus in Portland and Multnomah County. Community leaders and members are fully engaged in developing a sustainable and just system. The FPC helped facilitate this engagement through an active year developing policy recommendations, participating in food system projects within the City and County, and presenting at numerous community events elevating important food-related issues within the region.

This report highlights local food system activities and 2010 FPC activities including:

- The Multnomah Food Initiative
- The Portland Plan
- Oregon Solutions – Portland Community Gardens
- Healthy Food Retail Workgroup
- Urban Food Production and Distribution Workgroup
- FPC outreach and education
- Regional food systems discussions
- Nutrition enhancements in City of Portland Recreation Centers
- Application to USDA Hunger Free Communities Grant

THE MULTNOMAH FOOD INITIATIVE

The FPC was instrumental in shaping the Multnomah Food Initiative Project through recommendations to Multnomah County's Board of Commissioners in September 2009. The FPC recommendations led to the development of the Multnomah Food Initiative, a community collaborative effort to create a shared vision and goals and a 15-year action plan around the food system in Multnomah County. FPC members served on the steering committee for the Multnomah Food Summit, an event organized by Multnomah County and County Commissioner for District 3, Judy Shiprack.

The aim of the Multnomah Food Summit was to develop a shared community vision. The one-day summit was an overwhelming success, with over 250 community members in attendance. Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen, Commissioner Shiprack, and Congressman Earl Blumenauer were among the speakers at the summit. Building off the momentum from the summit, several one-day workshops were held in October-November to refine community actions to be incorporated into a 15-year strategic action plan. The FPC participated in many of the workshops and provided policy review and comments to County staff on the draft version of the 2025 Multnomah Food Action Plan.

Looking ahead: The FPC will continue to be a sounding board for the Multnomah Food Initiative and resulting projects. The FPC will also provide instrumental policy advice and assistance to the County in setting priorities and implementation measures for the Multnomah Food Initiative's success.

PORTLAND PLAN

The FPC continues its involvement with the Portland Plan, a 25-year strategic plan led by the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and Mayor Adams. The plan will set a course for the city and be instrumental in developing the upcoming comprehensive plan. The FPC has worked towards the inclusion of food policy and public health within the city's long-range goals. Phase I of the project included the background document: Food Systems Report (Fall 2009). Phase II, recently completed, provides direction and objectives for the plan. The FPC provided input on numerous directions and objectives associated with the nine Action Areas in Phase II and examples of FPC work products illustrating food-related policies.

Looking ahead: The FPC will continue its engagement with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability on the Portland Plan. As the project continues into Phase III, the Council will provide strategic policy recommendations for increasing food access, equity, addressing public health and local food production.

OREGON SOLUTIONS – PORTLAND COMMUNITY GARDENS

The FPC participated in the Oregon Solutions process, a collaborative effort to increase community gardening opportunities in the city, led by Commissioner Nick Fish and the City of Portland under the auspices of Governor Kulongoski. The project, beginning in 2009, resulted in recommendations to address the immediate needs of the municipal community garden program, efforts to address the larger regional food system, and expanding the range of partners addressing community gardening. The project culminated in the signing of a Declaration of Cooperation, in which the FPC committed to the following:

"Participating in the City's Inter-Bureau Technical Advisory Committee convened by Commissioner Fish to limit barriers or provide incentives for garden development; participating in the Regional Food Network; participating as needed and requested in advisory committees that provide recommendations for the community gardens programs."

HEALTHY FOOD RETAIL WORKGROUP

The Healthy Food Retail (HFR) workgroup assisted Multnomah County Health Department's Community Wellness and Prevention program in developing a set of healthy food retail policy recommendations to contribute to their Healthy Corner Store project. The workgroup aimed towards policy recommendations that promote healthy retail environments through regulatory and voluntary actions. The recommendations would improve food access in underserved neighborhoods, thereby benefiting the individual and community health of the area.

The HFR process incorporated the voices of people currently living with limited healthy retail options, highlighting and drawing lessons from innovative community-based work in the area of promoting healthy retail in underserved communities. The HFR Workgroup established a partnership with the Village Market Leadership Team (VMLT), a group of residents living in the New Columbia affordable housing community and Janus Youth Programs staff, who are working in partnership with the Housing Authority of Portland to establish and operate a community-run, non-profit healthy retail grocery store in New Columbia.

The VMLT offered extensive insight into the barriers, community needs and assets they have encountered while attempting to launch their new market. Multnomah County staff offered facilitation and technical support to the workgroup and provided a framework for generating and prioritizing policy recommendations.

URBAN FOOD PRODUCTOIN AND DISTRIBUTION WORKGROUP

In 2010 this workgroup focused on urban food zoning issues, following up on the Fruit and Nut Tree Recommendations from 2009, and clarifying the process of the Multnomah County Digs Program. The workgroup heard presentations from the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and Bureau of Parks and Recreation to learn how the departments interact with urban trees and tree planting.

The workgroup concentrated on urban food zoning issues throughout the year. Members researched different aspects of the current zoning issues resulting in a draft summary report. In September the committee commenced its collaboration with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability on a formal process to revise zoning policy in order to encourage urban food production and distribution. The name of the committee was also changed from Urban

Agriculture to Urban Food Production and Distribution in order to more clearly express the focus of the committee.

Looking ahead: In 2011 the workgroup plans to continue as the core group for the community advisory committee informing the zoning revision and will assist with technical aspects where possible.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The FPC participated in numerous events to address food systems in the Portland Multnomah region. The council is also working with the City Office of Neighborhood Involvement and the County to increase diversity within the Council.

Members participated in the following community events and forums:

- International Association of Culinary Professionals: food policy workshop and further consultation to participate in the 2011 annual conference
- Flash Cooking Class: healthy cooking demonstration with Commissioner Fish
- Muddy Boot Organic Festival: Food and Social Justice
- Better Living Show: What is food policy and why should you care?
- Oregon Planning Institute: Sustainable Food Production
- Community Food Security Conference in New Orleans: Food Policy Councils, Beyond Local
- Coalition for a Livable Future: Food Access and Equity Workshop
- Portland State University Capstone Class: Hunger in the City. The students provided recommendations and a template for community outreach.

Looking ahead: A newly-formed recruitment and outreach workgroup will explore opportunities to increase representation that reflects the city's diverse community and will conduct outreach and education to increase community participation with the FPC.

REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS DISCUSSIONS

There have been several informal discussions with other regional stakeholders to explore opportunities for a regional food system approach. While these discussions are preliminary, the Council is discovering many common and complementary interests that can be served by taking a more comprehensive view of our food system as it relates to urban and rural issues in the region.

NUTRITION ENHANCEMENTS IN CITY OF PORTLAND RECREATION CENTERS

The FPC supported the efforts of Portland Parks and Recreation, led by Commissioner Nick Fish, to improve the nutritional quality of snacks in vending machines at community centers across Portland. The snacks in vending machines now have reduced levels of fat, sugar, and sodium providing healthier alternatives to the children and families that rely on community centers for recreational activities and free summer meal programs.

APPLICATION TO USDA HUNGER FREE COMMUNITIES GRANT

The FPC assisted the city of Portland in writing an application for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Hunger Free Communities Grant program. If the grant is awarded, the Council will be an integral partner for a hunger assessment in three Portland neighborhoods and the eventual creation of a hunger-free community plan for the City of Portland.