

San Francisco Food Alliance Meeting
August 25, 2004
Fox Plaza, Suite 210

Introductions

Beth Altshuler (SF-CRUE), Ylonda Calloway (SFDHS Food Stamp Program), Susana Hennessey-Lavery (SFDPH Tobacco Free Project), Paula Jones (San Francisco Food Systems), Stella Maris (Literacy for Environmental Justice), Jamaica Maxwell (Fundors for Sustainable Food Systems), Bu Nygrens (Veritable Vegetable), Stacey Parker (Garden for the Environment), Jessica Prentice (Wise Food Ways), Gail Priestley (St. Anthony Foundation), Leah Rimkus (San Francisco Food Systems), Zoë Rossing (San Francisco Food Bank), Dyeshia Sampson (San Francisco Food Systems), Olivia Sargeant (Nextcourse), Sue Trupin, Sharon Turner (City College of San Francisco), Suzy Varadi (Meals on Wheels), Zetta Wells (San Francisco Food Systems)

SF Food and Agriculture Report Card

- There is a special working group of the SF Food Alliance planning for the development of a Food and Agriculture Report Card - compiling data from various sources in one place in order to serve as a resource for San Francisco and to drive policy recommendations around the local food system.
- The working group aims to have the Report Card (or at least a section of it) completed by June 2005 for UN World Environment Day (held in San Francisco).
- Because of the breadth of the data, the group decided that there should be more than one committee working on the Report Card project representing the following areas:
 - Food Assistance / Emergency Food Network
 - Direct Marketing / Urban Agriculture / Organics Recycling
 - Food Retailing
- The sections and indicators that are actually measured or represented depend largely on the energy of the group and where there is interest and time. We still need support on the Direct Marketing / Urban Agriculture / Organics Recycling section.
- Report Card can also include maps using GIS (geographic imaging systems) software.
- Working group aims to get support and advice on report from Board of Supervisors.
- Working group hopes to get the SF Food Alliance and its supporting/member organizations to sign onto document to give it more strength.
- The group is currently pulling together all the possible indicators that we intend to measure, drawing largely from and augmenting those in the San Francisco Sustainability Plan (1997). These could be measured again in 1 year or 5 years in order to track progress.
- The next meeting of the SF Food and Agriculture Report Card working group will be on Monday, September 13th at 9:00 am (Fox Plaza, Suite 910). Contact Paula for more information: paula.jones@sfdph.org

SF Department of Human Services' Food Stamp Restaurant Meals Program

- Ylonda Calloway presented on SFDHS' Food Stamp Restaurant Meals Program, which started as a pilot in March of 2003. San Francisco was the first county in the state to pilot the program, which became a state approved program in May of 2004.
- This program allows elderly, homeless and disabled residents to use their food stamp benefits (EBT card) at participating restaurants for prepared meals.
- The program started serving 800 meals/month generating \$4,600 and is now serves 12,228 meals/month making \$60,000 directly for local restaurants.
- Current vendor participants include:
 - 14 Subways
 - 5 neighborhood restaurants (mostly in the Tenderloin)
 - 3 Carls Jr.'s
- Participants must show their restaurant meal ID on site before ordering their meal and swiping their EBT card.
- DHS has already done outreach on the customer end, but now needs assistance with outreach to the neighborhood restaurants that could be participating.
 - There aren't any restaurants participating in Bayview/Southeast
 - Could also use Restaurant Meals Program in Richmond, Sunset, and Oceanview
 - Restaurants must be clean, family friendly, selling at least 50% food (not primarily alcohol), must have seating, should offer affordable meals (\$4-6 each), and preferably offer healthy choices.
 - Restaurants will have to fill out a one-page application, which goes to the FNS field office in Sacramento for approval, and then to Citicorps/J.P. Morgan for the electronic benefits transfer computerized device.
 - Participating neighborhood restaurants are very satisfied with this program. Victory (on 6th Street) is making \$10,000/month and Carls Jr.'s is making \$20-30,000/month in food stamp dollars.
- We might be able to show how many food stamp dollars are available in the 94124 (Bayview) zip code and how restaurants can tap into these dollars – since they are likely already serving these elderly and disabled populations.
- If you would like to help DHS in this outreach effort, please get in touch with Ylonda at Ylonda.Calloway@sfgov.org to discuss outreach strategies.

Update on District 10 Working Group

- Sue gave an update on the progress of the Salton grant. This is the proposal that the Department of the Environment turned in to the Salton Settlement Fund for establishing a farmers' market in the Bayview.
- Grant is in the final stages and, if approved, will start in 2005. The market would operate with assistance of Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association for one day per week from April through November. Site is still not determined.
- Grant would provide funding for year one and includes a Project Coordinator for the first quarter of the year, working under DOE and coordinating with project partners (PCFMA, LEJ, Girls2000, etc.)
- The DOE plans to have a community meeting in early October to plan for market site selection and other details and hopes that SF Food Alliance will be in support of project and take part in community meetings.
- District 10 Working Group has not been active in several months and could play a larger role as an advisory board to this DOE grant and flesh out a longer term vision of what is possible in the Bayview years ahead.
- Group discussion indicated that there wasn't a good sense of when the District 10 group started and what its priorities were/are. Because the focus of discussion around District 10 has been around this specific grant-funded project, for which there are already lead agencies, it doesn't seem this is a comprehensive look at the District's food access situation.
- Group suggested that the District 10 working group be rebooted and re-prioritize. Sue will send an email to sffoodsystems list and call a new subcommittee meeting. We should also solicit participation from people living in / working in District 10.

Announcements

- (Leah) Please remember to fill out and return a Membership Form if you would like to be an official member of the SF Food Alliance. You can contact me for a copy (leah.rimkus@sfdph.org) or go online to www.sffoodsystems.org/pages/foodalliance.html.
- (Suzy) Meals on Wheels is trying to expand its outreach regarding the availability of home-delivered meals to the Outer Sunset, Park Merced, and the Outer Mission. There is a citywide maintained list of persons needing home delivered meals, yet most of the people listed already have advocates acting on their behalf. Meals on Wheels is trying to accumulate a larger database of community-based organizations (e.g. faith-based) to help get the word out.
- (Jessica) Jessica will be having a Full Moon Feast on Saturday, August 28th at St Francis Lutheran Church on Church Street. The feast will include all local, sustainably grown food. Following the dinner will be a brief presentation about fishing for wild salmon and why

farm-raised salmon is not a wise choice. Jessica offers classes and other cooking/educational events which are listed on her website: www.stirringthecauldron.com.

- (Olivia) Nextcourse is looking for chefs to participate in its four week educational program on sustainable food systems. In addition to restaurant chefs, the team is happy to recruit private/personal chefs to help with classes taught in the SF County Jail, with child care providers, and in other venues. The time commitment is about 5-10 hours per week and all food costs are reimbursed.
- (Stacey) The next Gardening and Composting Educator Training Program (GCETP) is starting this fall. Applications are due in a week and are available, along with the course description and schedule, on the following website: www.gardenfortheenvironment.org.
- The next meeting of the SF Food Alliance will be on **Wednesday, October 20th at 4:30 pm**.

World Environment Day, June 2005

- The SF Food Alliance meeting was followed by a public meeting on World Environment Day (WED) at the SF Main Public Library.
- Meeting presenters were Jared Blumenfeld (Director of San Francisco Department of the Environment) and Heidi Kuhn (Chair of World Environment Day Committee).
- Attendees were given an opportunity to hear draft plans and initial thoughts for the week's events (June 1-5, 2005), ask questions, and suggest specific activities for each of the different themes.
 - Pure Elements: Air, Water and Food
 - Redesigning Metropolis: Green Building, Smart Growth, Recycling
 - Cities on the Move: Transportation
 - Urban Power: Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Climate Protection
 - Flower Power: Parks and Open Space, Green Recreation
- Organizers plan to have additional WED planning public meetings, possibly on a monthly basis in different neighborhoods.
- Organizers are willing to meet with groups that have ideas or are interested in proposing, raising money for, planning activities during the week of WED.
- WED was established by the United Nations to stimulate awareness of the environment and enhance political attention and public action. Next year is the first time it is being hosted anywhere in North America. It will be hosted in San Francisco in June 2005 with the theme "Green Cities."
- See www.wed2005.org for more information or call (415) 355-9905.