

Seattle Good Food Network

October 29, 2009 at University Branch Library

Meeting Notes

Facilitator: Branden Born

Notetaker: Kara Martin

Introductions

Overview of AFPC history and strategies (equitable access, infrastructure, economic development, public health, and council development)

Discussion regarding role of Good Food Network:

- Some work is being done in the community, however, there is a need to identify gaps and address them
- Is the group representing all of Puget Sound? What are the concerns? Issues?
- The network could provide a forum to voice conflict and find resolutions.
- Lessons learned from previous work:
 - develop a framework in which values are defined and actions could be connected with goals
 - consider why people want to be part of the group
 - need to find opportunity to bring issues/work together rather than treat individually
 - identify where there opportunities for collaboration
 - identify problems, challenges and gaps which are ongoing and evolving
 - identify opportunities and support new initiatives
 - strengthen individual efforts
 - provide a forum to deal with conflicts and find common ground
 - role for advocacy
- Is this a network of organizations or community-based? This is a community-based issue.
- Community-wide overview is really important
- The AFPC Strategic Framework could be used as a rallying or starting point for member to sign on to and begin work; need an explicit shared set of values
- Opportunity for a “virtual” network, allowing us to bring more people from the community and provide a central meeting point. Use social media.
- Need to explore role of media and advocacy
- Opportunity to develop new initiatives as a group as well as strengthen individual efforts by member groups/individuals

- Consider going out to the community, not just inviting them to the table—including rotating meetings in various neighborhoods
- Need to consider and treat work as a system- like transportation and housing are treated. Need to move it forward politically.
- Develop a strategic plan (5-10 years) that is not dependent on funding

Discussion regarding network structure:

- Should be inclusive and have the capability to change
- Could follow format similar to Washington Fair Trade Coalition membership guidelines: agree to a set of principles, sign-on to public documents, sliding membership fee, and provide contact person
- Consider how we make decisions- do we vote? Come to consensus?
- Different ideas of consensus- we could develop flexible voting scale
- Provide way to record minority vote's side so potential ideas are not lost
- Forming network is a open process; once formed could have a more structured process/network form
- Choose a form that can get things done- develop a joint structure for participation and voting by membership. Also consider how membership will evolve
- Who shows up to the table from respective organizations (the gardener, manager, board member)?
- Who is the group accountable to?

Closing Thoughts:

- Do you want to be involved and how?
- What are potential models that you know of for this network (structure, decision making, membership, etc.)
- Consider who isn't at the table but should be, and invite them.
- Future meetings- what locations works- rotating or consistent?
- Next meeting: December 3rd and location TBD
- Branden and Kara will set up next meeting, record notes until network is more formalized.