

Community Food Network Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2009
10:00 am to 11:30 am - St. John's Anglican Church

Attended by: Dr. Rosana Pellizzari (Chair), Paula Anderson, Peter Hughes, Lori Sainte, Margaret Wright, Dorothy Oliver, Terry Keating, Julie Stoneberg, Dorothy Boddy, Alida Tanna (Recorder).

Regrets: Susan Hubay, Kim Naish, Chris Kawalec, Jillian Bishop

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Terry Keating, Principal from Immaculate Conception was introduced, attending on behalf of the PVNCCDSB.

2.0 Agenda

Item 4.2 (Farmers to Institutions Discussion) was deferred. Addition of items 5.4 (Community Gardens) and 5.5 (Gleaning).

3.0 Minutes of April 7, 2009

The minutes were approved without changes.

4.0 Business Arising

4.1 Community Food Security Discussion

There was consensus by the group to build on the Nova Scotia framework which was discussed in greater detail at the last meeting. However, they would still appreciate input from Linda Slavin on the African model to supplement this and then make a final decision. The vision of the CFN and the web site should be modeled after this framework. Sustainability and social justice should also fit into the vision.

ACTIONS: Linda Slavin to present African model at the June meeting if she is available.

4.2 Farmers to Institutions Discussion

Deferred.

5.0 Updates

5.1 Web Site Update

Margaret Wright met with the Communications Committee of the PPRN. A Fleming College student will start development of the site in mid-May. Content for the site will be sent to Literacy Ontario Central South to ensure readability across various literacy levels. The site will be built using the following subsections:

- Who We Are
- Food (CFN)
- Housing
- Basic Needs
- Income & Employment
- Communications
- How Can I Help?
- Contacts
- Links

It was suggested that the site use the Nova Scotia approach to organize sections by the following:

- Immediate Need
- Capacity Building
- System Change/Approach

5.2 Food Security Work Plan

The plan as it currently appears is not ‘volunteer-friendly’, again, it was recommended that it be modeled around the Nova Scotia framework. There was further discussion around the issues facing Kawartha Food Storage which emphasized the immediate and urgent need for greater Food Storage Capacity. Questions that arose from the discussion around Food Storage Capacity included:

- What partnerships can exist locally to help with this?
- How do we build it?
- How do we support gleaning?
- Local refrigeration companies – can we solicit for donations?
- Explore the idea of collective canning (cooking classes?)

It was determined that a separate group should come together to give this item more thought, ideally a meeting would happen shortly after the monthly CFN meeting.

ACTION: Dr. Pellizzari and Susan Hubay will work on the plan and provide an updated version at the next meeting.

ACTION: Dorothy will look into the availability of a community root cellar at Mount St. Joseph and will also call on other churches involved in community meals for the same.

ACTION: Alida to request participation for a “Root Cellar Dwellers Working Group” when sending out the minutes.

5.3 Healthy Food Supplement

This meeting was held last week in Toronto however Dr. Pellizzari could not attend due to the H1N1 outbreak.

ACTION: Alida will forward any updates from the organizers when they are provided.

5.4 Community Gardens

5.4.1 Community Gardens – City Planning

The group met with the city and had a very productive session. They discussed the development of policy around Community Gardens and identifying the role that the city would play in this regard. A meeting has been scheduled for May 15th which will involve the policy development group for the City. An article in the Examiner will come out shortly regarding gardens. In the article, members of the public who are interested in obtaining a plot will be directed to send their request to Green-Up. Lastly, the group was advised that the Northcrest Garden has been put on hold

ACTION: Paula will send information to Dorothy to pursue availability of plots through the faith community.

5.4.2 Schools

Further discussion took place with regard to getting schools involved in growing gardens. Toronto Public Health has been very active in this initiative. There may be funding available through Evergreen via their partnership with Toyota. We should identify partnerships, available land and timing, and plan for September to initiate.

ACTION: Terry Keating was encouraged to contact Evergreen (evergreen.ca).

5.4.3 College/University Activity:

Trent University:

- Camp Kawartha sustainable building
- Sustainable egg program
- Rooftop gardens
- 25 acres have also been allocated, development of hands on program is being considered

Fleming College:

- New building slated to have a green roof
- Lindsay Campus, green roof will have garden component
- Sustainable Agriculture program will start in January (1 yr cert.)

5.5. Gleaning

Currently this is a grassroots effort that is run by donations generally from the faith community. Volunteers are sent to farms by bus. Most farms are concerned that they are too small to handle a large group. It was suggested that Lori consider organizing this on a smaller scale (ie/ carpool) to lessen the intimidation factor of the exercise.

ACTION: Lori to draft an introductory letter/flyer which Paula can pass on to Kawartha Choice and distribute at Wednesday's Farmers Market

ACTION: If any CFN members know of farmers who may be open to gleaning, please contact Lori Sainte directly at 749-9977.

6.0 Items for Discussion

6.1 Needs Assessment for Seniors

A subgroup needs to be created to discuss this issue further. **ACTION: Any CFN members interested in joining should contact Dorothy Boddy.**

ACTION: Dr. Pellizzari will take this to the next Poverty Reduction Meeting to see if other groups can identify people to work on this issue.

7.0 Advocacy Opportunities

None.

8.0 Agenda items for June

Food Security (NS/Africa)

Food Storage Capacity

Community Gardens Update

Food Security Work Plan

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

REMINDER – NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 2, 2009 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am at St. John's Anglican Church in the lounge.