

Community Food Network Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

St. John's Anglican Church

Attendees: Dr. Rosana Pellizzari (Chair), Sue Hubay, Joëlle Favreau, Peter Hughes, Dorothy Boddy, Gwen Johnston, Judy Girard, Karen Jopling, Marie Bongard, Carol Winter, Sonya Hardman, Linda Slavin, Margaret Wright, Terry Keating, Jillian Bishop, Peggy Bailie, Steve Gibbs

Regrets: Paula Anderson, Mary McGee, Dorothy Olver, Chris Kawalec, Julie Stoneberg

1.0 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of items 4.12 Kawartha Choice and 5.2 Special Diet Allowance.

2.0 Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2010

The minutes were approved with revisions to item 4.7 Food Security Community Partnership Program and 4.11 Community Social Plan.

3.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Food Security Work Plan 2010-2011 Committee

While a subcommittee has been assigned to do this work, competing priorities and other activities have prevented this from moving forward. Susan projects that the work plan will be completed in June. **ACTION: Bring forward to June 2010 CFN meeting.**

3.2 Bring Food Home Conference, March 2010

Susan reminded the group that this conference was taking place this week.

ACTION: Members attending and interested in carpooling should contact Susan.

3.3 School Gardens and PCGN

This item was deferred.

3.4 Social Audit

Susan has been working with the coordinators of the social audit from the Interfaith Social Audit Review Committee (ISARC). The last audit took place in 2003 in Peterborough. They are seeking a lead for this work which is usually coordinated by the faith community, as well as seeking stories regarding poverty. This work will take place in March & April to be wrapped up in May, followed by a presentation to

Queen's Park. **ACTION: Please contact Wendy McConkey (1world@bell.net) if you can offer support.**

3.5 Living Wage Bylaws

Rosana updated the group on work being done by the Peterborough Social Planning Council regarding their review of the living wage. Ottawa has successfully passed a by-law which will result in all city funded work having to pay a living wage. Follow-up will go forward through the Poverty Reduction Network. **ACTION: Sonya will circulate a link to the Region of Waterloo's latest reports on their living wage policy.**

4.0 Round Table

4.1 PVNCCDSB School Update - Terry

Terry relayed the ongoing issue with school gardens, namely the concern about care over the summer months, which requires community partners for support and maintenance during this time. Terry has spoken with principals in the city, not with the school board. Prince of Wales is an example of a school that has a community garden with community support, Rosana suggested that Terry contact Penny Hope for more information. **ACTION: Peter Hughes to follow up with Mary McGee and Terry Keating on this item**

4.2 Community Gardens – Peter, Jillian

The Peterborough Community Gardens Network (PCGN) event, *Neighbourhood Conversations: "Breaking New Ground for Gardening in Our Community"*, is taking place this evening. It is a conversation based event meant for high input and open discussion. An all-day session strategic planning session will take place on March 19th at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre (at Trent University). Dorothy thanked Dr. Pellizzari for sending the letter regarding community gardens to the ministerial committee. **ACTION: Alida to forward minutes of the PCGN to the Community Food Network.**

4.3 By The Bushel Food Cooperative - Susan

Susan reported that By The Bushel and Seedy Saturday (annual seed exchange event) will be the focus of nutrition month in March and will be featured on CHEX at 5:30pm on March 10th. Seedy Saturday will take place at St. James, 221 Romaine Street on Saturday March 6th.

4.4 Our Space - Dorothy

The kitchen at the new location is almost completed. A number of volunteers (board members, staff, general public) generously gave their time to assist with the move. They have held open houses, Councillor Eric Martin attended and has been very supportive. There is the ongoing issue related to 'not in my backyard' sentiment, the group felt letters to the editors of local papers, as well as letters directed to City Councillors and the Mayor would be of great value.

4.5 Gleaning – Lori

This item was deferred.

4.6 Food Security Community Partnership Program

No update.

4.7 Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network (PPRN) - Rosana

This network is undergoing a reorganization. They are submitting a proposal to Trillium to fund salary for staff as they are currently running on volunteer time and in kind contributions. The PPRN are currently working with the Prince of Wales School and neighbourhood to create a community hub.

4.8 Kawartha Food Share

This item was deferred.

4.9 Community Food Centre (CFC) - Susan

Paula, Joëlle and Susan will be attending a CFC meeting on Thursday in Waterloo as part of the Bring Food Home conference. The CFC subgroup has already met twice, and will meet again after this session.

4.10 Community Meals Update – Gwen, Dorothy

Gwen introduced Judy Girard (from St. Alphonsus) who will assist with the Out of the Cold program. Gwen and Judy distributed information on the program which is in its third year of operation. Information on times of operation has been updated on the pcchu.ca/food web site. Dorothy advised that St. John's and St. Paul's are doing well. Our Space is very happy with the weekend support it has received.

4.11 City of Peterborough Update

This item was deferred.

4.12 Kawartha Choice FarmFresh - Karen

Karen provided an update on Kawartha Choice FarmFresh, a membership-based organization which consists of farmers, producers, chefs and retailers who promote and sell agricultural products grown and produced in the Kawartha Region. They are currently in the midst of a reorganization, and have joined forces with the City of Kawartha Lakes. Their membership numbers continue to grow, however they are always seeking suggestions to promote local food. Rosana suggested contacting major food consumers in the city and county (ie/ hospital) to discuss opportunities to purchase local food, however supply and demand is a common barrier. Karen provided details on the *2nd Annual Kawartha Choice Speed-Dating Business Networking Event* which takes place on Monday, March 29th at the Evinrude Centre from 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. The cost for registration is \$10

(\$25 for farmers). This event provides an opportunity for chefs, restaurateurs, caterers, retailers and buyers to meet and develop business relationships with local producers. A suggestion was made to make contact with day care centre chefs, a network currently exists for this group. There will be approximately 25-35 farmers in attendance, buyers will move from table to table (3-5 minutes allotted for each farmer) followed by an open networking session at the end of the day.

5.0 Items for Discussion

5.1 Toronto Food Strategy

Information on this initiative was sent electronically to CFN members. The report, Food Connections: Toward a Healthy and Sustainable Food System for Toronto can be found here (<http://wx.toronto.ca/inter/health/food.nsf>).

The report outlines six directions (with accompanying ideas for action) to a health focused food system which are as follows:

1. Grow Food-friendly Neighbourhoods
2. Make Food a Centerpiece of Toronto's New Green Economy
3. Eliminate Hunger in Toronto
4. Empower Residents with Food Skills and Information
5. Connect City and Countryside Through Food
6. Embed Food System Thinking in City Government

The ideas for action could be relevant to the CFN, specifically to the group involved in the work plan development. **ACTION: Linda Slavin to forward link regarding local food social enterprises to CFN members.** As this year is an election year, there is a need to think strategically and to identify ways of building a profile on these issues and their standing on the political agenda. Dr. Pellizzari would be willing to present to councils if there is anything to bring forward, or alternately, the CFN could present to the Board of Health and seek their endorsement before bringing any items to City and County councils. **ACTION: Susan to add a petition to City and County councils to the work plan.**

5.2 Special Diet Allowance

This allowance allows OW and ODSP recipients (with particular medical conditions) to receive additional funds to purchase food. An Ontario human rights tribunal recently met on this. The tribunal was initiated by 3 individuals who had issue with the limit of medical conditions that were covered and the amount of funds provided, however it is important to note that there are over 200 complainants. The tribunal agreed that there should be changes and offered recommendations. A response is due from the Ministry managing this issue, social assistance is currently under review by the province.

6.0 Advocacy Opportunities

None.

7.0 Other

- Soil testing: Marie was concerned about community gardens and soil quality. With sites of historical industrial activity, the Ministry of the Environment performs ongoing testing on known sites. The PCGN has incorporated this into the draft policy to the City for community gardens. For homeowners, private testing is available through various laboratories and the University of Guelph, with varying fee levels. It would be helpful to have links to this information on the PCGN site.
- One Church, One Tree Project: Steven Gibbs is currently working on this initiative with Christian church groups. With so many churches in Peterborough, they will promote the planting of one tree per church, an event will be held sometime in March.

8.0 Agenda Items for April 2010

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

REMINDER – NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April, 6th 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at St. John's Anglican Church, room to be confirmed.