

Richmond Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 8th, 2011

- Welcome from Doria Robinson
- Overview of the 1st three meetings of the Richmond Food Policy Council
 - **Meeting #1:** Work together to come to a common beginning understanding of all of the food related issues facing Richmond & what our current Food System looks like
 - **Meeting #2:** We will host a panel of representatives from local Food Policy Councils (Berkeley, Oakland and San Francisco). Representatives will explain how their councils work and don't work well and answer questions from meeting participants
 - **Meeting #3:** We will work together to decide how our council will move forward in terms of governance, projects and initiatives
- Words from our Mayor: Gayle McLaughlin
 - We have the support of the city council and City staff
 - Would love to hear our inputs throughout this process and supports the food council
 - Keep the ideas flowing
- Introductions & Ice breaker: ***Please name one food related issue facing Richmond*** (For more details see: ***Food Issues*** below)
 - Nicole Valentino, Office of the Mayor
 - Jeff Rutland, Safe Return Project and Urban Tilth
 - Marilyn Langlois, Office of the Mayor
 - Jan Schilling, Weigh of Life
 - Trish Clifford, Richmond Rivets
 - Adam Boisvert, Urban Tilth RHS farm manager and Urban Ag & Food Systems class instructor
 - Amahra Hicks, Community Advocate
 - Tamisha Walker, Safe Return Project
 - Kim Stewart, Health Conductors
 - Wendi Jonassen, Richmond Confidential
 - Barbara Winkler, Resident
 - Andrea Lee, UC Berkeley SPH
 - Mitzi Mock, Richmond Confidential,
 - Hasan Dudar, Richmond Confidential
 - Mike Uberti, City of Richmond Environmental Initiatives
 - Jonathan Malagon, UC Berkeley School of Public Health
 - Shyaam Shabaka, Eco-Village Farm

- Luz Gomez, John Gioia's Office
 - Pilar Reber, Sunnyside Organics
 - Rick Weston, Sunnyside Organics
 - Joan Davis, Richmond Community Foundation
 - Doria Robinson, Urban Tilth
 - Jeff Rutland, Safe Return Project & Urban Tilth
- Group activity: ***Mapping our current Food System***
 - Each group take a stab at a topic on Richmond Food System what do we know about this particular topic
 - Groups Report Back:
 - For more details see: ***Mapping Our current Food System*** below

Note from Facilitator ~ As We Move Forward:

- We want to incorporate informed policies not just for the sake of having policies.
 - We want to focus mending and properly resources current policies and initiatives
- Who is not here / who do we need at this table?
 - Bob from el Cerrito Organic Grocery (Pilar)
 - Kaiser Rep Cindy Hao (Luz)
 - Rescue Mission
 - Williams Natural Foods
 - School District Food Service Director
 - School District Nutritionist
 - Food Director for Richmond High & Kennedy High
 - Annies Annuals owner
 - Fiesta Latina owners
 - Representative Rescue Mission
 - Representative GRIP
 - Representative Food Bank
 - **Action Items:**
 - Next Meeting Doodle Poll:
 - Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays
 - Make personal contact with everyone we need at the table
 - Make Meeting Minutes available to entire Council email list
 - Create Council website and secure URL
 - Map intro data from ***Mapping Our current Food System*** activity
 - Thank you & Adjourn

Food Issues

Richmond, CA

Tuesday, November 8th, 2011

Access / Distribution:

- Food scarcity in regards to healthy food
- Ease of accessibility of fast food
- Junk food pricing
- Unaffordable healthy & organic food in greater Richmond
- Ease of access to: soda, chips and french fries,
- Barriers preventing access to healthy food esp. in North Richmond
- Farmers market shortage
- Low enrollment on Food Stamp program
- Need more grocery stores
 - Barriers to new grocery stores:
 - Lack of appropriate real estate
 - Perception of consumer base

Quality of Food / Nutrient Density:

- School food breakfast and lunch
- Junk food dumping on after-school and other youth development programs

Urban Food Production:

- Lack of easily available information about local soil contamination, brown fields and the history of vacant lots
- Lack of funding to support Urban Agriculture initiatives
- Erroneous perception that all Richmond is polluted and food is polluted - nothing good can be grown in Richmond

Marketing:

- Check out counters loaded with junk food and unhealthy snacks marketed to kids
- Excessive advertisement of liquor and junk food!

Public Engagement / Outreach / Education:

- Extreme lack of knowledge on nutrition in youth
- Knowledge in young adults and young parents, decision makers
- Myth of how exclusive organic food is if you compare with quantity consumption
- Limited access to info on nutrition
- Building public support for solvent CSA w/social Agenda
- Education/Training on what the Food is! How to prepare it or cook it etc.

Policy:

- Lack of awareness of how the Farm Bill affects them and that they are affected by changes to the bill
- Cumbersome permitting process major barrier to starting new farmer's markets and market stands

Hunger:

- Food WASTE
- Inconsistent funding to support emergency food programs: food bank, soup kitchens, etc

Health:

- High Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity rates in children, youth and adults in Richmond

Mapping our *current* Food System

Report Back from Break Out Groups

Group #1: *How are Richmond residents growing their own food?*

- Eco-village (EV)
- Richmond Greenway Community Garden (UT)
- Berry Land (UT)
- Edible Forest (UT)
- Peace Garden (CURME)
- 5th Street Garden (CURME)
- Lillie Mae Garden
- Library Garden
- 23rd Street garden (EV/ HEAL)
- 1st Street Community Garden - Andromeda
- Backyards
- Sunny Side Organics
- AdamsCrest Farm (UT)
- School Gardens:
 - Washington Elementary
 - Lincoln Elementary (UT)
 - Cesar Chavez Elementary
 - Richmond College Prep
 - Dover Elementary
 - Ford Elementary
 - Verde Elementary (UT)
 - LaVonya DeJean Middle School
 - Richmond High (UT)
 - Kennedy High (UT)

Group #2: *Where can you get fresh Produce and raw foods?*

- Mom & Pop small grocery stores
- Food Co
- Food Barn
- Delis
- Point Richmond
- Target
- School produce Boxes
- Border Providers: eg El Cerrito Natural technically in Richmond
- Farmer's Markets: Civic Center, Kaiser & Pt Richmond
- Liquor Stores
- Fruit trucks and carts
- Fruit guys (stand on corners with boxes of fruit)
- School farmer's market stands and CSAs: Verde & Richmond High School
- 7 eleven

- Farm to Table: Community Supported Agriculture Project (CSA)
- Personal gardens sharing
- Crop swap

Group #3: *Where can you get prepared foods?*

- Fast Foods
 - National chains: McDonalds, Burger King, Taco Bell, Churches chicken, Panda Express, Wing Stop, Subway
 - Local chains & Mom & pops: Caspers & Frosty King
 - Taquerias
 - Chicken
 - Burgers
 - BBQ
 - Fries
 - Etc.
- 7 eleven (All Day)
- Corner Stores/Liquor Stores
- Taco/Burrito Trucks
- Hot food carts/Street Vendors: The corn man
- School Lunch Program (breakfast, lunch)
- Rescue Mission
- GRIP Soup Kitchen
- Churches
- Grocery stores
- Pizza Places
- Donut Shops (Breakfast, Lunch)
- Gas stations
- Farmers Markets: tamales
- Kaiser
- Community Centers
- Senior Centers
- Culinary College
- Lower Cost - Restaurants (sit down, slower food, Chinese Food)
- Higher Cost – Restaurants (sit down, slower food, many in Point Richmond & Marina)

Group #4: *What are ways to access emergency food supplies in Richmond?*

- Grip Soup Kitchen
- Rescue Mission
- Food Bank
- Meals on Wheels
- Senior Centers
- Church programs