



Hamilton

Minutes

COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 4, 2012, 4:00 p.m.
Room 264, City Hall

Present: Karen Burson, Dave Carson, Emma Cubitt, Vicki Edwards, Melanie Golba, Tabaruk Jahan, Maciej Kowalski, Chris Krucker, Ursula Samuels, Liz Shaver-Heeney (chair), Sapphire Singh, Anne Winning

Absent with Regrets: Robert Clackett, Sara Collyer, Councillor McHattie, Councillor Johnson, Richard MacDonald, Tina Moffat, Councillor Pasuta, Dr. Ninh Tran, Sarah Wakefield

Guests: Brian Morris, Alan Waterfield

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING March 7, 2012 (Chris Krucker/Dave Carson)

3.1 Minutes dated March 7, 2012 were approved as circulated.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Food and Farming: An Action Plan 2021 – Brian Morris, Business Development Consultant, with the Economic Development Division, City of Hamilton, described the Action Plan and Implementation strategy for the Golden Horseshoe.

The Action Plan is divided into five main opportunities, each with a corresponding series of actions to support the success of the opportunity. These are:

A. *Grow the Cluster* – Grow the Golden Horseshoe so it becomes the leading food and farming cluster in the world, renowned for safe, healthy products.

B. *Link Food, Farming and Health* – Educate current and future consumers about the importance of locally sourced food and farming products to enhance their health and well-being.

C. *Foster Innovation* – Encourage and support innovation to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the Golden Horseshoe food and farming cluster.

D. *Enable the Cluster* – Align policy tools and their application to enable food and farming businesses to be increasingly competitive and profitable.

E. *Cultivate New Approaches* – Pilot new approaches to support food and farming in the Golden Horseshoe.

This Action Plan was received by the General Issues Committee (PED12020) (Item 7.1) on February 15, 2012, and approval was given to form the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance (GHFFA), request funding, and implement the Action Plan over the next 10 years. City of Hamilton staff will be working with its partners and community stakeholders to implement the specific actions under the strategy.

Retail Food in the Downtown Core – Alan Waterfield, Senior Planner, with Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton, gave a Power Point overview of the proposed downtown grocery store development incentive program. The proposed terms and conditions are being developed as an amendment to the Community Improvement Plan. Once approved, applications for a one-time, forgivable loan over a five-year term for grocery store capital works, will be accepted through a Request for Proposals process.

Canadian Food Summit 2012 – Dave Carson provided a Power Point summary of the two day summit with viewpoints from industry, government, public sector and not-for-profit groups. He concluded with Rod MacRae's ten goals for a Canadian Ministry of Food. The Conference Board of Canada would like to see a national food policy in the fall of 2013.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Retail food in the downtown core – Members expressed interest in commenting on the evaluation process when the amendment is approved. The contact is Alan.Waterfield@hamilton.ca

5.2 Group updates

5.2.1 Food Charter <http://hamiltonfoodcharter.wordpress.com/>

About a dozen comments have been posted on the website, and the writing team will incorporate them into the draft charter. Development of a quick check box survey was suggested to increase the number of people giving input and support. An event to publicize the charter to the general community and to attract media attention was suggested. Details will be deferred to next meeting.

5.2.2 Education and Outreach – Committee members met to identify the 'who, what, when, where and how' of making the work of the community food security stakeholder committee more visible in the City. They are taking an inventory of work done to date, resources available, events where the display could be viewed, and potential for special events. Discussed working with Policy Committee to promote the Food Charter as a priority for 2012.

5.2.3 Farmers' Markets – A further consultation to discuss the recommendations in the white paper for a Farmers' Market policy with market managers and vendors is scheduled for later in April.

A new market will be starting up at the Ancaster Fairgrounds on Saturdays this summer. This market could potentially have up to 400 vendors. The Farm Start incubator farm in Flamborough was successful in getting funding, and the committee will invite the coordinator to a future meeting.

Action: Chris to send contact information to Vicki and Sarah.

5.2.4 Community gardens – Several groups are looking to Public Works for assistance to start new garden locations. Powell Park will be starting soon, and up to three more are expected this year.

Bill Wilcox is planning five Victory gardens and one orchard this year to grow produce to donate to food banks and soup kitchens. Volunteers are needed.

There is a North-end garden group looking for more gardeners.

5.2.5 Agri-food business – Environment Hamilton held a March event at library with speakers Meredith Hayes and Alvin Rebik, from Toronto Food Share presenting on community kitchens and incubator kitchens. A field trip to Toronto Food Share is being organized for those interested in learning more about these initiatives.

5.2.6 Student nutrition – Jean Ann Bauman reported on a new project of Hamilton Partners in Nutrition – Food for Kids. Piloted in Halton, this program provides weekend food in back packs for children who are food insecure. Currently in the grant seeking phase, the program is set to launch in the fall.

5.2.7 Food Mapping – Sandy is meeting with GIS to move forward with that mapping plan.

5.2.8 Food Hub Development – Dave attended Halton event and shared their local food map.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION & OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Bring Food Home Conference – Sustain Ontario is looking for a partner city to host this conference in the late fall of 2013. Last year, the conference attracted over 400 participants from many sectors. Karen suggested that the CFSSC members, along with the City of Hamilton and Brantford, apply to host it. The deadline for applications is May 4th at 5:00 p.m.

Action: Karen will send out the application and proposal for members to comment on, and vote by email.

7. ADJOURNMENT

(Ursula Samuels/Chris Krucker)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm

Carried