

Good Food Central Florida

Date: March 19, 2015
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 pm (scheduled time).
Location: East End Market, 3201 Corrine Drive Orlando, Florida
Subject: March Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Lisa Portelli, Winter Park Health Foundation, Maria Ali, Second Harvest Food Bank; Luis Nieves-East Central Florida RPC, Sue Tatum, Vinca Marketing; John Rife, East End Market; Mary-Stewart Droege, City of Orlando; Heather Grove, East End Market, Julie Elliott, FL Department of Health Abby Gulden, City of Winter Park, Kimberly Shouldice, IFAS- University of Florida-Agricultural Extension Center; Fabiola Gaines, Hebni, Rocco Monaco, Green Nature Marketing (guest), Jean Quillo, UCF Student, Mark Perez, Community Food and Outreach Center; Alex Torres, UCF Student, Caitlyn Glatting, UF-IFAS, Joseph England-University of South Florida, Valerie Freeman, DBRD of Hotels and Restaurants (presenter), Yarissa Matos-Soto-FLDOH-Lake, Kendra Musselle-Health Council of East Central Florida and Lea Williams-FLDOH-Orange (presenter).

Welcome and Introductions:

Agendas and a sign-in sheet were distributed. Ms. Droege, facilitator, welcomed everyone and introduced the two presenters on food safety: Ms. Lea Williams, Florida Department of Health at Orange County, Environmental Health and Ms. Valerie Freeman, State of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation of Hotels and Restaurants. Just before the two presentations, Ms. Yarissa Matos-Soto was also identified for providing the broad range of support materials addressing food safety.

Presentations

Ms. Lea Williams, Florida Department of Health at Orange County, Environmental Health and Ms. Valerie Freeman, State of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation of Hotels and Restaurants both provided PowerPoint presentations addressing food safety regulations as well as trends and challenges. A broad range of issues were addressed and included: areas of regulatory concern, inspection procedures, risk-based inspections, Level 1 to 4 inspections, violations, food borne diseases and illnesses, employee training and the role of other regulatory agencies. (PowerPoint presentations were made available to attendees).

Questions from the attendees addressed challenges with non-traditional sites such as farmer's markets, temperatures at which food must be kept to keep safe, the nature and extent of trainings and how we should educate on safe food handling for both operators and consumers. Some simple interventions such as hand washing has far reaching positive consequences.

Ms. Yarissa Matos-Soto, Department of Health in Lake County, followed-up with a short presentation on certain food illness case studies and epidemiology, including Listeria ensued. An animated discussion of food illnesses and consequences followed.

The meeting then turned to subcommittee reports. Mr. John Rife, **Production Subcommittee**, shared that he is currently working with the City of Orlando on a new urban farming project. As part of the larger discussion, Ms. Heather Grove brought up the regulatory challenges involved with the introduction of new uses. Attendees briefly discussed how to classify urban agriculture uses, insurance challenges and business tax receipt process. Ms. Droege from the City of Orlando offered assistance.

Ms. Sue Tatum, **Distribution and Processing Subcommittee**, provided a thorough presentation on the Food Trust and a recent call-in to this well-known non-profit organization. The Food Trust's comprehensive approach includes improving food environments and teaching nutrition education in schools; working with corner store owners to increase healthy offerings and helping customers make healthier choices; managing farmers' markets in communities that lack access to affordable produce; and encouraging grocery store development in underserved communities. Ms. Tatum shared that the *Processing and Distribution Subcommittee* was studying the possibility of bringing healthy food into corner stores. A discussion by various attendees reviewed the components of the Food Trust program and elements of nutrition education through color coding.

A guest of Lisa Portelli, Mr. Rocco Monaco, Green Nature Marketing, also provided additional information concerning the distribution of organic foods and the challenges of serving smaller, low volume locations.

Ms. Yarissa Matos-Soto, **Education and Outreach Subcommittee**, presented on the progress of data collection as it concerned community and school gardens and an ongoing survey to inventory assets. Also shared was the “Wanna Get Dirty” workday at Rollins Urban Farm on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at Elisabeth Hall, Lakeside, Rollins College.

Mr. Joseph England, **Food Waste Subcommittee**, also provided an update on activities occurring in the greater Orange County area through the Green Destination program. (Recognizing the special role that the hospitality industry plays in the Central Florida economy, the Chapter formed the Hospitality Advocacy Committee (HAC). The HAC’s objective is to be a catalyst for the Green Destination program, which is a community focused program.) Also, the City’s recycling program and the success of marketing efforts during Valentines Day period was briefly discussed.

Ms. Judy Odom, chairperson for the Membership Subcommittee, was absent so Ms Droege, a member of the committee, provided a brief update on activities and asked that attendees turn in their membership forms.

Ms. Droege adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.