

Good Food Central Florida

Date: August 28, 2014
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Orlando City Hall; 400 S. Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida (32801)
Subject: Monthly Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Sue Tatum, Vinca Marketing, Nancy Rodlun, Orange County, Valerie Nyitracy, Orange County, Jason Reynolds, Orange County, Joseph England, PhD Candidate (USF), Abby Guldeu, City of Winter Park, Heather Grove, East End Market, Gabby Lathrop, East End Market, John Rife, East End Market, P. Burnett, Orange County Planning, Judy Odom-Second Harvest Food Bank, Dave Krepcho-Second Harvest Food Bank, Donald Shaw-Florida Department of Health in Orange County, Kendra Musselle-Health Council of East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Lisa Portelli-Winter Park Health Foundation, Julia Elliott- Florida Department of Health in Orange County, Josie Balzac-Citizen/Educator/Lawyer, Jane Gregory-Orange County Environmental Protection Division, Mary-Stewart Droege-City of Orlando, Luis Nieves-East Central Florida RPC.

Welcome and Introductions:

Mary-Stewart Droege, GFCF facilitator, welcomed everyone and asked group members to introduce themselves. After introductions, Ms. Droege then asked Nancy Rodlun and Valerie Nyitracy from the Orange County Environmental Protection Division to discuss the upcoming *Art meets Agriculture* event. Ms. Rodlun provided an overview of the event and gave attendees a calendar and student art contest sign-up form. Winning entries will be featured in the 2016 Art Meets Agriculture Pollution Prevention (P2) Awareness Calendar and the winning school/classroom will receive a \$100 gift card from Art Systems of Florida. Ms. Rodlun stated additional materials are available upon request and that the deadlines for entries are October 24, 2014.

After the *Art Meets Agriculture* presentation MS Droege then opened the planning session and asked for reports:

Production Subcommittee: The Production SMART Goal and related strategies handout was distributed to each attendee. John Rife, subcommittee lead, stated there is gray area between growing your own food and selling it to market as well as related jurisdictional and regulatory issues. Accordingly, the committee decided to focus on an area that will directly support City of Orlando GreenWorks efforts as it concerns the development of urban gardens. As part of this discussion, funding was also addressed and Mr. Rife stated that he would incorporate group discussion feedback regarding creative funding mechanisms to strategies. Ongoing large City development projects, such as Creative Village (a mixed-use (residential/office/retail/public benefit use development), may encourage education through the introduction of gardens. Additional group discussion followed his presentation.

Community Outreach and Education: The Community Outreach SMART Goals and strategies handout were distributed to each attendee. Julia Elliott, subcommittee lead, opened the discussion of the COE committee's planning efforts as it concerned outreach and education. She explained that each OCPS school, under the direction of the principal, determines policies as it relates to gardening. Jane Gregory mentioned there is an ongoing national sustainability program, *Green Schools*, which has been adopted by OCPS and may be an excellent avenue to encourage more gardens. Ms. Gregory noted that this program has assembled a lot of good research and that she could provide contact information to COE. Jane Gregory added that the Green Schools Program is also looking for school ambassadors and that funding is primarily provided through corporate sponsors. As part of this discussion, Sue Tatum stated that involving someone proactive, such as Lora Gilbert from OCPS, with *farm to school and sharing tables* background, is essential. Ms. Tatum also noted that unused OCPS food goes to Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB).

Food Waste Subcommittee: The Food Waste SMART Goal and related strategies handout was distributed to each attendee. Jane said they are researching the front and back of the house and how to divert food waste from the landfills. Overall, collection is the issue. Ms. Gregory feels that GFCF could be a great advocacy group. She added it is hard to define food waste as everyone has a different perception of what it is. Dave Krepcho mentioned there are some foods are being diverted from landfills to SHFB and they are working on obtaining more and educating the public on how to solve this issue. There are many gaps in the system and many challenges. Event and meeting planners are needed to be reached as they determine where the waste is going. Food waste is a huge issue and that is why no one has tried to tackle it. Dave stated that liquid waste is not even being addressed in the community. We need to give companies incentives, show them how much money they can save by not transporting to landfills. Ms. Gregory said we also need to build relationships with residents and how they manage their waste. In summary, the overall effort is to find a happy balance. In closing, Jane Gregory, stated that [Green Destination Orlando](#) meetings which sustainability including waste are open to the public. Ms. Gregory encouraged GFCF members to attend. Group discussion followed.

Critical Resources Subcommittee– Food Waste SMART Goals and strategies handout were distributed to each attendee. Mr. Krepcho stated the subcommittee's two part focus is senior food access and senior food security. He stated that the largest growing demographic area in the area of hunger is the baby boomers or the *silver tsunami*. Mr. Krepcho stated that Dr. Wright from UCF is doing state-wide research, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and AARP. This research has also been partially funded by Winter Park Health Foundation via GFCF. Mr. Krepcho feels confident that this research will help establish a baseline and elicit many additional questions. Luis Nieves, a member of the subcommittee, also echoed these comments and the direction of the research. Mr. Krepcho also added that the Department of Agriculture is putting a considerable amount of money and resources into senior hunger. He also added that the Mayor of Orlando has developed a senior task force on senior hunger which recognizes this issue. Mr. Krepcho also noted that in his parents' generation,

people waited in soup lines during the Great Depression, now, unfortunately, the same thing is happening.

Processing and Distribution – Processing and Distribution SMART Goals and strategies handout was distributed to each attendee. Heather Grove, subcommittee lead, opened the discussion to share the evolving approach taken by the committee. She stated that the members decided to focus efforts on nonconventional agriculture (or urban agriculture) approach. Ms. Grove stated that the committee is looking at the nature and extent of small producers, barriers, zoning challenges, and appropriate siting of uses. Ms. Grove confirmed that as shown in GreenWorks findings, farmers are challenged by a limited distribution chain. Discussion then ensued from committee members about planning efforts. Mr. Krephco also stated Robin Safley Director, Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness at Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, with *Fresh from Florida* is working with a logistics consultant from the State of Florida to challenge what the State is doing for school lunches in order to cut out the “fat.” Mr. Krephco also suggested the group contact a new redevelopment effort in the City called Lift Orlando, given that this group is recommending new distribution and processing along Orange Blossom Trail.

Membership:

Ms. Droege announced that she and Judy Odom will review and analyze the membership process. A short group discussion followed.

Next Steps:

Mary-Stewart Droege opened this section by asking attendees if they would be willing to have a public meeting to allow public comment on the interim plan. The attendees were in agreement. Ms. Droege noted that a sub-committee will be developed for this task and various locations were discussed. Mr. Portelli shared that last year GFCF held a successful community meeting at SHFB.

Ms. Droege then asked group members to send in their final goals and strategies and she would format the text. This document will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Other Announcements:

Ms. Portelli announced that she and Joseph England and Dave Krepcho will be attending the Second Annual Florida Hunger-Relief Forum in Bradenton, Florida, on September 4, 2014. Keynote speaker is Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs (Adam Putnam). Jane Gregory then announced that there will be a Orange County Mayor’s Challenge this fall and we should get involved. Ms. Gregory will update the group as we get closer to the challenge date.

Next Meeting – Judy Odom announced that the next meeting will be held on September 18, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. at SHFB.

Meeting ended at 4:00 p.m.