

Good Food Central Florida Meeting Notes

Date: September 18, 2014
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: **Second Harvest Food Bank**

Attendees: Julia Elliott, Florida Department of Health; Yarissa Matos-Soto, Florida Department of Health; Dave Krepcho, Second Harvest Food Bank; Fabiola Gaines, Hebni Nutrition; Donald Shaw, Florida Department of Health; Kimberly Shouldice, UF/IFAS Extension; Heather Grove, East End Market; John Rife, East End Market; Joseph England, USF; Kayla Williams, City of Orlando/PACF; Dr. Braden Kay, City of Orlando; Sue Tatum, Vinca Marketing; Sarah Stack, Consultant; Annie Peterson, Luis Nieves, ECFRPC; UF/IFAS Extension, Mary- Stewart Droege, City of Orlando; Dr. Richard Tyson and Judy Odom, Second Harvest Food Bank.

Ms. Mary-Stewart Droege, GFCF facilitator, welcomed everyone and asked group members to introduce themselves. She then asked members to share any food related announcements:

Annie Peterson mentioned a Farm-to- School grant opportunity that could be helpful to the Community Outreach and Education Sub-committee. Ms. Peterson also announced she is relocating to Alachua County and Kimberly Shouldice will be taking over her role at the local IFAS Extension Office and on the GFCF committee. Council members thanked her for her service and wished her the very best in her future endeavors.

The facilitator then asked Mr. Joseph England, USF doctoral candidate, to share his impressions and experience at the Hunger Relief Forum in Bradenton, Florida. Mr. England noted that while it was an excellent educational venue there was little emphasis on Food Policy Councils. Mr. England noted that food deserts were talked about in some detail. Having recently reviewed literature, Mr. England indicates that he feels that Food Policy Councils are becoming a growing trend. Mr. Dave Krepcho, Director of Second Harvest Food Bank, who also was in attendance, indicated that there was a broad range of commentary. In particular, Mr. Krepcho shared that one guest speaker stated that he wished there weren't so many government regulations, as it concerned getting crops out of the field and to the consumer. Mr. Krepcho concurred that there is a growing interest in Food Policy Councils as noted in a brief discussion at the forum. Mr. Krepcho also spoke with Ms. Robin Safley, Director of Fresh from Florida, addressed some ongoing activities and indicated that there could be opportunity to add a panel on Food Policy Councils to next year's Hunger Relief Forum's agenda. Mr. Krepcho also added that Mr. Adam Puntnam, Florida's Commission for Agriculture, spoke passionately about moving food from the farm to the those in need. Both Mr. England and Mr. Krepcho agreed that the Hunger Relief Forum was had been well worth attending.

Mr. Krepcho then spoke about senior hunger as well as current legislation addressing tax deductions to farmers who donate food. This item will be discussed next month (October 2014) in Tallahassee.

The conversation continued around the table and Mr. John Rife, owner of East End Market, announced that East End Market (3201 Corrine Drive, Orlando, FL) will be hosting the [Florida Local Food Summit](#) on October 3 and 4, 2014. Workshops will include organic farming, farm entrepreneurship and permaculture. Mr. Rife indicated that he hopes that participants will be inspired, connected and further empowered to face challenges associated with improving our state's local food system. The Summit

aims to provide attendees with the skills and opportunities to address all areas of local food system- from field to fork and beyond- by mobilizing communities to create positive change.

The discussion then moved to a discussion of the interim one year GFCF plan. Ms. Droege suggested having a public review (ie: Open House or board display) of GFCF's one year plan sometime in late October or early November and felt this opportunity would help educate the community and keep GFCF activities transparent. Ms. Droege added that she would like to meet with a planning sub-group of volunteers who would assist in putting this effort together. She asked for interested parties to contact her by phone or email. A discussion was held in reference to locations, dates and times. Dr. Tyson, Director of IFAS, offered his site as a possible meeting location.

The meeting then shifted to a recent DOA announcement and a new GIS tool. Mr. Krepcho offered to provide an overview of [Florida's Roadmap to Healthy Living](#) mapping tool. He shared that the website is a testimony to Ms. Robin Safley and the Florida Department of Agriculture efforts to improve local community food system information. As Mr. Krepcho showed in his interactive presentation, information can be downloaded at an individual census track level. He also added that the website is being refined and additional information will be added.

Ms. Droege then opened the planning session and asked for reports:

Production Subcommittee: Mr. John Rife, Subcommittee Chair, stated that through their SMART goal they hope to simplify the process for an individual who wants to have a farm in the City of Orlando. He would like the outcome to be a white paper containing basic steps. John stated that although there is only one goal for the first year, there is a lot of work to be accomplished to achieve the goal. Strategies were included and also briefly discussed.

Distribution and Processing Subcommittee: Ms. Heather Grove, Subcommittee Chair, reviewed two sets of two goals and associated strategies. She shared that the goals involve research, education, promotion and, in some rare cases, hands on training. While there will be many challenges as it concerns both distribution and processing, the subcommittee is inspired and hopes to have a positive outcome during their first year to encourage non-traditional distribution and processing.

Food Waste Subcommittee: Dr. Braden Kay, City of Orlando Sustainability Manager, spoke on behalf of the subcommittee and shared that research is ongoing and UCF students will be working with GFCF and looking at private vs. public models in food waste. The focus will be on non-traditional areas and how they will intersect with traditional waste models. Ms. Jane Gregory also provided comment concerning the status of food waste in Orange County and the many challenges ahead in working with companies to change their waste management systems. Mr. Krepcho added that Publix will be building a 1 million square foot distribution center in Orlando near Orlando International Airport.

Critical Resources: Mr. Dave Krepcho, Subcommittee Chair, indicated that the subcommittee's focus will be on senior food access. As part of this effort, the committee will look at food emergency pantries, educational resources and recent food access research by Dr. Jim Wright and his students at UCF. Mr. Krepcho added that they want to become one of the key conveners, which will bring people together to expand research and bring senior hunger to the public's attention.

Community Outreach and Education Subcommittee: Ms. Julia Elliott, Subcommittee Chair, stated there are some issues with gardens at school in that there is no one to take care of them over the

summer. Ms. Jane Gregory suggested that she contact Ms. Mary Brewer from the *Green Schools Recognition Program* as she can provide her with the insight on running a year-round garden at schools. Ms. Gregory added Julia could use this program to change the mindsets of school staff that do not see the value in adding or maintaining a garden. Ms. Droege thanked the committee for their work and asked that Ms. Elliott meet with her group and finalize goals and strategies and forward them to her.

Membership – Due to time, this was tabled to the next meeting. The draft membership form, designed and formatted, by Ms. Judy Odom was circulated to the group for review.

Next Meeting – October 30, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. at Second Harvest Food Bank.

Meeting ended at 4 p.m.