

Good Food Central Florida August Meeting Notes

Date: August 15, 2019

Time: 2:30-4:00pm

Location: Orange County Extension UF/IFAS

Subject: August 2019 Monthly Council Meeting/ Urban Agriculture Project

Attendees: Caitlyn Glatting - Orange County UF/IFAS, Kim McMahon - Orange County UF/IFAS, Vanessa Balta Cook - City of Winter Park, James Gray - ECFRPC, Mary Hathaway - Feeding Florida, Edmund Thralls - Orange County UF/IFAS extension, Cara Borowski - City of Orlando, Karena Bozarth - OCPS/FNS, Amanda Sintes - Second Harvest Food Bank, Tiare Silvasy (Tia) - Orange County UF/IFAS, Greg Noonan - Fleet Farming

Welcome & Introductions - Each attendee signed in and was provided with an agenda for the meeting. Caitlyn opened the general meeting at 2:40pm and opened the floor for introductions and updates. Each attendee took a moment to talk about the food-related projects they are currently involved with. Attendees working on similar projects were able to exchange contact information to possible collaborate.

Attendee updates: Caitlyn Glatting and Kim McMahon shared their current work in the Food & Nutrition program involving educating the public about more places they can spend SNAP dollars to purchase healthy food. Edmund Thallus introduced himself as a new attendee and explained that he teaches community members how to grow edible plants at their homes through classes on the IFAS campus. Vanessa Balta Cook mentioned a new Walk n Shop project for the City of Winter Park that she wanted to incorporate local food into. Amanda Sintes introduced herself on behalf of Second Harvest and mentioned an upcoming food security event that provided a two question food security screening. Amanda mentioned that she'd like to introduce this food security screening to similar health organizations for them to use. Greg Noonan shared his position at Fleet Farming where he does edible landscape installations along with administrative work. Karena Bozarth of OCPS/FNS spoke about wanting to find a way to collaborate with a food bank to deliver the left-over hot meals that could not be reused to feed students lunch the next day. Tiare Silvasy introduced herself as a new Florida Friendly Landscaper and educator for UF/IFAS and mentioned her work with the Green Works Wildlife workshop. James Gray and Luis introduced themselves on behalf of ECFRP and shared their continued research on the Urban Agriculture project and Right to Farm Act.

For the latter part of the meeting, Luis updated attendees on a meeting he attended addressing the Right to Farm Act when attempting to draft an Urban Agriculture ordinance. He mentioned that Winter Springs and Fort Lauderdale were two cities in Florida that had already passed their own ordinances without taking the proposal to the Farm Bureau as St. Petersburg/Pinellas had. He mentioned that he wanted to identify a deadline for the ordinance to help expedite the process. Luis also mentioned that he found Atlanta's urban agriculture ordinance to be a good example to follow and that it was crucial to develop an ordinance for Orlando that took into

consideration the context of the city (typically, single-family suburban residents). He then explained that this ordinance needs to define urban agriculture in the context of Orlando, in a way that allows people to grow food not only for themselves but also as a means for economic development. For the sake of the ordinance's success, it was mentioned that the ordinance should focus on providing guidelines for commercial urban agriculture and not the smaller-scale growing that takes place in a resident's backyard. Luis finished his update on the urban agriculture program by emphasizing that the best way to ensure this ordinance's success was to pitch it as a means to provide food entrepreneurs with guidelines on how to grow their food commercially and with the best practices to do so.

The meeting ended at approximately 4pm.

To end the meeting, Caitlyn Glattig took the team outside for a tour of the campus' Exploration Garden led by Tia who explained to everyone what was growing this season, along with the practices they were using. Members with similar food projects exchanged information.