

Pajaro Valley Food, Farming, and Health Policy Council Meeting

Date: April 14, 2020

Location: 85 Nielson Street Watsonville, CA 95076 (ZOOM)

Attendees: (ZOOM)

Sarah Marschall (FFHPC), Lisa McGrath (PVCHT), Melanie Wong (FFHPC), Maria Cadenas (SCCV), Hester Parker, Krystal Caballero (Santa Cruz County Department of Health, Gabriella Sanchez (Jovenes SANOS), Darlene Torres (SPLG), Gustavo Indarose (PVCHT), DeAndre James (PVCHT), Hester Parker (Everyone's Harvest and CSUMB), Mayra Hernandez (Community Water Center), Hector Calderon (SAFE Ag safe schools), Judit Camacho (Life Lab), Sara Housman (FFHPC) Kathleen Kilpatrick (SAFE Ag safe schools)

Welcome:

- Sarah Marschall called the meeting to order at 1:35PM and asked everyone to introduce themselves and share how they are feeling today.
- Sarah Marschall read through the meeting's objectives and today's agenda.

Models of Governance:

- Sarah read the groups' Mission, Vision and Values.
- Sarah explained how the council currently makes decisions, using consensus voting.
- Sarah shared reasons why our group should establish a governance structure.
- Sarah gave the group a chance to react to above information. No comments were made.
- Sarah proposed some changes to **membership** and asked for feedback.
- Kathleen brought up importance for our group to represent a diverse group of people and that we must fill missing sectors of the group, such as farmers.
- Hester brought up the challenges for increasing membership given our current meeting time.
- DeAndre suggested we have farmers represented by a specific voice so that their position can be heard.
- Sarah proposed some changes to the **Policy and Action Agenda** of the group and asked for feedback.
- Maria shared concerns that if the steering committee was not elected by the members of this group that inequities would not be addressed.
- Melanie brought up the value of having a steering committee that it forces us to address issues rather than allowing them to evolve.
- Kathleen shared concerns around a steering committee lacking diverse membership i.e. all members of our current group are presented because they are getting paid to be present rather than volunteering their time.
- Sarah proposed some changes to **Decision Making Protocols** and asked for feedback.
- Sarah readdressed the concerns from the two previous changes: that it is very important to identify the diverse representation of an equitable group of decision makers.

- Melanie readdressed the importance of having a structured decision-making process i.e. allowing us to respond quickly and effectively during times of crisis.
- Maria spoke to the importance of establishing a decision-making tool that can account for our diversity or lack of in our decisions, that the tool holds us accountable and that those affected by decisions are represented.
- Sarah shared that we are working on a food systems assessment and food mapping project to help address our long-term planning.
- Sarah asked for permission to continue working on the proposed changes.
- Group members shared their appreciation for the governance work that has been done; how this changes their opinion of potential impact of this group.

Updating our Website

- Lisa shared that the website can act as a platform to share the great work that is being done by organizations in this group and we want to share the good work being done.
- Lisa encouraged the group to think about how they want the website to represent their work/organization.

Policy Updates

- No policy updates were shared.

Potential Actions for Discussion

- **Supporting Farmer's Markets**
 - Melanie shared that farmers' markets were getting closed down at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis throughout California but have since been recognized as essential and that shopping at open air markets is safer than closed spaces.
 - Melanie addressed the importance of the nutrition services that are solely offered at farmer's Markets.
 - Melanie shared how we can help keep our markets open and that we are prepared to defend our local markets.
 - Melanie shared that there is a new effort emerging called Pandemic EBT/ CalFresh of the Horizon to help replace school lunches that many students are not currently receiving.
- **Food Distribution Access Points**
 - Gustavo asked if it would be valuable to this group if we centralized information around food access and distribution to make available for this group and our community members.
 - Melanie asked if there is a Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) chapter in Santa Cruz county?
 - Kathleen talked about the importance about communicating with food growers to better understand how our food system is being impacted and how we can better improve the system.
 - Gustavo said that he will communicate with Krystal about picking up on the work started in Go 4 Health on creating a food distribution map.

- Mayra shared that CWC has begun compiling information about food access and is following up with community members to make sure they are accessing available resources.
- Sara brought up that it would be valuable to include the senior hours for grocery store access.
- **Farmworker Health, Safety, and Financial Security**
 - Krystal shared resources regarding her work to support local farmworkers.

Calendaring, Announcements, and Closing Remarks

- Lisa shared that communications will switch from email to constant contact going forward.