

## **Food Justice Committee Meeting Minutes August 1, 2018**

### **In Attendance:**

Caitlyn Ashton, Howard Bilofsky, Eric Borgstrom, Amelia Duffy-Tumasch (Chair), Eric Johnson, Mimi Kahn, Seth Lerman, Kentu Malik, Jack Malinowski, Megan McCrea, Jon Scaffidi, Mary Segal, Lauren Todd

### **1. Approval of the June 2018 minutes**

The minutes were approved.

### **2. Food Drive (Jon)**

All in all the food drive was a great success and collected 3,300 pounds of food.

Jon discussed some takeaways.

- a. It pays off in spades if we have someone at every shift. Ten times as much food is collected if a person is present. It helps even more if the person knows some of the customers by name.
- b. It's important to have a central location to gather the food. It's also helpful to have things pre-sorted.
- c. Having a supply of sturdy boxes is helpful.
- d. We need to have some floaters to fill in for empty shifts.
- e. A good way to engage customers as they walk by is to say something like "Do you know about our food drive?"
- f. We need to do a better job of getting the word out. In spite of our attempts to spread the word, most people shopping, and even many of the staff in the store, did not know anything about the food drive.
- g. The food drive underscored the need to build stronger relationships between the Philadelphia stores and the Ambler store.
- h. One suggestion for the future was to have volunteers from the Co-op help WHY? when they have their fundraisers and then, in return, WHY? could make a pitch about the food drive when the drive takes place.

### **3. Health Fair (Eric)**

On August 25, 2018 (12-6 PM), Weavers Way is partnering with the Philadelphia Department of Health (Health Center No. 9), the Food Trust, and several other organizations, to host the annual Germantown Natural Health Fair. Vendors of healthy foods will have booths to provide food samples. There will also be a stage where practitioners of healthy activities will demonstrate, and encourage people to participate in, activities such as yoga, meditation, dance, tai chi, etc. The FJC will have a booth and will distribute samples of WW quinoa kale salad, garlic hummus, celery, baby carrots and apples. They will also provide information about the Co-op and the Food-for-All program. Because it is challenging for Germantown residents to get to the Co-op in Mt. Airy and Chestnut Hill, Eric suggested we have a handout with information about how to get to WWMA and WWCH by public transportation. Eric also passed around a sheet for people to sign up for sifs (which include setting up, staffing the booth, and cleaning up).

Eric also discussed the Philly Food Bucks fund-raising efforts he is currently spearheading.

- a. Germantown Farmers Market – \$2,000 has been raised.
- b. Germantown Health Fair – we hope to distribute coupons to attendees who participate in the different activities. The East Falls Presbyterian Church will match money we raise up to a total of \$500.
- c. Saul students – there are about 550 students and this effort would encourage them to use Philly Food Bucks.

#### **4. PACA: Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance (Amelia)**

Amelia (together with Jon Roesser and Norm Weiss) attended the recent PACA workshop on race, economics, and food systems, where many co-ops were represented. Discussions focused on different ideas about how to reflect on a particular co-op and how it stands in terms of hiring practices, the recruitment of staff members, products it sells, etc. The question was also raised about who is “all” when we say “Food for All?” It is important not to gloss over a diverse group of people when each individual has a different situation and different needs. Food for All is a national movement, which WW joined in 2015. Jamila Medley is the executive director of PACA and a suggestion was made to invite her to one of our meetings so we could learn from her about how to better work with and serve diverse constituencies.

Amelia shared some of the things she learned from the workshop. One question that people were asked to think about is “What is the whitest thing about your co-op?” Responses included “staff, products on the shelves” and, in some places, even “the music that is played inside the store.”

Amelia has experience with Mariposa in West Philadelphia (4824 Baltimore Ave). Mariposa has been very successful in embracing diversity in all its manifestations. It helps that they the co-op is located in a very diverse neighborhood. Perhaps we could also learn from Mariposa.

#### **5. FPAC: Food Policy Advisory Council (Howard)**

Howard attended the recent FPAC meeting. He raised the idea of nominating a person from the FJC to the FPAC committee. To learn more see <https://phillyfpac.org/getinvolved/>. He emphasized that the meetings are often fun, informative, help get stuff done, and may be good for your resume.

#### **6. September meeting at Henry Got Crops**

Our next meeting, September 5, will be at Henry Got Crops Farm (7095 Henry Ave, at the intersection of Cinnaminson Street). We discussed the logistics of getting people to the meeting by van and/or carpooling. HGC was chosen as the site so we get to understand the Farm as an important part of Weavers Way and we get to meet the staff at the Farm. It is important to meet in various locations for this reason. For example, the WW Members Meeting in October 2019 will be held at Saul High School.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Wed. Sept. 5, 2018

6 PM

Location – Henry Got Crops

7095 Henry Ave (Cinnaminson and Henry)