

Food Justice Committee Meeting Minutes June 6, 2018

In Attendance:

Caitlyn Ashton, Howard Bilofsky, Eric Borgstrom, Amelia Duffy-Tumaszc (Chair), Flo Gelo, Brenda Hall-Busch, Mimi Kahn, Jeannine Kienzle, Seth Lerman, Kentu Malik, Catherine Martin, Denise Mathuthu, Harsha Moti, Crystal Pang (Director of Marketing and Community Relations), Joy Roman, Jon Scaffidi, Larry Shaeffer, Lauren Todd, Norm Weiss

1. Approval of May 2018 minutes

The minutes were approved.

2. Special Guests: Keyonne Thalia (Director of Family Services) and Deb Kish-Silver (Social Worker for the NE), Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (PIHN)

To continue with of our Philly Foodscape project of familiarizing ourselves with various hunger relief organizations in the area, Flo invited representatives from Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (PIHN) to our meeting. Rachel Falcove, the Executive Director, was unable to attend at the last minute. Instead Keyonne Thalia (Director of Family Services) and Deb Kish-Silver (Social Worker for the NE) were the special guests who shared information about PIHN.

PIHN has a small staff that mobilizes resources and more than 1,000 volunteers from NW and NE Philadelphia in response to the needs of homeless families for temporary shelter and support. In addition to providing shelter, food and clothing, they also help prevent eviction and offer therapy and services to strengthen parenting skills, family financial skills, and career development. PIHN is non-government funded and thus relies entirely on grants. They also rely on strong local collaborations for donations of food, clothing, transportation vouchers, furniture, scholarships and camperships. In the past 15 years 92% of the people they helped have succeeded in stabilizing their families and never required a return stay in a shelter. PIHN maintains active involvement from alumni, many of whom, however, even though housed, are still living paycheck to paycheck.

FJC members asked about ways to help PIHN. There are two main ways to offer support.

- Each fall there is a “generosity run” to raise funds. This year it will be on Oct 14.
- An annual “Empty Bowl” fund raiser takes place the Wednesday before Thanksgiving where restaurants donate soup and bread/baked goods. Each year, gardening expert Mike McGrath comes and answers questions from the guests.
- Also, PIHN is always happy to take donations of furniture, housewares, appliances and clothing (if in good condition).

For more information about PIHN, see the attached handout and check the website <http://philashelter.org/>

3. Summer Food Drive, June 22-24 (Catherine)

Catherine circulated sign-up sheets for volunteering and encouraged people to help. She mentioned that they are still in need of a coordinator for Friday at the Chestnut Hill store. Volunteers will get hours for their food drive work. Flyers were available for FJC members to take to post and promote the event.

Since the meeting, Member Center Hours are live! Sign up to work a Summer Food Drive shift! Get the word out by sharing the flyer! Still in need of a Sunday coordinator in Ambler!

4. Health Fair (August 25, 12-6 pm) Update (Eric)

The next meeting for the Health Fair planning committee will be June 8 at 2 PM. Cait offered to attend the June 8 meeting. Last year about 600 people attended the Health Fair. This year they are hoping for about 1,000. WW members will receive hours for volunteering at the fair. Cait, Kentu, Mimi, and Larry offered to help Eric at the fair.

5. Help Needed with Building Raised Vegetable Beds (Eric)

Eric mentioned that St. Luke's Episcopal Church (5421 Germantown Avenue), which provides three hot meals a week and also runs a pantry, is planning to tear up one of their parking lots and build raised vegetable beds. They are looking for helpers. The project won't happen for another 6-12 months.

6. Philly Food Bucks Fund Raising (Eric)

Eric reminded people about the three ongoing and related fundraisers for Philly Food Bucks (PFB), all of which are described in his article in the June Shuttle.

1 – Beginning June 14, the Food Trust will host local farmers and vendors and conduct cooking demonstrations at the new Germantown Farmer's Market, every Thursday from 3-7 PM at Market Square. Anyone who participates in these demonstrations will get to sample the prepared food and will receive \$4 in PFB to spend on produce at the farmers market. We are raising \$2,000 for the PFB, and so far have raised \$1,700.

2 – Henry Got Crops Farm Market began distributing and accepting PFB in May. HGC is distributing \$2 coupons to the 550 students at Saul High School to boost interest. We are raising money for Saul High School and Henry Got Crops. \$1,100 is needed.

3 –PFB coupons will be distributed at The Germantown Natural Health Fair on August 25. Attendees who participate in wellness activities at the Fair will receive \$4 of PFB.

7. Fundraising Needs (Crystal Pang)

Crystal Pang, Director of Marketing and Community Relations, attended our meeting to share

WW's new ideas for encouraging more people to get involved with the Food for All program (at the moment there are only about 150 FFA members).

She provided a handout (see attachment) explaining the new "Buddy Program." This program would pair current FFA members with new FFA members to build personal relationships between the two groups. It would include a store tour and opportunities for the current member to show new members strategies for saving money at the co-op. There would also be ongoing communication where, for example, the existing FFA member could ask questions of the new member about types of food they like, foods they would like to see at the co-op, their health concerns, etc.

Crystal would like to create two additional resources to accompany the Buddy Program.

1 – a Local Alternative Food System map that includes farmer's markets, CSAs, etc. as well as bus routes to the locations.

2 – a recipe-costing project where co-op basics and deals would be priced out for a meal for a family of four.

Crystal would like to get a pilot program going in August/September.

8. New Members

We welcomed two new members: Harsha Moti and Joy Roman.

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JULY

– because the date falls on the July 4th holiday, plus many people will be away at that time

NEXT MEETING

Wed, August 1, 2018, 6-7:30 PM

Location: TBA