

Food Justice Committee Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2018

In Attendance:

Howard Bilofsky, Eric Borgstrom, Amelia Duffy-Tumaszc (Chair), Anne Esacove, Flo Gelo, Mimi Kahn, Jeannine Kienzle, Seth Lerman, David Loeb, Jack Malinowski, Catherine Martin, Megan McCrea, Jon Scaffidi, Shaline Webb

1. Approval of February 2018 minutes (there was no March meeting due to snow storms)

The minutes were approved.

2. Announcements

Amelia – The Website is up and running.

Amelia – Jon Rosser accepted Rachel’s proposal to extend Food for All discounts to people on SSI and SSDI, as well as to military veterans on disability. They will receive the 10% FFA discount. We plan to publicize this in various news outlets to reach this audience.

Howard – The Mayor’s Food Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC) is seeking nominees to become appointed members. This is an honorary position with no compensation but offers an opportunity to influence the Mayor and attend a number of interesting monthly meetings and subcommittee meetings. Most appointed members represent non-profit groups doing good work for the poor and food insecure, including children, seniors and the underserved. There are also a number of city employees who are *ex-officio* but are also doing relevant good work (i.e, from the City Health Dep’t). Subcommittees include Urban Agriculture, Anti-Hunger, Good Food Procurement, Food & Health, Workforce & Economic Development, and Zero Waste (see <https://phillyfpac.org/who-we-are/>). All meetings are open to the public but appointed members have more influence as do their institutions. FPAC would like to increase the diversity (ethnic and economic) of its membership. Weavers Way FJC might consider nominating someone, though self-nomination is welcome. (see <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVCnqxzKc9k6pdvJtyZerCUNhGP8zizpGX0qTjaWLG2E0weg/viewform>).

Eric – It is important for people to vote for WW’s board members (candidates’ write-ups are in this month’s Shuttle). Ten percent of membership must vote for the elections to be valid.

Shaline – Shaline and Amelia attended the City Council meeting where FPAC gave a “Food Resources 101” presentation. Representatives from other organizations were also at the meeting: Philabundance, Coalition Against Hunger, The Food Trust, SHARE, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, and the Food Access Collaborative. Two of the issues discussed were the Farm Bill and SNAP. For Shaline, one main take-away was to understand the difference between presenting statistics about hunger vs. realizing that it is individual people, and especially children, who go hungry. At the meeting City Council was asked to help with

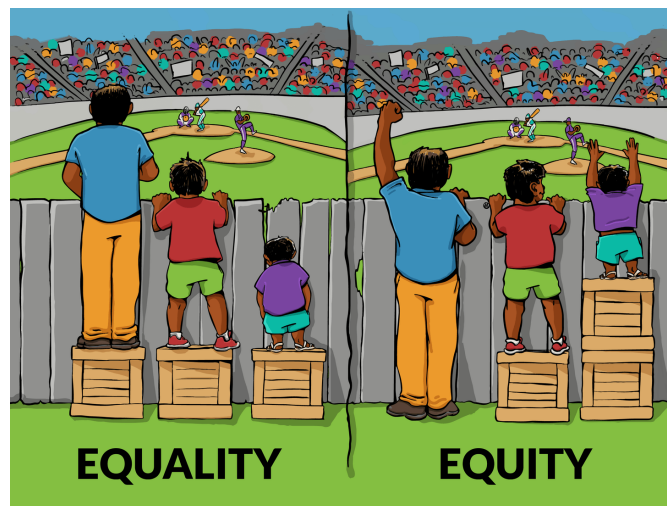
advocacy to oppose cuts to SNAP. All in all, the meeting with City Council was deemed a great success.

3. Co-op Staff Liaison (Jeannine)

Jeannine discussed her responsibilities as the staff liaison person on the Food Justice Committee. See attachment.

4. Committee Proposal – Expanding Access and Equity at WW (Amelia)

As current chair of the Food Justice Committee, Amelia would like to focus on issues of access and equity at WW. She began her presentation by asking us what “access” means to us (availability, affordability, feeling welcome, knowing what good food is, empowering people to participate in decision-making processes, etc.). She then asked us about “equity,” which led to a discussion about the difference between equality and equity. Equality means that everyone is given the same resources and support. Equity, which is based on values of justness and fairness, means that individuals are given different amounts of supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to resources. She used the following image to illustrate this.



Eric provided information about the co-op’s budget, which is impacted by the various discounts the co-op offers. The Food for All program impacts the budget only minimally because very few people use FFA (for the past fiscal year this amounted to \$36,000). Although the co-op offers several types of discounts, these do not address issues of equity (i.e. families that have the time to be “working members” receive greater discounts than families that do not have this kind of time).

We discussed the FFA program and how to get more people to participate in it. Mimi suggested the possibility of working members opting in to donate their discount to either FFA members or to venues that publicize the program. This would be a way to promote equity within the co-op. Flo weighed in suggesting we wouldn’t want to create the expectation for FFA members that they would consistently have a bigger discount (for example, if a lot of working members opted in at first and later opted out).

Anne asked whether research has been done on the FFA program (i.e. who participates, why, why not, etc.). Jeannine has access to extensive data on the program but does not have the skills to analyze these data. Howard and Anne offered to constitute a “research team” that will look at the data and try to analyze it.

We also talked about the problem of exclusivity at co-ops in general. Amelia referred to the article by Andrew Zitcer, “Food Co-ops and the Paradox of Exclusivity” (2015). He explores three questions. 1) WHO has the time or income to engage in required unpaid labor? 2) WHAT items are on the shelves? 3) HOW is business conducted? Amelia has reached out to three people to help us in defining this problem. These individuals are Bettina de Caumette, Outreach Coordinator at WW; Emma Kornetsky of Justice at Mariposa, and Jamila Medley, Executive Director at the Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance.

5. Food Collection at Meetings (Jon)

As a simple, concrete, ongoing way to help address food insecurity, the Committee has started to collect donations of non-perishable food at our monthly meetings. All FJC members are encouraged to contribute to whatever extent they feel comfortable. The donations will initially go to the three pantries we partnered with during the summer 2017 food drive. This month's donation went to the Holy Cross food pantry.

6. Philly Foodscape Update (Mimi)

Jeannine has been working with Linda Samost at Sunday Suppers. Flo has been working with Rachel Falkove at Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (PIHN). Both Linda and Rachel are interested in coming to our meeting to share information about their organizations. Linda will be invited to the May meeting. Rachel will be invited to the June meeting.

7. Health Fair Update (Eric)

Eric is trying to raise funds (\$5,000) for the Philly Food Bucks Program, which would allow the Germantown United Community Development Corporation (GUCDC) and The Food Trust to distribute coupons to thousands of Germantown residents and Health Fair attendees. These coupons can be redeemed at the weekly Germantown farmers markets, which will open in June 2018, and at the Health Fair farmers market in August.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, May 2, 2018, 6-7:30 PM

Lovett Library