

Food Justice Committee Meeting Minutes November 1, 2017

In Attendance:

Barbara Adolphe, Caitlyn Ashton, Roberta Balsam, Brittany Barbato (co-chair), Howard Bilofsky, Eric Borgstrom (co-chair), Joan Brookshire, Monika Crosby (Philabundance), Seth Lerman, David Loeb, Kentu Malik, Jack Malinowski, Catherine Martin, Rachel Milenbach, Steven Roberts, Jon Scaffidi, Ed Segal, Mary Segal, Tamara Sepe, Lauren Todd

1. Approval of October 2017 minutes

The minutes were approved.

2. Gleaning Task Force report

Catherine, David and Eric joined about 20 volunteers at Philabundance recently. They packed four boxes of produce to deliver to the Holy Cross Food Pantry in Mount Airy. A weekly "Produce Rescue" takes place on Friday at the Philadelphia Produce Market. Volunteers are always welcome.

Monika Crosby, Assistant Manager of Food Acquisition at Philabundance (and gleaning champion), presented information about Philabundance in terms of its role in performing community service and functioning as a business partner as well as a food pantry. She listed a number of initiatives, including Grocers Against Hunger, KidsBites, FreshForAll, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, as well as a job-training program known as the Philabundance Community Kitchen. The Philabundance website includes a comprehensive view of their programs: www.philabundance.org. FJC members were encouraged to email questions to Brittany Barbato, who will relay them to Monika and share her response.

3. Mission Statement approval

FJC members unanimously approved the newly revised mission statement (see below). They agreed to refrain from drafting a vision or values statement until we have gauged the reception of the mission statement by the larger community.

Mission Statement:

The Weavers Way Food Justice Committee envisions a world in which healthy food is readily accessible and affordable to all. The committee aims to achieve this goal by initiating and supporting projects addressing short- and long-term solutions to food insecurity.

4. Communication Team report

The team met last month, and the next meeting is scheduled for November 15. Committee membership is open to anyone who wishes to join. Members are working with the main WW Co-op communications team to integrate Food Justice information into the main WW Facebook page.

5. Lay of the Land (LotL) report

Our collaboration with other Philadelphia organizations that are dedicated to alleviating hunger with healthy food is moving along. There are still unassigned organizations; interested members should contact Eric to sign up to be liaisons. The Committee reviewed a draft “letter of introduction” that members can tailor to their own situations and specific LotL organizations. Members were asked to send their comments and suggested changes to Brittany, Eric or Mimi. At the December meeting, we will officially approve the template copy and LotL list. After that is done liaisons may begin to reach out to their corresponding organizations. Brittany is working on a way/document to track correspondence so if a member leaves the committee or switches organizations then another member can pick up where they left off. Attending some LotL partners’ meetings, in addition to written communication with them, is a useful way to build relationships through personal contacts. Members with existing relationships with Montgomery County organizations are welcome to include them in LotL, but we have insufficient resources to do a comprehensive outreach beyond Philadelphia. Members can email questions to Eric or Brittany.

6. FJC leadership

We will revisit the FJC leadership structure at the December meeting, and hopefully bring a proposal to a vote in January. The possibility of rotating meeting sites among Mt. Airy, Chestnut Hill and Ambler venues was discussed, and will be taken up again at the December meeting when we anticipate greater Ambler representation.

7. New business and announcements

- a. Members were encouraged to get flu shots as the flu season is upon us.
- b. The NW Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality network provides housing, as well as classes on parenting and budgeting. Their annual upcoming Empty Bowl dinner costs \$25 per person. More information is available on their website www.philashelter.org
- c. The mayor of Philadelphia is scheduled to attend the WW general membership meeting this coming Friday. Tickets cost \$5.
- d. We will be raising money at WW food registers for Philabundance on Giving Tuesday. Details are available from Crystal Pang. Since the FJC will not sponsor a food drive in November, this is a good opportunity to help those in need.
- e. Roberta Balsam, longtime WW member and Social Services Supervisor of the Unitarian Universalist House Outreach program (which provides free services to older adults in northwest Philadelphia), reminded the FJC about their food drive that lasts until December 15. The organization will celebrate 19 years of service, and has an active caseload of 350 seniors. The drive collected 356 bags of groceries last year for older adults in our community.
- f. Brittany reminded FJC members that we want to continue to emphasize inclusiveness, a topic that will be discussed in greater length at the December meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, December 6, 2017, 6-7:30 PM

The Mercantile Store, 542 Carpenter Lane