

DRAFT Minutes

Montgomery County Food Recovery Work Group
January 10, 2013
9:05 to 10:10 a.m.
Council Office Building 5th Floor Front Conference Room

Work Group Members present or participating by phone: Jacki Coyle (Chair); Mark Bergel; Marla Caplon; Kathi-Carey Fletcher; Minerva Delgado; Patricia Drumming; Kate Garvey; Marie Henderson; Richard Jackson; Michele Levy; Brett Meyers; Richard Hoffman (for James Perkins); Barry Scher; Craig Shniderman; Ben Simon; Lindsay Smith; Greg Ten Eyck;

Others Participating: Councilmember Valerie Ervin; Judith Clark; Roger Gordon; Jim Larson

Council Staff: Linda McMillan (Council central staff); Richard Romer (Office of Councilmember Ervin)

Handouts provided: Resolution 17-564, Establishment of Food Recovery Network; Resolution 17-604, Appointments to the Food Recovery Work Group; Excerpts from Toolkit for Establishing a Food Recovery Network; printout from InfoMontgomery showing results for a search for assistance with food.

- 1. Welcome** from Jacki Coyle, Chair – Ms. Coyle welcomed those participating.
- 2. Introductions and welcome from Councilmember Ervin** – members and other participants introduced themselves, provided information on their organization's or individual efforts in providing food to those in need, or how their organization might assist in such efforts. Councilmember Ervin provided welcoming remarks as a part of her introduction. She said that the Council is interested in a plan to get things done and the group should tell the Council if there is anything needed as a part of the upcoming budget. Councilmember Ervin also noted that on January 29, the Council will have a proclamation in recognition of Poverty in America Awareness Month and that she is organizing a SNAP Challenge as a part of this effort.
- 3. Overview of Food Recovery Network** – Ben Simon from the University of Maryland provided a brief overview of the Food Recovery Network which collects food from dining halls and events and transports it to non-profits for use. In response to questions, Mr. Simon discussed how they found the main organizations that are recipients of the food (such as So Others Might Eat, Christian Life Center of Riverdale, Gospel rescue Mission, Rainbow Community Development Center) and that it is important that the recipients have the

appropriate refrigeration and are reasonably close so that the food can be delivered and refrigerated in the proper time frame. Mr. Larson shared that in the program organized by Food Donation Connection, the participating restaurants freeze the food on site and then it is picked up periodically already frozen. Ms. Carey-Fletcher asked Mr. Simon to come to Montgomery College as they have just created a new student governance group for all three campuses and because the College will be issuing a new RFP for Food Service and the current vendor (Compass) specifically prohibits food recovery.

4. Discussion regarding next steps and potential subcommittees – Ms. McMillan said that the Council is looking for an implementation plan and suggested that the Work Group might want to break into groups that would look at Providers and potential untapped resources, Re-distributing Organizations that would receive and redistribute the food, and the Logistics of what is needed to get food from providers to re-distributing organizations. The Council has asked for an interim report in March in part to understand if there are any items that should be considered by the Council in their April and May budget worksessions. Councilmember Ervin said the Work Group should make sure to tell the Council what it needs to do.

Ms. Smith asked whether the Work Group would be mapping needs and resources as a part of the effort and said that the Food Council is looking at mapping. Ms. Caplon said that the school system can provide mapping information on the areas of poverty and Free and Reduced Meals in the county. Ms. Levy said that there will be a meeting about mapping at Crossroads Community Network on March 12

Ms. Delgado said she is very interested in working on ways to bring the farm to the freezer and then to the table. Mr. Gordon explained that there are truckers with trucks of food that might not be used for a variety of reasons. It can be donated if there is someone who can quickly receive the donation. He works on scheduling these logistics so that food will not go to waste.

Information was requested on what transportation and facilities are owned by the County that could be used as a part of the logistics system to recover food.

Comments were received that every time there is an event where food is sold there should be a food recovery and a food waste effort in place.

Ms. Levy suggested that hospitals also participate in this effort.

Mr. Simon mentioned that his organization is trying to work with Sodexo which provides food in some of the county's institutions.

Question was asked about whether there is a minimum amount of food that must be collected. Mr. Larson noted that since the Food Donation Connection model

freezes the food at the site, small amounts can be saved as long as there is someone to pick it up.

The Work Group agreed that they would like to have a full Work Group discussion on each of the suggested areas – providers, re-distribution organizations, and logistics before breaking into smaller group. It was also suggested that maybe Marriott could be asked to participate in the discussion.

There was a request for a list of participants.

5. Next Meeting – The Work Group agreed to meet on Thursday, January 24, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Council Office Building 5th floor conference room.

Minutes submitted by Linda McMillan, Council staff