



CITY OF HARTFORD ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FOOD POLICY

c/o Hartford Food System, 190 Wethersfield Ave, Hartford, CT 06114
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Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy Virtual Meeting Minutes July 8, 2020, 3:30 – 5:15 PM

Present	Absent	Guests
Val Bryan, Mary Cockram, Angela Colantonio, Brunella Ibarrola, Martha Page,	Valentine Doyle, Andrew May, Sofia Segura Pérez, Danielle Smiley-Daniel, Cary Wheaton	Yahaira Escribano (Foodshare), Chris Goodwin (KNOX), Meg Hourigan (Hartford Food System), Abbie Kelly (Hands on Hartford), Chris McArdle (Hartford resident), Gillian Walcott (St. Francis Hospital), Grace Yi (Office of Sustainability)

Topics

Introduction and Official Business

The meeting was called to order at 3:35. Mary moved to approve the meeting minutes from June; Val seconded; the minutes were approved without amendment.

Feeding Hartford Awards

The awards will be held virtually on Monday, September 14 from 6 to 7:30 PM. The Commission will also recognize individuals and groups who have taken action to keep neighbors fed during the pandemic.

The Commission needs to raise \$600 to cover the art to be given to the winners.

2020 Annual Report

This year's annual report should include: learnings from the pandemic – what needs have been exposed/increased?

Working Group Updates

Val Bryan, Alice Gold, and Laura Berman from the Hartford School Garden group recommended a candidate for the school garden coordinator position; the person has been interviewed and is likely to be hired. Val is growing vegetables at Annie Fisher STEM School with Alyssa Jones of Little City Sprouts / Hartford Food System. There are 19 raised beds; they're beginning to harvest. The Healthy Food Access group is working on encouraging residents to shop at farmers' markets using SNAP and WIC.

General Updates

Hartford Public Schools will continue serving meals through August: they have served 1,230,328 meals since March 16: 25,000 – 40,000 meals per day. It is funded through the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The numbers are 1,000 – 2,000 meals higher than average summer meal numbers. There is interest in connecting more farmers for school food purchasing. There is a need for aggregating produce to sell to schools.

2020 Food Policy Commissioners: Valerie Bryan, Hartford Resident; Mary Cockram, Frog Hollow Consulting; Angela G. Colantonio, Urban Alliance; Valentine Doyle, Hartford Resident; Brunella Ibarrola, Hartford Public Schools Food and Child Nutrition Services; Andrew May, Hartford Resident; Martha Page, Hartford Food System; Sofia Segura-Pérez, Hispanic Health Council; Danielle Smiley-Daniel, Hartford Department of Health and Human Services; Cary Wheaton, Forge City Works



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Farmers' market sales are generally down because of the lack of corporate and government employees commuting in; however, SNAP sales are up. Commissioners wonder – how can we make markets in Hartford less dependent on the commuter set?

Foodshare is continuing to distribute food at Rentschler Field through July. More pantries continue to reopen.

Kyle, the community garden coordinator at KNOX, is working with 275 gardeners this year: the highest number since they started keeping records ten years ago. Some scholarships are still available. At KNOX, too, farmers' market traffic is down. Commissioners wonder: what lessons can be learned from the increase in farmers' market purchases at the Danbury Farmers' Market?

The Farmers to Families fruit and vegetable boxes are being distributed through six ministries in the Urban Alliance network to distribute 300 boxes per week. There is a possibility for meat and dairy to be included.

Hands on Hartford's food pantry continues to operate and is serving mostly new clientele.

Wrap-up, Adjournment, and Next Meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday, September 9, at 3:30 – meeting details TBA.

The meeting ended at 5 PM.