

Food Access, Outreach and Education Task Force Meeting

October 21, 2013 at 3:00

Fargo Cass Public Health Room #3

Present: Kim Lipetzky, Cheryl Stetz, Lynn Wolff, Rory Beil, Nikki Johnson, Megan Ness, Lloyd Harding, Courtney Milbeck, Dana Reith, Joni Nudell, and Katie Callahan.

Food Systems Report and Plan update

*The Food Systems Plan was presented to Clay County Commission and City of Fargo Commission. Both endorsed the plan in the form of a signed resolution of support. Wade will next present the plan to the Metro COG policy board for adoption.

On million square feet of food gardens

*Courtney, Rory's intern, gathered data on the number of acres of community gardens, orchard trees, etc. in our area, there is currently around 315,000 square feet.

*promotion goal of increasing current acreage to one million square feet in 2014

*members of the CCFSI Urban agriculture committee are interested in working on this promotion and tying it to the One Vegetable One Community squash promotion for 2014

*discussion included: tie to Extension's 100 year celebration, plan over 5 years, prizes for going on line and entering information about your individual garden, get nurseries involved, media (Don Kinzler's column), gardens on apartment grounds, think of what questions to ask when people go in and sign up their garden, work to change zoning codes if gardens aren't allowed in certain places, etc.

Action step: anyone interested in working on this promotion is invited to a meeting November 8th at 10:00 am at Fargo Cass Public Health basement conference room 1 & 2

Snap update

*Katie, dietetic student, gave an update on SNAP at Farmers Markets

*ND is a priority state, will look for potential grants, work with producers/markets to assess interest

Action step: Lynn will get contact information for Bismarck and Minot markets who take SNAP; committee members will follow up with these contacts

Food Desert

*discussion on ideas to address emerging food deserts: Kim shared suggestions from the last large group task force meeting in Sept. and information on convenience/ethnic stores in a few of these areas; stores could offer food tailored to the residents in the community; Lloyd suggested partnering with a grocery store to have a mobile store to drive into these areas (he sent out information to the task force after the meeting); would need grant funding, potential break through idea to submit to DMF; could be called food oasis

Mobile garden

*Lynn shared information on a smaller trailer. Would need trailer, uprights, canvas; could reuse lumber and soil (?) from last year. Lynn can store items during winter and Anita will store garden again during growing season next year.

Action Steps:

-Lynn and Lloyd will make a list of what would be needed for a smaller trailer for next year

-Megan will check with a source about potentially working to build parts of the trailer

-Katie will write a mini-grant to the ND Nutrition Council

Upcoming meetings

*November 8th, 10:00am, room 1 & 2 at FCPH – for those interested in working on the one million square feet gardening/OVOC promotion

*Next task force meeting set for November 25th, 3:00 at Fargo Cass Public Health, basement conference room # 3.