

**Santa Fe Food Policy Council meeting**  
**March 9, 2023**

Present: Sue Perry, Eric RW, George Toya, Sherry Hooper, Kika Ortiz, Liz Camacho, Lorenzo Dominguez, Marie Sanchez-Tucker, nate crail, Tijinder Ciano, David Sundberg, Eric Wentz-Whitmore, Pam Roy, Helen Henry  
Carrie Theilen - excused  
Emigdio Ballon - not present (was having trouble with the Zoom link)

**Agenda**

Pam gave a brief explanation of the history of the Council and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – March 9, 2023**

Motion to approve -

Seconded -

Approved

Prioritization and Agenda Order 5 minutes

**D. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES –September 29, 2022, November 17, 2022 and December 15, 2022, January 12, 2023 5 minutes**

Sue Perry - moved

Seconded - Sherry

Meeting minutes accepted.

**E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR 5 minutes**

Eric and Liz reported on the new commercial kitchen that will be opening soon. They are looking for groups to come in and be part of the kitchen, especially since they have high overhead with debt to pay off.

The Kitchen is on Camino Alire. Sherry mentioned that they have lost access to their kitchen and are looking for a dedicated space. David mentioned that there is funding for people to get their food safety certification. Tejiner mentioned that they have a small commercial kitchen that is available for use. Sherry said that they do have equipment and are mostly looking for space. They will be finishing out the school year, and will need space after that. Pam said that there is a kitchen that she knows of that might be available for a pilot project. We can set up a meeting after the legislative session to explore this. Sherry says that in addition to what they are already doing, they have a vision for what they can do with their kitchen, including pre-prepared frozen foods and meals that meet special needs populations, such as seniors and working parents. Liz asked Tejinder if they are looking for people and who they can serve. He said that they have some new equipment coming, so they haven't explored all the possibilities yet, but it would be good for small producers who are doing value-added products.

David mentioned that the SFFPC is a really good forum for sharing resources and helping pool our collective resources.

#### F. PRESENTATIONS: Pam Roy 55 minutes

1. Summary of NM Legislative session priority issues
2. Federal Farm Bill Priorities

Pam gave a brief overview of the NM Grown program which is working with state agencies to get fresh fruits and vegetables (and now meat) into state institutions.

75% of the Federal Farm Bill is dedicated to SNAP, which affects our communities and many of the programs that we provide, such as farmers' markets and food banks.

All of this means that we are not siloed and we have a chance to cross-pollinate our work.

The NM Food & Ag Policy Council (NMFAPC) is focused on equity.

SFFPC has a city and county resolution that also relates to state and federal funding.

Pam highlighted legislation that we can benefit from:

The Food Initiative - we've worked collectively on this with community-based partners and stakeholders around the state and nine state agencies to create this legislation which is an initiative of the governor and receives funding from the state through appropriations. This creates access to food and culturally relevant foods for people around the state. The benefit is to NM based farmers through market opportunities and valued added products. The budget request this year is \$75M. Right now we have 22.5 M that is dedicated, with a week to go to increase that amount. Part of the FI is SB 4 Healthy Universal School Meals which would provide meals for every student. The emphasis is on food that is healthy. There is also money for equipment purchase.

SNAP/WIC and Double Up Food Bucks - also funded by legislation/appropriations at the state level.

SB 9 Would create a dedicated pool of funding for conservation efforts that will also leverage federal funds.

Pam pointed out various pages on the NMFAPC site for tracking priority legislation, taking action on legislation and also opportunities for funding, events, etc.

Sherry mentioned that food banks have some serious challenges and are being affected by funding because SNAP benefits have been cut. Food costs are high and it means that food banks are having to do more purchasing of food. SNAP benefits are so low that seniors are not applying because the application process is arduous. The TFAP program is also decreasing. Also, as more people retire, Social Security benefits are not able to provide enough money for people to live on. Pam said that Sen Stefanics has a bill that is addressing this.

Sue has ideas and resources for helping people stretch resources. David also mentioned a resource that could be helpful.

Kika said that the five senior centers in SF are now open again. They are doing surveys and education along with food distribution.

Pam asked George about what the Nambe Pueblo is doing. George said that they distribute the food that they grow to the pueblo but don't get outside assistance. They just harvested two of their buffalo for distribution. His wife is a member of a group that also works with food distribution through another process. They have a "surplus of inventory" program to gather excess produce that is produced privately on the pueblo. They gather and preserve the food with the help of the county cooperative extension service, who also give canning classes.

Pam also gave a brief overview of the Farm Bill and Child Nutrition Reauthorization and shared the four page overview of NMFAPC priorities on the FB, highlighting the things that we can do to create change.

David commented that someone had made a comment that why not have outside partners make recommendations for approving the application process for NRCS? This is an innovative idea that may help speed the application process, but may not be well received by the NRCS.

#### G. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS 5 minutes

#### H. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL: 5 minutes

Open request

#### I. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS 25 minutes

##### 1. Santa Fe Food Policy Council Members Update and Discussion

We have two new members and two open seats, one county and one city.

Pam, Sue and David are the executive committee and are looking for new members to create a diverse membership.

##### a. Board of County Commissioners-SFFPC appointments (February 28, 2023, 2 PM)

Two new members - Nate and Kika were approved for the Council.

##### b. City of Santa Fe-SFFPC appointments progress

Liz's position will be shifted to Eric.

##### 2. Process for 2023 Priorities

The Food Plan is the guiding document and sets out our priorities - divided into 4 sections with sub priorities (with a subsequent updated report). We've accomplished some things, and some things have changed, particularly in the light of the pandemic. We also need to look at our interface with policy makers and how these relationships are held and how the priorities are being implemented.

Sherry - brought up the recommendations that were made to the Mayor and the City about ending childhood hunger in SF. Food Depot did the research, put together a report and made a presentation to the Mayor with the recommendation of a higher living wage (the first step is to move the wage to \$17/hour, but may be even higher.) The current living wage (\$14/hour) is not enough. FD will move forward with this work, but may be something that the Council could participate with.

Sue remarked that the proposal was completely evidence based. Part of our work of the Council is to respond to recommendations, and the current recommendations of the Mayor does not go far enough and we need to have a response to his plan. Action: Sherry will send the FD plan to Sue who will send it out to everyone. Sue pointed out that having enough money to feed your family and having a roof over your head are prerequisites for other ways that people can develop their lives.

David asked people to do some homework and think about priorities for the Council.

#### J. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

##### 1. Reminder: 2023 new dates for the SFFPC meetings 10 minutes

Meeting the second Thursday of the month from 9-11

In person or virtual

2. Request Member for any needed paperwork - requesting that from Eric
3. Next Meeting: April 13, 2023

K. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR 5 minutes

We're exploring ideas for an in-person meeting and asked if anyone has objections.  
Pam asked if Sue could send the zoom link in a calendar invite for the meeting

L. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodation contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to meeting day.