



Boston Food Access Council Meeting

6-8 p.m. Thursday, December 14, 2017

Codman Square Branch of the Boston Public Library

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

BFAC Members: **Chris Bosso** (Professor of Public Policy, Northeastern University); **Allison Bovell-Ammon** (Deputy Director of Policy Strategies, Children's HealthWatch); **Bing Broderick** (Executive Director, Haley House); **Alison Brown** (Board Member, Dorchester Community Food Co-Op); **Noreen Kelly** (Director of Programs, Project Bread); **Sutton Kiplinger** (Greater Boston Regional Director, The Food Project); **Liana Krupp** (President of the Board of Directors, Krupp Family Foundation); **Emily Broad Leib** (Director and Assistant Clinical Professor of Law, Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic); **Anne McHugh** (Director for the Division of Chronic Disease and Prevention, Boston Public Health Commission); **Elizabeth Miller** (Food Security Fellow, Mayor's Office of Food Access); **Barbara Knecht** (Urban Farming Institute); **Tara Agarwal Pedulla** (Program Manager, Boston Children's Hospital); **Vickey Siggers** (Farmer's Market Manager and Program Coordinator, Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition); **Vidya Tikku** (General Manager of Boston Community Gardens, The Trustees); **Leah Triscari** (Asst. Director of Research and Evaluation, ABDC, Inc.)

BFAC Delegates: **Jonathan Tetrault** (Senior Director of Distribution Services, The Greater Boston Food Bank)

Other attendees: **Catalina Lopez-Ospina** (Director, Mayor's Office of Food Access); **Stephanie Voltaire** (Project Manager, Mayor's Office of Food Access); **André Lima** (Policy Director for City of Boston, Mayor's Office of Health and Human Services); **Jillian McKoy** (Food Access Intern, Mayor's Office of Food Access); **Atyia Martin** (guest speaker and Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Boston); members of the public

Absent BFAC Members: **Laura Benavidez** (Director of Food and Nutrition Services, Boston Public Schools); **William Dean** (Director of Advocacy and Public Impact, Tufts University); **Juan Leyton** (Executive Director, Dudley Square Neighborhood Initiative); **Doug Rauch** (Founder and President, The Daily Table)

Welcome and Introductions

- Liz Miller welcomed the group to its third Council meeting and provided a brief overview of the agenda.
- Council members and guests introduced themselves.

Updates on OFA's Work

- Stephanie Voltaire presented an overview of OFA's current initiatives and programs, as well as plans for the coming year.
 - **Food Resource Map:** OFA has created and begun distributing a food resource map.



- Provides information on farmers markets, senior meal sites, SNAP, fruit and vegetable pick-up sites.
- Printed in English, Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Vietnamese, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, and Russian.
- Delivered to 73 sites, including health centers, WIC clinics, shelters, senior centers, food pantries, and more. It is also available online at boston.gov/food.
- The maps will be printed in additional languages and will include more resources in the spring.
- If you would like to receive maps to distribute at your organization, please email Stephanie at Stephanie.voltaire@boston.gov.
- Summer Meal Program - two pilot programs in Summer 2017 which provided more than 3,000 free meals to low-income children (under 18 years old) when school is out of session.
 - Mattapan Public Library – led by Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition and funded by Project Bread
 - Lunch on the Lawn (at City Hall Plaza) – led by Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics
 - Next summer, the program will likely expand to three additional Boston Public Libraries – Codman Square, Hyde Park, and East Boston
 - OFA is seeking community-based organizations to administer the program, its summer interns will coordinate the programs
- Boston Bounty Bucks+ is expanding in neighborhood brick-and-mortar stores in 2018.
 - Will be funded through a City of Boston Employee CANshare fundraiser, as well as a FINI grant that OFA applied for; the recipient will be announced in March 2018 and program would launch in Summer 2018.
 - Pilot program will include stores in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan.
 - SNAP participants can receive up to \$10 in matching dollars per day for fruits and vegetable purchases only.
 - Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics will provide technical assistance.
 - As an incentive, participating stores will purchase their fruits and vegetables from local farmers.
 - If Council members know any local farmers who would be interested, please notify Stephanie at Stephanie.voltaire@boston.gov.

BFAC Working Strategy

- Liz Miller discussed the Council's working strategy as it will begin to work on short and long-term initiatives that will lead to the elimination of food insecurity in Boston by 2030.
 - The strategic plan is a starting point, and includes feedback that OFA received from Council members through surveys and meetings. The plan will be adjusted and updated as Council members begin their work in working groups, and as they receive feedback and input from other experts and community members.
 - The three main goals of the strategic plan are:
 - Goal 1: Improve food access in underserved communities through economic development and community wealth building initiatives.
 - Goal 2: Foster opportunities for community-owned food initiatives to thrive.



- Goal 3: Strengthen and expand resources that support Bostonians to access the food they need and want.

Guest Speaker

Liz paused the discussion on the Council's working strategy to welcome the guest speaker for the evening – Dr. Atyia Martin, a certified emergency manager and the Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Boston.

- Dr. Martin's role is to develop the city's Resilience Strategy and prepare it to be ready for, and recover from, emergency situations.
- She will develop this plan through the lens of racial equity in Boston, with an aim to reframe the city's understanding of, and approach to, racism. Dr. Martin prompted a thoughtful presentation and discussion on race and racism in Boston and in society, discussing how factors such as relationships, social cohesion, power, time, and more are impacted by racism. She said that racism affects all races, and a city cannot be resilient until all of its residents have equal access to resources, including food.
- The Council can recognize how inequities play a role in food insecurity and develop strong relationships to help move past those inequities.
- The subject of food insecurity is not in the Resiliency Plan as an initiative, but it does include economic development initiatives which align with the Council's strategic plan.

Council members shared their own perspectives and experiences with racism, and several members agreed that it would be beneficial to revisit this discussion with Dr. Martin to help further inform the Council as it carries out its strategic plan to eliminate food insecurity.

Audience Feedback

- Members of the audience had a chance to participate in the discussion and ask Dr. Martin questions.

Working Groups

In response to members' suggestions that the strategic plan be revisited, Liz said that that the plan is just a start, and that it will be updated and adjusted as the working groups convene and take a closer look at the plan.

- The working groups will be based on the three goals of the strategic plan.
- Liz will send a survey to members to see which working group they would like to join.
 - Members can also select a delegate to serve in their place on a working group.
 - Each working group should meet at least once before the next meeting in March so that they can present to the Council their plan to begin their initiatives.
 - There should be one leader for each working group, who will help guide the group's discussions.

Closing and Next Steps

- Liz will send a survey to members so they can select a working group and indicate whether they want to serve as the leader of the group.
 - Members can also nominate other members of the community to serve on the working groups.

Mayor's Office of Food Access

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- Marty Martinez will be the new chief of Health and Human Services and will begin in January. He will support the group's efforts to achieve racial equity.

NEXT MEETING:

6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 8, 2018

Location TBA

