



Commission of Food Security, Heritage, and Economy

Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 8a.m.– 9:30a.m.
7th Floor Conference Room,
Office of the Attorney, Tucson City Hall
255 W. Alameda St., Tucson, Arizona 85726

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call (5 minutes)

The meeting was called to order by support staff Ryan Anderson at 8:01a.m.
Attendance was as follows:

Present:

Sam Alboy
Erika Mitnik-White
Kris Vrolijk
Robert Ojeda
Kara Jones
Debbie Winegarten
Cie'na Schaepli
Kelly Watters
Dora Martinez
Chet Phillips
Gary P. Nabhan-departed at 9:03a.m.
Vanessa Bechtol
Jesus Garcia-arrived at 8:15 a.m.
Douglas Taren
Daniel McDonald
David Ludwig

Absent:

Maribel Alvarez

Staff Present:

Ryan Anderson, Secretary

Representing:

Local First Arizona
Local First Arizona
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Community Food Bank of S. AZ
Community Food Bank of S. AZ
Community Food Bank of S. AZ
Pima County Food Alliance
Pima County Food Alliance
Pima County Food Alliance
Southwest Folklife Alliance
Native Seeds/SEARCH
Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance
Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum
UA College of Public Health
UA College of Ag and Life Sciences
Pima County Health Dept.

Representing:

Southwest Folklife Alliance

Mayor's Office

2. Introductions (5 minutes)

Members of the commission stated their names and affiliations.

3. Open Meeting Law Presentation (30 minutes)

Shawna Lee (Clerk's Office) presented information on the Open Meeting Law (materials available on the City Clerk's website).

4. Discussion: Purpose of Commission (10 minutes)

- Robert suggested the Commission drive change in impactful ways, and focus on action. Robert also suggested that Plan Tucson could act as a guide for the Commission's actions.

- David suggested the commission provide leadership on issues related to the regulation of the food system and incentives to encourage behaviors that will improve food system resilience. David stated that the Commission should focus on food safety, health issues, food waste and waste diversion, and environmental issues. He suggested that we consider a reduction in fees for entities that develop sustainability programs. He also suggested working collaboratively with organizations, such as the food bank.
- Doug suggested a focus on the link between food systems and economic development, job creation in particular. He also supported looking in regulations.
- Erika stated she would like to look at the role of local businesses in supporting a resilient food system.
- Chet stated that he would like to support a food processing and education center, with a focus on job training and waste diversion.
- Gary suggested the Commission act as the advisory group to the City's UNESCO City of Gastronomy designation, should Tucson be selected.

Action: Motion by Vanessa Bechtol, seconded, to direct staff support to contact Mayor and Council offices and collect a list of concerns that the Commission may be able to address, was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

5. Discussion: Election of Officers, Establishment of Bylaws (10 minutes)

Action: Motion by Chet Phillips, seconded, to elect Robert Ojeda as chair, was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Action: Motion by Sam Albo, seconded, to create a member roster with head shots and short biographies, was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

6. Action: Set Meeting Schedule (5 minutes)

Action: Motion by Doug Taren, seconded, to hold meetings on the second Wednesday of the month from 8:00 a.m.– 9:30a.m., was passed by a unanimous voice vote (Gary Nabhan was absent).

Action: Motion by Kris Vrolijk, seconded, to reschedule the November meeting during the October meeting, as the regularly scheduled meeting will fall on Veteran's day in November, was passed by a unanimous voice vote (Gary Nabhan was absent).

7. Call to the Audience

None.

8. Future Agenda Items

The Commission identified the following future agenda items:

1. Urban Agriculture, ordinances
2. November meeting schedule
3. Borderlands Food Bank landfill use cap
4. Board member presentations
5. Tax implications of urban commercial farming
6. Legal issues related to food sourcing (Don Herrington as speaker?)
7. City of Gastronomy advisory function
8. Economic benefits of localism (Local First)
9. Rural & farming issues

10. Issues from Council offices
11. Plan Tucson (Leslie Ethen to present)
12. Adaptive Reuse (Local First, Kimber Lanning)

Announcements:

1. Saturday, Sept 12 Megan Kimble discuss her book and model shopping at Food Conspiracy Co-Op.
2. Arizona Farm+Chef Connection taking place Sept 15, 12pm-7pm.
3. UA Food Day is October 14th, with cooking demonstrations, movie screenings, etc.

9. Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.