

## **December 6, 2010 – Burlington Food Council Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Jenn McGowan, Benjy Adler, Bob Heinz, Suzie Hodgson, Bart Westdijk, Cheryl Herrick, Nancy Kaplan, Alton Delanz, Will Robb, Joyce Cellars, Jennifer Green, Nina Dahlstedt Buss, Jess Hyman, and Meg Klepack

**Discussion:** Is the Burlington Food Council solely a networking group or do we have the interest and capacity to take on a project/event? The reality is we have no staff and no money.

Jenn McGowan: If we're just a networking group, the council will/has lost energy and people will stop coming. We need a project to unite around. If we have not money, our project should be to find funding. Perhaps have a graduate student intern for the Council next semester.

Cheryl Herrick: has grant writing skills and might be interested in helping here.

The sense of the group was that we need a project, even just hosting public events, to keep momentum and accomplish our goals.

### **Potential projects**

Nina: The Public Health Department is undertaking a convenience store initiative to get fresh health food into corner stores. She needs connections to small scale producers and has had trouble reaching farmers.

Jess Hyman: Burlington's Municipal Development Plan is under review, could we provide input to this process?

Will Robb: Urban agriculture policies at the city level need to be researched in lieu of the Public Health meeting last month regarding back-yard chickens.

Bart: Some sort of city wide inventory of the food system: infrastructure/projects currently in place and gaps that need to be developed.

Jennifer Green: It would be great to host an evening event with a guest speaker to give us some press; give us something to rally around

Benjy: Has projector and local food films. Maybe we should host a local food film series.

Jennifer: the 2030 Legacy Plan has a chapter on local food. The food council could take an active role in helping revise/write that chapter.

### **Event**

The sense of the group was that a good first step for the council would be to organize a public event with a speaker and potluck (or other local food). The initial idea was to invite David White and the planning department to present the revision of the municipal plan process and gather public input on the plan. Meg's future discussions with David

have revealed he's not at the point in his process where he's ready for that type of public input.

**February Meeting:** The February meeting of the council will be a working session devoted to providing input on the food-related aspects of the Burlington Legacy Plan. Jennifer Green will present the framework of the plan and ask for our expertise to provide input. We'll also discuss the creation of the Urban Agriculture Policy Working Group. The meeting date is set for February 7<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the Burlington Library.

**To Do**

- Organize a public event for this winter
  - o Once we have a speaker, Benjy will contact Melinda Moulton about using her fabulous spaces to host the event. Jenn McGowan, Jess Hyman, and Alton Delanz specifically volunteered to help plan the event.

*Needed:*

Venue

Publicity

Speaker

Food/potluck logistics