

DRAFT FSTF Subcommittee on Reimagining Food Coordination Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2023

Present: Jade Quizon (API Council); Ellen Garcia (EatSF); Irene Garcia (SFMFB); Chester Williams (Community Living Campaign); Cissie Bonini (UCSF/Vouchers4Veggies - Eat SF); John McCormick (TNDC)

Also Present: Eric Chan (SFDPH – Office of Anti-Racism & Equity); Marchon Tatmon (SFMFB); Teddy Flang (Florence Fang Community Farm); Anthony Singh (TNDC)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
1. Call order to order 2:00 p.m.	Call to order at 2:04 p.m.	None.
2. Land Acknowledgment 2:00 p.m.	Eric Chan recited the Land Acknowledgment.	None.
3. Welcome, member roll call, introductions, Jade Quizon (Chair, API Council) 2:05 p.m.	Jade Quizon did roll call and introduced the agenda. Public Comment: None.	None.
4. Approval of minutes from September 26, 2023, Jade Quizon (Chair, API Council) 2:10 p.m.	Jade Quizon: Three names are missing from the list that are interested in being members: Chester Williams, John McCormick, and Paula Jones (agenda item 6). Cissie Bonini makes motion to accept meeting minutes with the changes mentioned. Ellen Garcia seconds the motion. Approved: 6 None opposed. None abstained.	Eric to make changes and finalize meeting minutes.
5. General Public Comment 2:15 p.m.	Public Comment: None.	None.
6. Appointment of subcommittee members, Jade Quizon (Chair, API Council) 2:20 p.m.	Jade Quizon: Those who expressed interest from last meeting that are currently here, verbal confirmation that they are still willing to be subcommittee members:	

	<p>Ellen Garcia: Yes Irene Garcia: Yes John McCormick: Yes Chester Williams: Yes Cissie Bonini: Yes</p> <p>The five above have officially been appointed as subcommittee members by Jade Quizon.</p> <p>Anthony Singh: I'm not so sure about my schedule. I'm the food and nutrition coordinator at TNDC. I'm just here to sit in for now.</p> <p>Marchon Tatmon: I will also be a member of the general public as well.</p> <p>Teddy Fang: I'm with the Florence Fang Community Farm and will also be a member of the public as well.</p>	
<p>7. Subcommittee member self-introductions, Jade Quizon (Chair, API Council) 2:25 p.m.</p>	<p>Subcommittee members did self-introductions, guided by the following prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, organization, and position • Interest in joining the subcommittee • If you have any previous knowledge or experience related to the goals of the subcommittee, anything around food systems organizing, food policy and research <p>Jade Quizon, Ellen Garcia, Irene Garcia, John McCormick, Chester Williams, and Cissie Bonini gave self-introductions as subcommittee members.</p> <p>Eric Chan gave a self-introduction as SFDPH staff support for the subcommittee.</p>	<p>None.</p>

<p>8. Finalize project charter, Eric Chan (SFDPH/Office of Anti-Racism & Equity) 2:40 p.m.</p>	<p>This item will need to be brought back at the next subcommittee meeting because there is not quorum for a vote.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: I wanted to loop back around the discussion around changing the bylaws for the subcommittee to include a Vice-Chair. There was a discussion at the larger task force. If that does happen, then the project charter needs to be amended. Even without the Vice-Chair role being formalized, significant involvement with the subcommittee can still happen. That being said, is this still something that needs to happen in order to move forward with this subcommittee, or do we want to bring this back to the task force, and it might not pass. I think it will be complicated to get this through, honestly.</p> <p>John McCormick: Was the pushback from the task force that they wanted the Vice-Chair to be a task force member? And the grounds for that was what again?</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: There were different reasons. They wanted somebody that has been involved with the group and better understood the task force and not someone from outside, they wanted consistency.</p> <p>Jade Quizon: I remember someone saying that they have seen this rule before and how it can be abused. There's concern from past experiences.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: And there were members that said they wanted to amend other items as well if this one was to be amended, and that creates a whole other process.</p> <p>John McCormick: Are we eliminating the possibility of a Vice-Chair completely or that you have to be part of the task force?</p> <p>Jade Quizon: You have to be part of the task force.</p>	
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	<p>John McCormick: The reason why I wasn't part of the task force was that Austin was part of the task force, and Austin is now no longer part of the task force, and now there is a possibility that I can now apply for a task force seat.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: So this might be a moot point in the future. So my recommendation is when we come back to this topic, we discuss that if there is a Vice-Chair, we can put that into the subcommittee structure membership, and then we can vote on that.</p> <p>Eric Chan: For any subcommittee member here that wants to take on more of a leadership role and support Jade, please reach out to us because even if you aren't given the official title of Vice-Chair you still have a lot of opportunity to support with the work.</p> <p>Jade Quizon: In our charter goals we're using the term "food policy body" should we keep this language or use something broader?</p> <p>Eric Chan: Yes, we last agreed on more general/broader language, what have we been using?</p> <p>Jade Quizon: We've been using food organizing structure.</p> <p>Eric Chan: I'll make those edits.</p> <p>Public Comment: None.</p>	
<p>9. Criteria discussion, Jade Quizon (Chair, API Council) 2:45 p.m.</p>	<p>The goal of this discussion is to gain more clarity on the criteria list and its definitions, add anything that's missing or doesn't make sense, and get it ready to present to task force members and then begin the steps of ranking and weighing them (1 – 10, with 1 being the least important and 10 being the most important). Subcommittee members will vote, and bring the results to the task force where they will also rank and vote.</p>	

Cissie Bonini: The criteria for addressing siloes across city and non-city entities needs to be split into two distinct pieces. Some structures might be better at reducing CBO siloes, some might be better at reducing city siloes.

Ellen Garcia: One of the key things that makes San Francisco different from other cities is the cost of living, particularly the outrageous inflation of food prices in the last couple of years. They have gone up faster in San Francisco than other cities and are now some of the highest food prices in the nation. Trying to address food insecurity without addressing the landscape that is creating higher food prices, as well as the shopping experience for lower-income folks is like throwing dixie cups of water on a wildfire. We need to deal with the health of the climate for small food businesses and the competitive market for food businesses. If we don't deal with the larger landscape, we are a reactive body. Is this group reactive to food insecurity as it occurs, or are we structurally trying to prevent it by touching different food points in San Francisco?

Criteria added from this conversation:

- Addresses health of the environment for food businesses
- Addresses the dignity of the food shopping and acquisition process

John McCormick: Housing and transportation are on my mind. Building housing that people can cook in, converting housing so that people can cook in it and store their food. You hear about makeshift kitchens that are borderline dangerous. You hear about people being able to access healthy food but being unable to cook it. I also think transportation is important. A lot of folks in low-income neighborhoods go to other neighborhoods to access food, and if the public transportation system isn't there, then it becomes difficult to access. And then one more thing about community gardens – prioritizing spaces for people to farm their own food. It's not necessarily just about community gardens, but more of opportunity for people to grow and cultivate their own food. It's also about educational opportunities.

	<p>Teddy Fang: It's about local food production and food self-reliance?</p> <p>Criteria added from this conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creates opportunities for people to grow their own food, encourages local food production <p>Jade Quizon: For your point about transportation, I think that's what we're trying to address through reducing siloes across city agencies, recognizing that food priorities exist throughout different departments.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: Emergency/Disaster preparedness around food, so being prepared in advance rather than waiting for the emergency to happen. Also integrating emergency response with CBOs and city government in advance of a disaster.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: The ability to address emerging issues rapidly is another criteria. And another thing that is great about our current task force is that we can bring stakeholders together and make recommendations and host presentations, there is some educational sharing that happens.</p> <p>Criteria added from this conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops and manages an emergency food plan with CBOs and city agencies in advance of a disaster• Addresses emerging issues• Creates space for educational/information sessions for CBOs and City agencies to share their work <p>Irene Garcia: For the addressing emerging issues, is it worth it to flesh this out and talk about the ways in which community input is incorporated and that there is an appropriate stream of information coming from community that influences those emerging issues.</p>	
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	<p>Eric Chan: I wanted to back what John was speaking about, and the word that comes to mind when addressing proper kitchenware, cooking space, and transportation is infrastructure. That is in combination with addressing city siloes, but specifically addressing infrastructure that supports the movement and cooking of food.</p> <p>Irene Garcia: I was thinking the same thing. There are so many empty store fronts, and with the housing crisis, and with new incoming mixed development use (e.g. housing on top, store front on the bottom), there has to be a way to support the infrastructure to have more like community markets, a charitable food system with purchased food systems, so that people can get like half of their veggies for free or have some supplemental system (like having veggies being provided from community farms). How do we create the container for that?</p> <p>John McCormick: Like community owned grocery co-ops can be part of this.</p> <p>Irene Garcia: Taking that a step even further, if there was a centralized kitchen, could local entrepreneurs make meals that can go into these markets that they can sell, so you're promoting a healthy local food system.</p> <p>John McCormick: Or like subsidies to do that, because often times to make those healthy meals and sell them, it costs a lot of money. Is there money to subsidize not just this, but to start up a community garden, transportation, vouchers, etc.</p> <p>Criteria added to this conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensures infrastructure is set up to support the movement and cooking of food• Ensures consistent funding to support community-led ideas/solutions	
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Ellen Garcia: We want to create an environment that's open to trying innovative ideas and solutions, but right now it feels hard to get anything off the ground, in the climate we're in. I'm curious about the other bodies. Do any of them have any process or risk assessment for studying/doing a cost-benefit analysis or an environmental impact of larger-scale solutions that are being funded by the state because I think right now it's hard to tell exactly what any given program/innovation's impacts are. For example, if all the empty storefronts in Bayview were filled with community markets, what would that do to the for-profit markets? Would we want that? I feel it's an important role of this group to not just address the functional siloes or food security impacts but assess solutions/proposals/innovations for environmental impacts and other effects, and is it in alignment with what our goals are?

Irene Garcia: What I'm hearing is the coordination of all those pieces (and I agree with Ellen) and understanding the impact from one thing to the next and having a global overview of those things.

John McCormick: Would that be like a committee? What does the assessment look like?

Ellen Garcia: It could be as simple as a list of questions, or a study that needs to be done of a proposed intervention to look at the environmental impacts. What are the downstream effects? It could be simple or complex. I'm curious how these other groups have addressed this.

Ellen Garcia: An example is the emergency food boxes given out by the food bank during the pandemic. A perfectly good intervention during a disaster, but for long-term food security, lots of health implications there. What would happen if you took this intervention out of the disaster scenario and put it in an everyday food pantry, food security scenario?

Criteria added from this conversation:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assesses the environmental and economic impacts of grant-funded solutions/proposals/innovations • Has the big picture overview of food-related projects <p>Cissie Bonini: I put a criteria in the chat that came from our 2023 Recommendations.</p> <p>Criteria added from chat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses cross-sector or cross-city department opportunities such as Food as Medicine and Housing + Food <p>John McCormick: I know that language access is important, and cultural sensitivity to food needs. Maybe having something like services that are being put forward are culturally relevant and accessible, or whatever work that is being done takes this into consideration.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: To clarify, this group can't fund things, unless you're the Mayor.</p> <p>John McCormick: Not that I think we should be the Mayor, but could this be its own department in the city with its own set of funding? Like to have a department at the city level that has its own sources of funding through the budget process to specifically address the criteria that we decide are the most important.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: What is that body going to do? What is it funded to do?</p> <p>Jade Quizon: This sounds like a recommendation. If we do prioritize that it manages funding or distributes its own funding, then that implies that it's an office of food with its own budget.</p> <p>Criteria added from this conversation:</p>	
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- Addresses resources and information is accessible and offered in a culturally-appropriate way
- Manages and distributes funding for food community-led innovations/solutions

Cissie Bonini: Process-wise, I might have misspoken earlier and clarify on that. We take this list of criteria and it goes to the task force before it gets finalized, and then we rank them. That's the order of things, just to be clear.

Jade Quizon: The subcommittee members will also vote, yes?

Cissie Bonini: Yes. The list has to be finalized by the Food Security Task Force before we can move onto the next step.

Chester Williams: It would be helpful if we had a representative in each district related to supporting food coordination. It would be more effective to supervisors to let them know that this is a main issue for them to pay attention to.

John McCormick: And that person can directly report to their supervisor and have more weight potentially working for a city-funded body.

Cissie Bonini: I heard about accountability and district representation, or district representation to ensure accountability. District representation is its own interesting thing.

Ellen Garcia: Is this fundamentally about equity? Is this a means of making sure the full geography of the city is fully considered?

Chester Williams: Yes, because that's not how the city tends to operate.

Criteria added from this conversation:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an accountability system set up • District representation 	
<p>10. Review Johns Hopkins responses, Jade Quizon (Chair, API Council) - TENTATIVE 3:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Jade Quizon: Johns Hopkins hasn't responded to our questions yet. They did put out a statement online that they are overburdened with requests for their data and research. They do have a lot of resources on their website that we can comb through.</p> <p>Public Comment: None.</p>	
<p>11. General updates 3:20 p.m.</p>	<p>Jade Quizon: The planning committee for this subcommittee met and tossed out the idea of pushing the timeline on this project to give ourselves more time. We recognized that we were pretty ambitious with this timeline, and given the state of the world, and the availability of consultants, we would like to give ourselves a couple of months.</p> <p>Eric Chan: I didn't update the timeline slide but will do so by the end of the week. The update is that we now want to get recommendations finalized in the spring, and presentations to go out late spring to early summer. For the consultants, we've been talking to a couple of them, and everyone is saying the timeline tight for them given the holiday season. They are interested in supporting the work and once we agree on the timeline I will be reaching out to them again with our updated plans to see if anybody is willing to join.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: To clarify, we were going to finalize recommendations early February, but given everyone is busy for the holidays, and there's a lot going on with the BFSER as well.</p> <p>Jade Quizon: I see a lot of nodding heads agreeing, if anyone has strong opinions let us know. The other general update is about the LA Food Equity Roundtable. It was our first meeting with another food organizing body, Cissie and I met with them last week. If you've been following the LA Food Equity Roundtable, they've been meeting for a couple of years now. It was initiated</p>	<p>Jade to send out list of FPC contacts.</p> <p>Eric to send out next steps.</p>

and organized by LA County officials along with philanthropy. They call it a public-private partnership, but really it's government and philanthropy. They've had like 200 stakeholders meetings over the last couple of years. They just came out with their strategic plan. They decided that LA County needs an office of food equity to implement the strategic plan. The roundtable will still be around, and acts as the connection to community members and input. They do expect the community to come with collective impact solutions. It is up to the office of food equity now to implement the strategic plan and its recommendations. They were thoughtful about where they should place this office. Should it be under the office of sustainability, the department of social services, etc. They decided it was most important to place themselves as close as possible to decision makers, so they placed themselves under the overarching office of government affairs group (might not be its official name). We need to be close to decision makers, we can't be slowed down by red tape. I thought that was really clever. It's going to be made up of one director, funded by philanthropy, and four staff from the county – two from DPH, and two from social services. They do not have funding. This is flagged as a possible pain point, but also interestingly they have it set up so that in three years' time they will do an impact assessment. It seems like they're up to being risky and experimental, so that also seems very cool. This idea very much has the support of LA County supervisors, two of them specifically. One of their recommendations is that they need a champion within government to make changes.

Cissie Bonini: Community and city comes up together with what needs to be done, and then this group tries to make sure it happens. LA is different in that there are different counties in the city, so the counties have to work together, and they report to the county council, so there is some accountability. They are voting on the resolution soon. It will be an interesting model, but there are some real positives about that.

John McCormick: Is the county council made up of elected officials? Are they the equivalent of our supervisors?

	<p>Jade Quizon: Yes, the council has a CEO, and 5 board of supervisors. Fun fact, they are all women of color.</p> <p>John McCormick: Do they look for funding from philanthropy?</p> <p>Jade Quizon: They have to find funding through grant dollars.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: They aren't giving out money for interventions. In order to do that they have to get grant money. The question is what is the influence they have on the council to create funding opportunities? That is going to be the big question on whether they are successful.</p> <p>Public Comment: None.</p>	
<p>12. Next steps in preparation for next subcommittee meeting, Jade Quizon (Chair, API Council) 3:25 p.m.</p>	<p>Jade Quizon: For next steps, we're going to continue reviewing the criteria list and adding to it.</p> <p>Eric Chan: Yes, we do want to get this list out to our FSTF members next week and hold it as an agenda item for our November 1st meeting. I think we would take the next day or two to see if there's anything else you want to add. Jade, if you could work on cleaning it up by Wednesday so that we can share it. Jade has a list of Food Policy Councils that she's reached out to. Jade if you want to share.</p> <p>Jade Quizon: Yes, if folks could help me find contacts for the other food organizing bodies; it takes a while to find them. I'll send out the list that we're trying to contact, and if you have contacts to the ones we're looking for, or even other places, just let me know because we're trying to talk to 8-10 additional organizations.</p> <p>Eric Chan: I'll send out an email with the next steps.</p>	

	Public Comment: None.	
12. Adjournment 3:30 p.m.	Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.	None.