

Food Justice Committee Meeting Minutes December 5, 2018

In Attendance

Susan Bloch, Eric Borgstrom (chair), Bettina de Caumette, Amelia Duffy-Tumas, Flo Gelo, Mimi Kahn, Jeannine Kienzle, Seth Lerman, Kentu Malik, Jack Malinowski, Megan McCrea, Jon Scaffidi, Larry Shaeffer, Norman Weiss

1. Elections for New FJC Chair

One suggestion was to ask Chaone Mallory if she'd be interested because she has served as chair in the past. After our meeting she was contacted and she is, indeed, interested.

2. Affordable Dinner Program

Jeannine prepared an affordable dinner for the FJC members to sample. It was a chickpea, orzo, tomato dish that took 20 minutes to prepare and cost \$2.62 per person. The recipe is available here <https://ordinaryvegan.net/garbanzobbeansoup/>

Megan volunteered to provide an affordable dinner for our next meeting, which will be Wednesday, February 6, 2019.

We have received email feedback from several Food For All participants in response to the article in the November Shuttle: Working to Make the Co-op Accessible to All. The main comment has been about the price for an "affordable dinner" and the need for it to be low. The main concerns for FFA shoppers are cost, followed by convenience of preparation.

We discussed the general concept of the affordable dinner program and several questions arose. Will we provide a recipe and shopping list so that shoppers then go through the store and find the items? Or do we gather the pre-selected items and place them in one convenient location for shoppers? We discussed the pros and cons of these two approaches and how each would have a different impact on store employees' time and labor, shoppers' convenience, and available space in the store (for example, some items might need refrigeration while others might not).

Jon volunteered to collect a list of recipes to consider for the Affordable Dinner Program.

3. "Town Hall" Meeting

The Town Hall is scheduled for Wed. January 9, 2019 (6-7:30 PM) at the Summit Presbyterian Church Parlor Room. It has been advertised in the Shuttle, and will continue to be promoted via FB, email, word of mouth generated by FJC members, and in-store announcements. We should also place a sandwich board in front of the co-op advertising both the Town Hall Meeting and the Food For All interviews. Flo, Susan and Megan will set up tables in the CH and MA stores on January 5th and 6th to inform shoppers about these events and encourage them to participate.

Flo and Shaline will lead the Town Hall Meeting. Details will be finalized at our FFA Task Force Meeting, Monday, Dec. 17, 6-7:30 (Nexus). We discussed whether the Town Hall leaders should present the issue somewhat open ended with requests for input from the audience about ways to make the co-op more accessible, or whether they should present our specific ideas for increasing the discount, or developing a bank of working hours, etc.

Amelia mentioned her involvement with Mariposa and the excellent job they do of making the co-op inclusive and welcoming for all. It might be helpful to get someone from Mariposa to share the strategies with us.

4. Open Discussion — Direction of the Committee

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to an open discussion about the direction of the committee as we move into 2019. We realize that we need ways to make people feel more committed to the committee and its activities.

One suggestion was to organize each meeting into two parts. The first would revive our previous Hunger 101 component by focusing on the educational aspects of food justice. Proposed ideas were to have guest speakers, film screenings, and/or a book club with discussion. The second would focus on our various projects, such as the annual food drive, FFA improvements, an affordable dinner program, etc.

Some people thought it might be helpful to have co-chairs, with each person overseeing one of these aspects of the meeting. We could also revisit the surveys that were done last year to see what people's interests were. Jon mentioned that meetings may not be the best place to get things done, and that we should think about accomplishing various tasks during the weeks between meetings.

At our next meeting (Wed, February 6th), we will try out this new format (hopefully with our new chair in place).

1). Jack will either find a speaker, or facilitate a discussion, for the topic of hunger and immigrants. See the article recently circulated.

<https://why.org/articles/families-with-immigrant-members-report-doing-without-food-stamps-in-philadelphia/>

Megan will provide an affordable dinner for us to sample during the discussion.

2). We will present the results from the town hall meeting.

Up-Coming Meetings

Mon. Dec. 17th 6-7:30 PM (Nexus) — FFA Task Force Meeting to plan Town Hall agenda

Wed. Jan. 9th 6-7:30 PM (Summit Church) – Town Hall Meeting

Wed. Feb. 6th 6-7:30 PM (Nexus) — FJC Meeting

Note – There will be no FJC meeting on Wed. January 2nd because of the Town Hall meeting