



Arizona Department of Agriculture

Office of the Director
1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 542-3191 FAX (602) 542-5420

UnApproved MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAPAC)

Minutes
MEETING HELD ON Wednesday, August 14, 2019
1688 W. Adams Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

1. Call to Order

Cassie Lyman, Chair

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Sharma Torrens

Sharma went through the roll call. The following persons were present:

In-Person FAPAC Members: Patty Emmert; Elyse Guidas; Chair Cassie Lyman; Glenna McCollum; Rafael Tapia; Elizabeth Taylor.

On the Phone FAPAC Members: Leslie Fox; Bruce Gwynn.

AZDA Persons Present: Director Killian; Sharma Torrens, Deanie Reh, Michele Mellott.

Public Persons Present: Ashley Dussault with Farm Express; Tricey Wilkes with Pinnacle Prevention; Jesse Gruner with Pinnacle Prevention; Angie Rodgers with Association of AZ Food Banks.

3. Member Update

Sharma Torrens

Sharma updated the FAPAC that Kami Weddle will have to step off of the FAPAC as she does not have time to engage and be active in this group at this time. This leaves 13 FAPAC members, with 3 ex-officio members and 10 voting members.

However, she has not yet officially received the letter confirming that she is no longer on the FAPAC. Sharma will send out this letter soon.

4. Approval of June 25, 2019 Minutes

Cassie Lyman

Liz wanted to change Section 5(1) with the following: (1) at the end of paragraphs 4 and 5 ensure it is clear that Leslie offered to take on #3 and #4; and (2) the second to last paragraph reword the second sentence to take out the word "some" and "come to the AZDA."

Under Section 9, the second paragraph ensure that the in the first sentence, producer is plural and infrastructure is singular. Also, take out the word "for" in front of "coordinated efforts." Additionally in the second sentence change

“locals” to be “local food system leaders. In the third sentence change meeting to be plural and the “N” in “North” to be lower case.

In Section 9, the last paragraph, change the last sentence to read, “It would help farmers/ranchers to get the needed training.”

Ashley’s last name that was from the public (attending this meeting) is Dussault. Sharma will add that.

Furthermore, add in that David Schwake discussed Farm to School and his long-term involvement in these efforts and that he was to follow-up with Glenna about an item to discuss.

Glenna moved to accept the minutes as amended, Liz seconded the motion. The motion was approved as noted below.

Rocco
Patty AYE
Rep. Fernandez
Leslie AYE
Elyse AYE
Bruce AYE
Sen. Kerr
Cassie AYE
Glenna AYE
Dave
Rep. Shope
Liz AYE
Kami

5. Review of Eight 2017 Recommendations
(Information, discussion and action)
A. Revising Recommendations

Cassie Lyman

Items #7, #8, #9 and #10 were discussed first as the Chair adjusted the order of the agenda items.

Elyse was rewording 2017 Recommendations #1, #2, #5, #6 and #7. Leslie was rewording #3 and #4 while Liz offered to do the same for #7 and #8.

Elyse went over the rewording for #1 about expanding the existing food donation tax incentives focusing on promoting the use of this as well as establishing an exploratory subcommittee on transportation to identify distribution gaps.

The Chair noted that there was an existing ad hoc working group focused on transportation that didn’t do much work on this. The FAPAC members discussed wanting to know whether they can revise the existing subcommittee (which was an ad hoc working group) and whether they could allow outside parties (e.g. AZ Dept. of Transportation) to join in on this. Sharma will send Deanie an email to request information about this.

After the Chair asked for clarification on what the FAPAC is doing now, the Director let the FAPAC members know that he would like them to think outside of the box on issues, come up with the priority recommendations (maybe for each year) and he also wants them to gather the necessary background information on the topic. They can then advise the Director about any upcoming recommendations.

The FAPAC members said they would appreciate a list of what they can and cannot do (in writing). Sharma will request that from Deanie. But, Deanie did mention that the members can advise on anything relating to food insecurity to the

Director.

The Chair also wanted more guidance on how to bring forth organizations that can be the driving forces. The Director said the AZDA can help with this.

Since there were no FAPAC legislative recommendations, Liz, Leslie and Elyse will send Sharma their typed recommendations, which she will distribute to the FAPAC.

B. Status of Any Non Revised Recommendations

This discussion has been tabled for the next meeting.

C. Any New Challenges or Recommendations to Discuss

The FAPAC members discussed the importance of Farm to School and how this is a cause everyone can rally around and has great momentum now. This was discussed as a possible recommendation, to which a recommendation for legislation might be necessary. Liz informed the members that AZ is 1 of 7 states that has no existing legislation surrounding this program.

Jessie was recognized from the public and noted that other states (e.g. NM) have been successful because they had legislation to incentivize the purchase of local food (as much of the time it is more costly). She also mentioned that, for the example of New Mexico, they had a Farmers Marketing Association, which helped market the local food and provides resources for farmers and they had state funding via legislation.

The Director had an idea to contact the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) to see what other states are doing. He also suggested that we invite NM folks over here and host a 1-day event to learn what they are doing. Patty offered to look into New York and provide information to the FAPAC about this.

After the FAPAC discussed possibly exploring a state proclamation as well as a legislative resolution (or joint resolution) recognizing a Farm to School Month, the Director noted that if the AZ Dept. of Education was in support of this (since they have run Farm to School since 2008), that he could reach out to the Governor's Office and others about this.

6. Providing Food Policy Recommendations Discussion Cassie Lyman
(Information, discussion and action)

This has been tabled for the next meeting.

7. AZDA Updates on Farm to School Involvement/Activities Sharma Torrens

Sharma let the FAPAC members know that the AZDA has been involved in the U.S. Dept. of Ag. (USDA) Farm to School Program ("Program") since September of 2018. The AZ Dept. of Education (ADE) has been running this program since 2008 and working with them and USDA, the AZDA submitted a survey to producers (which has not yet been done).

The survey asked if participants knew about the Program, did they want to know about it, etc. The AZDA received 212 responses from all 15 counties and the responses confirmed that most folks did not know about the Program.

So, the next steps for the Program are to education producers about its existence and teach them how to sell to schools (large volume, reliable sales, but with a reduced cost involved). Understandably because there are three agencies involved (USDA, ADE and AZDA), movement is not extremely fast as there are procedures and beaurocracies involved.

However, Sharma is involved in the AZ Farm to School Network as is Patty and Jessie Gruner. There is much momentum on the Program and Sharma is attending the Western Regional Child to School Nutrition (Farm to School)

in San Francisco at the end of this month.

Leslie offered her assistance in any way appropriate since she develops integrative curriculum. Leslie also mentioned that she is registered to do trainings, working with Garden Humanity and that they are looking into doing an after school program in Prescott.

Patty mentioned that Slowfood Phoenix is working towards getting policies promoting healthy food and their focused has been getting healthy food into the schools. They are having an Advocacy Day in November. Additionally, via the AZ Farm to School Network, and with Sun Produce Cooperative, she is working on a pilot project with five districts getting produce into those schools.

8. Updates on Food Access Workshops/Food Summit Sharma Torrens

Sharma let the FAPAC members know that there is a September 19th Food Access Workshop in Payson (9a-2p). It will likely be held at the Mazatzal Casino. It will focus on Indigenous Food Success Stories, Farm to School as well as USDA grants/programs for producers.

The Director will be there, the FAPAC Chair will be speaking as well Chairwoman DeCola (from the Tonto Apache Tribe). Partnership With Native Americans is collaborating on this workshop.

Additionally, on October 23rd in Clarkdale (at Yavapai College), there will be another Food Access Workshop. In collaboration with Cornucopia and Leslie, the AZDA will be helping to put on a workshop focused on creating a Yavapai Food Policy Council.

Glenna reminded the FAPAC that the Registered Dieticians and Sossaman Farms could be involved in any workshops. Sharma will stay in touch with Glenna about this, possibly looking at a November workshop.

The 4th Annual Food Summit is scheduled for September 28th and 29th of 2020. There is a Food Summit Planning Group that is helping to plan this event, comprised of 15 individuals (including Patty, Liz and Leslie). The location might be at the NAU, but the Group is meeting next week to make further plans. But, the Sustainable Economic Development Institute (SEDI) has already sponsored the event for \$3,000.

It was suggested that Sharma look into the National Good Food Network as well as the Wallace Center for funding.

9. Hunger Advisory Council Updates Sharma Torrens

Sharma is Vice-Chair on this Council and Elyse is a member as well. This Council is meeting this Friday, but the discussions will continue on ensuring the FAPAC and HAC enhance each other's efforts. The FAPAC meetings are a continuous agenda items for the HAC meetings.

10. Conflict of Interest Form Sharma Torrens

Sharma wanted to ensure that she had all of these filled out forms. She was missing that of Leslie and of Liz at this juncture. Both persons would provide those today.

11. Call to the Public

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Committee may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01 (H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

12. Executive Session

To obtain legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A) (3) on any matter on the agenda

13. Next Meeting

A special telephonic meeting will be held if the ADE would support a Farm to School proclamation and/or legislative resolution.

A regular meeting will occur in the first two weeks of October. Sharma will send our viable dates.

Person(s) with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Melissa Meek at (602) 542-0925 (voice), or 1-800-367-3839 (TDD Relay). Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Leslie moved to adjourn, Patty seconded the motion. The motion was approved as noted below.

Rocco
Patty AYE
Rep. Fernandez
Leslie AYE
Elyse AYE
Bruce AYE
Sen. Kerr
Cassie AYE
Glenna
Dave
Rep. Shope
Liz AYE
Kami

Adjourned at 12:05 p.m.