Date: January 2, 2013

Time Begin: 4:38

Attendees: Sharon Bachman (CCE), Kristen Kaszubowski (CF for Greater Buffalo), Cheryl Thayer (CCE), Rebekah Williams (MAP), Jessie Gouck (BNMC/HKHC)

Welcome and Introductions:

- Rebekah noted that she received emails from a few members stating that they couldn’t make today’s meeting, but that they would be present at the next (names mentioned include Natalie Cook, Susannah Barton, Kristin Armstrong, Derrick Byrd)

Old Business:

- Rebekah went over proposed co-chair arrangement previously proposed in the December meeting: Cheryl will facilitate Growing meeting and Rebekah will serve as WNYEA Board liaison
  - Discussion ensued around voting process. Question was raised as to whether or not the meeting attendees should vote on the proposed co-chair arrangement or if there should be an online survey open to everyone on the listserv. The proposed arrangement was agreeable to the attendees. Noted was the fact that Rebekah and Cheryl are currently running unopposed and there is no ‘official’ member list for the Growing group. Therefore, it was decided by the attending members that Megan Mills-Hoffman would send out an online survey with three options: Yay, Abstain, Write-In.

- The attendees approved December’s meeting minutes. Kristen noted that meeting minutes need to be submitted to the Board.
  - Kristen noted that the Board is promoting blogging by each working group. Providing a summary of the approved minutes (few sentence paragraph-likened to what an email to the listserv would state with the attached minutes) might be a good option to use for the Growing blog. Also included should be the full meeting minutes. Noted that doing this could lead to greater public participation and a good source of information sharing
  - Kristen volunteered to summarize the December meeting minutes and post the summary and full meeting minutes to the Grow website.

- The proposed date for the Quarterly meeting is Feb 19th at Marcy Casino. However, due to some conflicts, Rebekah will suggest optional dates of February 13th and March 12th/13th to the Board.

New Business:

Jessie Gouck presented on the state the Food Policy Council (FPC) Steering Committee & Buffalo Green Codes:

- Erie County and City of Buffalo set up a steering committee to establish a food policy council. Steering committee is comprised of producers, processors, distributors, waste management,
consumers, community members, county representation, DEP, and the County Agriculture Board. The City of Buffalo is represented by City Official staff members

- Steering committee is charged with making recommendations to take back to city/county about the formation of the FPC. They met 4 times and discussed such questions as: Where should it be housed? Who should be on it? How should members be appointed? Should it be staffed?...etc.

- Noted that there will be a fair amount of advocacy efforts to promote FPC once the recommendations come out in an effort to encourage the city/county to formally establish the FPC

- Jessie had 2 Asks of the Group once the recommendations have been provided to the Growing group:
  o Should the member’s organization be in support of the FPC formation and the recommendations set forth by the steering committee, will they send a letter of support on behalf of their organization? A sample letter will be circulated to the Growing group to assist in this process.
  o Have the WNY EA submit a letter of support of behalf of the Board. Question raised as to whether or not this needs to go through the Advocacy group. It was decided by the attendees that the Growing group would draft the letter and submit it to Bob/Michaela for Board approval
  o Jessie can provide a date as to when she would need these letters of support

- Jessie will be unable to attend the February meeting, but mentioned that Shawn Mulligan might be able to attend the meeting and update more members on the information she presented, as well as follow up with more information pertaining to the Asks.

Green Codes:
- Jessie will send out comments on the uses of the Buffalo Green Code as it relates to healthy eating. (I.e. gardening, farming, composting, etc.). Recommendations regarding the Green Codes will come from HKHC, but Jessie will send out to Growing group members for input/support

Quarterly Meeting Updates
- Attendees spoke about what the goals of the Food Policy Council topic should be for the quarterly meeting. Ultimately it was decided that the purpose should be to educate and inform the Quarterly meeting attendees. Through this, the establishment of a FPC may be able to gain support from member organizations

- Suggested topics/questions to be answered through the presentation/panel are listed below and broken into two categories: 1) Food Policy and FPC’s generally speaking  2) Buffalo/Erie FPC
  1) -What is Food Policy in general
     -What are FPC’s and why are they important?
     - How do FPC’s advance food policy issues? Offer examples of laws that have passed through FPC’s and discuss their importance (i.e. right to farm, zoning, business licenses, economic policies, regulatory policies from a health perspective, etc.)

  2) -What does the Buffalo/Erie County FPC hope to accomplish?
     -What are the needs of the County/City?
     -What are the recommendations of the Steering Committee?
     -How can member organization support the FPC?
Possible Presenters/Panelists Revisited:
- Dr. Samina Raja (to handle Question 1). Sean Mulligan (Question 2). Susannah Barton. Cheryl will reach out to each of these people once the date is confirmed for the quarterly meeting.
- Discussed the possibility of having a representative from Niagara County to talk about the formation of their FPC. Nothing concrete was decided at this meeting with regards to this.

Announcements from Attendees:  NONE.

Next meeting:  Feb 6th at 4:30 in the Larkin Building, 5th Floor. Kristen asked for a head count prior to the meeting to determine room size.

Time End:  5:43

Submitted By: Cheryl Thayer