



Minutes

Chair: Carmen McGregor

Minute Recorder: Allison Heavens

January 25th, 2024- 9:30-11:30am

Hybrid: Civic Centre, Room 212 & Microsoft Teams

Attendance: Allison Heavens, Alexandra Colby, Carmen McGregor, Derwyn Armstrong, Erica Bennett, Jacques Tetrault, Jess Snobelen, Karen Green, Mike Buis, Nicole Shaw, Renee Geniole, Sharmini Balakrishnan, Sherri Gray, Susan Fulmer, Taylor Merritt, Amanda Kratochvil, Rebecca Haskell-Thomas (guest- Coordinator, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice), Jodi Guilmette (guest- General Manager Health & Human Services), Dr. Shanker Nesathurai (guest- Chatham-Kent Medical Officer of Health), Jennelle Arnew (guest- Public Health Nutritionist, Chatham-Kent Public Health)

Regrets: Kim Howland, Kim Sonneveld, Nathen Dube, Leah Cabral, Jim Brackett, Magdiel Hoste, Olena Manolo, Jennifer Crowell (vacation), Rosemarie Montgomery (vacation), Dana Boyd

1. Welcome- Carmen welcomed everyone and provided the land acknowledgment. No oppositions to recording the teams meeting. Meeting recording started.
2. Introduction of two new council members, Alexandra Colby and Taylor Merritt as well as our guests Jodi Guilmette, Dr. Shanker Nesathruai, Rebecca Haskell-Thomas and Jennelle Arnew.
3. Approval of November Minutes: Approved by Derwyn and Mike.
4. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice presentation by Rebecca, see attached presentation. How our work as a council can help us move towards equity in the municipality. Hand outs provided. With the right strategy we can help our community be at its best. Diversity is a fact and inclusion is a choice. We all hold identities so diversity happens organically. In Chatham-Kent we are becoming more diverse in our population and more intentional with inclusion. Chatham-Kents current growth is being driven by growth by racialized communities. Chatham-Kent has historically spoken of being a community of communities, but this has been geographic and this is where we are looking to change and improve equity by creating fair access, specifically to health equity and the determinates of health. The committee then broke into groups to discuss how diversity, equity and inclusion connects with our work as a council. Some points discussed were: culturally appropriate food at food banks, education around growing, preserving and cooking food, insecurities for

those living on the rough and their ability to make smart choices around food, among others.

5. CK Food Strategy presentation by Jennelle and Sharmini, presentation attached. Jennelle started by giving a presentation on the historical timeline of the Food Policy Council in Chatham-Kent. The goals of CKFS, first, to increase access to local, nourishing, traditional, and culturally diverse foods; second, to improve food literacy; third, to strengthen partnerships to increase capacity for collective action to promote a sustainable and just food system. As of 2021 food literacy is now part of the science and technology curriculum in high school and elementary. Results of CKFS Survey- Sharmini reviewed the 6 CKFS recommendations and reviewed how 13 points in the action plan were evaluated. 9 of 23 council members responded to the survey sent out after our last meeting, which identified the top 2 priorities, first, develop a public awareness strategy of the economic, cultural, health, and environmental value of local foods (forest, freshwater, and agricultural foods) i.e. local food branding, as part of community festivals, tourism and other events. Second, ensure people have access to nutritious, local foods in neighbourhoods/communities by prioritizing the areas of highest need.
6. Public Health Ontario available to support strategic planning for FPC- Sharmini requested two volunteers for a planning committee, along with Derwyn and Sharmini. Karen Green volunteered, **if others interested, please reach out to Sharmini**. 3 hour planning session required for all CKFPC members. Question brought to council whether we would like the strategic meeting to take place during one of our regular meetings, and extend the time, or have a separate meeting. **No opposition to hold meeting during regularly scheduled meeting. Sharmini will check with Public Health Ontario on what time/date works.**
7. Education Topics- Scheduling depending on strategic planning. Huda will be coming to a future meeting to discuss the changes coming to waste management in Chatham-Kent and the implementation of composting. Sharmini can educate on food systems and food security from the public health perspective. Nicole suggested she would like to learn about innovative ideas being implemented locally and globally. Jennelle suggested Gabriel Clark to discuss climate and food systems. **Sharmini to coordinate future education topics for the council.**
8. Grown in CK Brand Update- further discussion from last meeting. Currently at a stand still, hasn't been promoted much since the pandemic. Might be good opportunity to meet with Economic Development to revive the branding. Jennelle suggested, a new approach could be a food literacy component with an equity and diversity lens. **Sharmini to follow up with Economic Development.**
9. Round Table Update- KFA, Food Freedom Day to be held in February, date not know, the council will try to have a presence.

10. Wrap Up- Carmen asked if we needed to extend the meeting time for the strategic planning session, by show of hands, preferred to keep start time of 9:30 and end at 12:30. **Sharmini will confirm the timing based on Public Health Ontario's preference as well.**

Next Meeting Date: April 25th, 2024, 9:30 to 11:30, Civic Center room 212 subject to change depending on availability