The Importance of Collaboration in Food Systems Planning

DVRPC Food System Stakeholder Committee Meeting

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American Planning Association
Sustainability and the Food System

- Environment
- Sustainability
- Economy
- Society

Diagram showing the interconnections between sustainability, environment, economy, and society with arrows indicating flow or influence.
Complexity of the Food System

- Reciprocal relationship between food system and other urban systems
- Multiple stakeholders with different interests, values, positions, perspectives, knowledge-base, goals and levels of power
  - Economic development
  - Community development
  - Public health
  - Ecological stewardship and conservation
  - Social equity
- Multidisciplinary problem requires multidisciplinary action
Complexity requires Collaboration

- Collaborative, systematic, and inclusive process
- Diverse group of stakeholders, representing a variety of interests, values, and perspectives
- Convene and engage in face-to-face, long-term dialogue to address a policy issue of common concern
American Planning Association

- Non-profit, professional membership & education organization
- Over 44,000 members
- Advocates & encourages good planning practices
Ultimate Goal of Local Level Planning

- Create communities of lasting value
- Create communities that offer better choices for where and how people live, work, and play
- Enable civic leaders, business, and citizens to play a meaningful role in the planning process
Planners offer...

- Comprehensive perspective
- Community-wide spatial and place-based perspective
- Long-term outlook
- Unintended consequences
- Long-term cumulative impacts
- Community engagement
- Convener of stakeholders
- Consensus building
Planners engage in...

- Internal collaboration
  - within a discipline, organization, or jurisdiction
- Horizontal collaboration
  - cross discipline, organization, or jurisdiction
- Vertical collaboration
  - cross levels of power
Collaborative Food Systems Planning
APA’s Planning & Community Health Research Center

- Integrate community health into planning practice through a combination of:
  - Research
  - Education
  - Outreach
  - Policy Development

http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health
Collaboration & Community Food Systems Planning

- Collaborative planning process of developing and implementing local and regional economic, environmental and social programs and policies to:
  - Promote sustainable agriculture and food production
  - Support local and regional food value chains and related infrastructure
  - Facilitate community food security
  - Support and promote good nutrition and health
  - Facilitate reduction, reuse, and recycling of solid food-related waste
Planning for a Healthy, Sustainable Food System

1. Partnerships & Collaboration
2. Visioning & Goal Setting
3. Assessments
4. Plan-Making
5. Regulations
6. Site Design & Development
7. Public investment
### Potential Outcomes of Collaborative Planning & Consensus Building

*Innes and Booher 1999*

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**Potential Outcomes**

- **First Order Effects**
  - Social Capital
    - Trust
    - Relationships
  - Intellectual Capital
    - Mutual Understanding
    - Shared Problem Frames
    - Agreed Upon Data
  - Political Capital
    - Ability to Work Together for Agreed Ends
  - High-Quality Agreements
  - Innovative Strategies

- **Second Order Effects**
  - New Partnerships
  - Coordination and Joint Action
  - Joint Learning Extends Into the Community
  - Implementation of Agreements
  - Change in Practices
  - Change in Perceptions

- **Third Order Effects**
  - New Collaborations
  - More Co-evolution, Less Destructive Conflict
  - Results on the Ground
    - Adaptation of Cities
    - Adaptation of Regions
    - Adaptation of Resources
    - Adaptation of Services
  - New Institutions
  - New Norms and Heuristics
  - New Discourses
Planning & Community Health Research Ctr

- **RESEARCH**
  - Planning for Food Systems through Comprehensive Planning

- **EDUCATION/OUTREACH**
  - Food Systems Planning QuickNotes
  - A Planners Guide to Community and Regional Food Planning
  - Old Cities Green Cities: Communities Transform Unmanaged Land
  - Planning for Metropolitan Agriculture and Resilient Communities
  - Community-Based Brownfields Redevelopment Strategies Workbook
  - Food systems planning Interest Group (FIG)
  - Food Systems Planning Forum
  - Planning Healthy Communities Forum

- **POLICY**
  - Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning
  - Policy Guide on Agricultural Land Preservation
  - Partnering with Practitioner Organizations
Examples of Collaboration
Food is as essential to our health and well-being as air and water. For example, King County is experiencing a rise in the rate of obesity, and at the same time, an increase in food insecurity and malnutrition. Both can be caused by lack of access to adequate amounts of nutritious food, and both can lead to the same thing - a diminished quality of life that ends with premature death due to diet-related chronic disease. King County plays an important role in guiding and supporting system improvements that will result in King County residents eating local, healthy food. King County supports food systems that are ecologically and economically sustainable and that improve the health of the county’s residents.
The Baltimore Sustainability Plan

Source: http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/planning/sustainability/
Community Engagement in Food Systems Planning Process

Why?
- Promotes relationship building and trust through shared learning
- Strengthen the understanding and exploration of community values
- Increase non-traditional stakeholder involvement
- Strengthens public commitment to issue at hand

How?
- Illustration, painting, photography
- Storytelling
- Performances and exhibits
- Technology
- Community gatherings/events
- Community based participatory research
Recommendation

- Create a regional food policy council consisting of a diverse range of stakeholders to facilitate internal, horizontal and vertical collaboration and community engagement in the food systems planning process throughout the region.
  - Facilitator/Coordinator - DVRPC
  - 3 Co-Chairs – Planning, Public Health and Sustainability Representatives
  - Stakeholders – multi-stakeholder group including municipal governments, community based organizations, universities, commercial retail and wholesale sectors, business sector, agriculture sector, and representatives from underrepresented groups such as youth
  - 2 Types of Committees – issue-specific committees; jurisdiction specific committees; with overlap of membership
Resources

- Kimberley Hodgson, Manager of APA’s Planning & Community Health Research Center, healthycommunities@planning.org
- American Planning Association – Planning & Community Health Research Center, Food Systems Related Work http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/food.htm
- Planning Healthy Communities Forum http://planninghealthycommunities.ning.com/
- Food Systems Planning Forum http://foodplanning.ning.com
- Twitter @planning4health