

@NapaCountyAgCommissioner



Napa Local Food Advisory Council

October 16, 2018



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Napa County Local Food Advisory Council

Current Purpose:

Advise the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures regarding development and facilitation of a sustainable local food system, and to provide a forum for public input regarding related issues.

Assist Napa County staff in promoting local food production and consumption, in undertaking a review of County regulations to identify and address barriers and opportunities associated with local food production, distribution, and access, and in recommending to the Napa County Board of Supervisor's Legislative Subcommittee needed changes in State law for incorporation into the County's legislative platform.



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Background and Discussion

The Local Food Advisory Council (LFAC) was established in 2010. The mission of the LFAC is to nurture a more sustainable local food system in Napa County.

The LFAC envisions a Napa County that is:

- A healthy place to live
- Agriculturally diverse
- Economically viable
- Environmentally responsible
- Able to provide ready access to healthy food for all community members



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Goals

The LFAC serves as a public forum to identify and share information, research and assessments on community needs. In addition, The Council advises the Board of Supervisors on policy issues and makes recommendations.



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Goals include:

- Educate the community and the council on local food issues
- Promote an increase in local food production and distribution
- Increase consumer access to local food

Current Council Composition

The Council includes 15 members from various sectors of the community, including:

- Municipalities (American Canyon, Napa, Yountville, St. Helena and Calistoga)
- Agricultural and/or Marketing and/or Distribution of Agricultural Products
- Public Health and Nutrition , education, and/or institutions
- Community at large
- Board of Supervisors



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Highlights and Accomplishments

2017 - 2018

Highlights and Accomplishments

Educate the community and the council on local food

- Held panel discussions on
 - School Food Procurement
 - Food Waste Management
 - Napa County Watershed
- Organized 2017 Food Day Event – School Gardens
- Held public presentations from Food Samaritans of Napa Valley and Waste Not Napa Valley
- Created original Napa specific articles for the NapaLocalFood.com
- Created new Local Food Advisory Council page on NapaLocalFood.com
- 22 Local Food Newsletters



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Highlights and Accomplishments

Promote local food production & distribution

- Added producer profiles to the Napa Local Food Website
- Held Farmers' Guild/LFAC joint convening
- Organized panel discussion to address local farming issues
 - Cottage Food Operations, Approved Source, Certified Producers, Egg Handlers
- Researched feasibility of Local Food System study
- Promoted local producers via newsletters and social media
- Created a new local food resource page



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Highlights and Accomplishments

Increase consumer access to local food

- Promoted EBT use at local Farmers' Markets
- Maintained tracking of Napa Local Food analytics
- Participated in three Napa County Emergency Food System Study stakeholder convenings
- Held meetings with NVUSD Director of Nutrition Services to help promote school lunch participation



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Summary

2017 - 2018

Summary

Strengths

- LFAC provides a public forum to identify and share information and research, and to assess community needs
- Many topics have been addressed over the last two years
- Financial support from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office
- Vibrant Local Food Website supporting local farmers and the food system with original articles highlighting local markets, growers, and nonprofits

Challenges

- Focus has changed from original purpose
- Food access and social justice issues are consistently brought to the council
- Lack of legislative understanding
- Member representation and community attendance has fluctuated
- Representation of the Agricultural Community
- How to continue funding provided by the Ag Commissioner's Office



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Recommendations for the Council



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Refocus efforts on increasing consumer access

- Collaborate with North Bay food policy councils and local organizations to identify innovative solutions to improve the local food system
- Continue to publicize emergency food resources
- Develop an interactive food map (farms, stands, emergency food, etc.)

Develop a robust communication partner network

- Include producers, nonprofit agencies, county agencies, universities, faith-based organizations, cities and towns, cultural groups, and policy groups

Develop a legislative tracking and recommendation process

- Review county and state regulations and address barriers and opportunities associated with local food access and production
- Make recommendations to the Napa County BOS Legislative Subcommittee

Recommendations for the Board of Supervisors



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Approve proposed changes to the by-laws

- Change to the purpose
 - To reflect the need for a food system entity
- Change to representative composition
- Change to the term

Approve the amendment to the website agreement

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Thank You

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NapaLocalFood.com



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