



Fairbanks

Town Hall Meeting Report



Monday, April 14, 2014

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Exhibit Hall at Pioneer Park

Background

In 2014, the Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC) is hosting seven (7) community food system meetings for the general public. The goals of the meetings include:

1. Increase awareness about Alaska food issues among the general population
2. Increase involvement in local food issues by community members
3. Gain a perspective of local food issues to inform the AFPC and policy makers
4. Recruit new members for the AFPC.

At the end of 2014, the AFPC will be nearing the conclusion of its first strategic plan. Information about the Alaska food system received through the 2014 Town Hall meetings will assist the AFPC to evaluate the impact of their current priorities, and will frame key issues for use in developing the next 5-year strategic planning cycle.

This report summarizes information gathered through the Fairbanks Town Hall meeting. All of the materials used for promotion and unedited comments gathered are included in the appendix.

Overview

PLANNING

A Town Hall Meeting Committee comprised of AFPC governing board members and local members met twice via teleconference. The group provided input on all aspects of the meeting including logistics, promotion, implementation and the agenda including an appropriate public engagement framework. Additionally, the committee provided valuable and relevant contacts in Fairbanks to ensure there was a broad representation of attendees at the meeting.

Lorinda Lhotka and Mike Emers represented the AFPC Governing Board at the meeting. Governing Board members Hans Geier and Darren Snyder were also in attendance.

A final teleconference was held about 10 days prior to the meeting to finalize details. This teleconference included the meeting facilitators, AFPC Governing Board representatives attending the meeting, and most importantly, critical partners on-the-ground in Fairbanks who agreed to assist the team with final logistics and promotion.

PROMOTION

A flyer was created for the event and was distributed and shared via social media outlets including the AFPC Facebook page. The flyer was also shared via the AFPC's action alert email list serve. The flyer was emailed to local partners in Fairbanks who posted it on community bulletin boards and local businesses.

Ads were purchased in the Fairbanks News Miner and on their website bulletin board. A PSA was submitted to KUAC, a Fairbanks local radio. Additionally, a press release went out.

ATTENDANCE

Approximately 55 people were in the room; 50 signed in. Extensive promotion of the event including Facebook, the AFPC email list serve, the flyer, the Fairbanks News Miner, radio (KUAC) and the press release, and the word of mouth generated by governing board members and their communication networks, particularly the Coop Market and Calypso Farms. It is recommended that similar promotion activities occur for future Town Hall meetings.

Meeting Logistics

LOCATION

The meeting was held in the Exhibit Hall at Pioneer Park. The venue was chosen with the vision that a municipal park setting is appropriate for a traditional Town Hall meeting. Some conflicting feedback was received about the choice of venue. Acoustics were somewhat challenging and the venue was oversized for the crowd that attended the Town Hall. Other feedback suggested there could have been more appropriate, food-oriented venues available, such as a large space at the Food Bank. Overall, the venue was adequate for the number of people in attendance, and it provided the basic services required (power, screen for powerpoint presentation).

DATE AND TIME

The date and time of the Fairbanks meeting was coordinated strategically with local recommendations. Fairbanks is a large community with many competing events and activities, however it did not appear that there were any large competing events that evening. Of note, however, was that the date of the Town Hall happened to be on one of the first really wonderful weather days of spring (warm temperatures with blue skies).

FOOD

Great Harvest Bakery generously donated meeting food, a locally owned establishment dedicated to high quality food. Additional food and beverages were purchased from Fred Meyer to supplement the donation.

Meeting Agenda

Based on feedback from governing board members about the Nome and Juneau Town Hall agendas, the Town Hall Meeting Committee suggested a slight modification of the meeting agenda and information collection methods in order to streamline the meetings. The Fairbanks Town Hall began with an overview presentation on the AFPC, followed by gathering of individual input then small group discussions on solutions. Public input was gathered using open ended questions as opposed to framing the issues and driving the discussion toward preset topics.

Participants sat at tables, each containing 6-8 people. Governing Board members and local and/or visiting food experts spread evenly throughout the room and recorded the discussion at each table. The meetings began with an introductory presentation by AFPC Governing Board members Mike Emers and Lorinda Lhotka.

During the first half of the meeting, facilitators collected the following information from all participants. Participants were given 5 minutes to answer each question. There were no limits on the amount of answers they could write. Information was gathered using post-it notes which were categorized by the participants into sectors of the food system. The following broad questions were asked:

1. What do you LIKE about the food system in Fairbanks? What are the positive things about food in Fairbanks? What do you like? What is working? Are there new and innovative things happening that you want to share?
2. What do you NOT like so much about food in Fairbanks? Do you face issues, challenges or barriers that you think need to be addressed?
3. If you had unlimited resources, what would be your vision for an ideal food system in Fairbanks?

The second half of the meeting was a longer, more in-depth discussion about specific issues. Groups gathered around food system sectors of their choosing in the “short-answer” exercise, and then those groups discussed the issue(s) of that sector in detail and brainstormed potential solutions or actions to improve the issue(s). The groups then reported back to the larger group about their issue and potential solution.

All comments from the three short exercises, the long exercise and the general table notes were collected and have been organized and documented in the appendix. The following provides a summary level recap of the input received through both exercises.

Summary of Fairbanks Public Input

What do Fairbanks residents LIKE about the food system?

CONSUMPTION

- Farmers Markets and CSAs are very popular in the Fairbanks area.
- Quality and availability.

DISTRIBUTION

- Organic options available.
- Community support.

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

- Support for subsistence and freedom to grow.

EDUCATION

- General concern about food sources.

PRODUCTION AND HARVEST

- Many local producers and community around locally grown food (50 farms in Fairbanks North Star Borough).
- Opportunities for subsistence.
- Variety of vegetables.
- High quality locally grown food.
- Cooperative Extension Service, classes offered.

What do Fairbanks residents DISLIKE about the food system?

CONSUMPTION

- Too expensive, especially locally grown foods.
- Too much unhealthy food available.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lack of storage for local food.
- Outside/unhealthy food cheaper than local/whole food.

FOOD SAFETY

- Restaurant food quality.
- Unhealthy food availability, poor access to local food.

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

- Labeling, limited choices.

EDUCATION

- Few young farmers.

TRANSPORTATION

- Not efficient, long routes to consumers.
- Vulnerability.

PROCESSING

- No local storage or processing available.
- High cost of local food.

PRODUCTION AND HARVEST

- Not enough farmers.
- Too much food from outside Alaska.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Dependence on food from outside Alaska.

Conclusion

The Fairbanks town hall meeting was fun, informative and met the identified goals of successfully collecting new information from interior Alaska about food system issues. The information gathered from the Fairbanks Town Hall meeting will be further analyzed alongside the other Town Hall meetings as they occur. This information will be critical in setting the stage for the forthcoming AFPC strategic planning process.



Appendices

- I Photos 8
- II Longhand Notes 10
- III Fairbanks Town Hall Flyer 18
- IV Town Hall Meetings Press Release 19
- V News-Miner Advertisement 20
- VI News-Miner Event Announcements 21
- VII Meeting Agenda 23
- VIII PowerPoint Presentation 24
- IX KTVF Article 33







Longhand Notes

Monday, April 14, 2014
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Exhibit Hall at Pioneer Park

Notes from meeting to be used for formal report

Participant Input: *What are the positive things about food in Fairbanks? What do you like? What is working? Are there new and innovative things happening that you want to share?*

CONSUMPTION

- Variety of local meats available (moose)
- Choices available
- High quality
- Organic and GMO free
- Farmers market
- CSAs
- Alaskan Fish
- Classes
- Information
- Committed growers
- Availability of cheap
- Small scale sharing communities
- CSAs
- Family networks
- Gardening plots
- Farmers market
- Farmers market in summer
- Subsistence gathering (berries, fishing, hunting)
- Availability
- Quality
- Can pick my own berries
- Local specialist in small booths having local options for dairy

DISTRIBUTION

- Coop market
- Wide selection
- Choices
- Farmers market
- Garden options
- Salmon availability
- Coop and farmers market
- Farmers market
- New coop
- Organic – non-GMO food availability at Freds
- Organic section at markets
- Farmers market and CSAs
- Tanana Valley Farmers Market
- Work coop
- Community support for healthy and local choices is strong
- Food availability and many options in Fairbanks
- Coop market
- Farmers market
- The school farm program
- CSAs
- The pick n get in Delta

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

- A bit more freedom to grow, make (i.e. goat milk, raising chickens)
- Support and resources for subsistence

EDUCATION

- I like that people are concerned about where the food comes from

PROCESSING

- Meat processor (Tanana Valley?)

PRODUCTION AND HARVEST

- Tanana Valley farmers market
- Community support
- Being able to buy all different kinds of food
- Lots of local producers (farms, hobby farmers)
- Opportunities for subsistence (berries, hunting, fishing)
- Organic options at store
- Bulk-mailing
- Like-minded people
- Lectures/classes @ UAF
- Farmers market
- CSAs
- Coop/sunshine foods
- A wide variety of vegetables
- Lots of direct market opportunities for farmers
- Small farms
- I like supporting local farmers
- There are a number of local, organic farms which are a powerful, friendly part of the food community. I love the farmers market and the co-op.
- Like farmers market
- Get salmon
- Grow my own
- Coop
- Rebecca delivers meat
- Buy eggs
- Coop
- Passionate consumers
- CSA
- AK potatoes and carrots
- Opportunities for subsistence (berries, hunting, fishing)
- Local farmers @ farmers market, local coop market
- Emphasis on buy local Alaskan Grown
- High quality locally grown food
- People use what they can find here: subsistence, local fruits, etc
- Lots of local producers, coop/sunshine foods
- Small farms
- Foodbank
- Community share farmers
- CES
- Variety (expensive) of fruits and veggies
- Increase in farmers markets
- Good network of support for procuring and producing your own food, preserving food.
- Like the community that is formed around local organic foods, i.e. CSA, Market Coop
- Local food sources like CSAs and markets are growing
- The fact that FNSB contains almost 50 farms – with the temperatures that is so surprising
- The number of local growers is increasing
- Awareness of growth – lots of small new farms, young farmers and fresh ideas happening
- Friendly, enthusiastic farming community
- Clean air and water and dirt
- Locals (farmers and neighbors) who share their knowledge
- I enjoy the coop market and the attempts to keep it local
- Seed sharing
- Support for local farms
- Farmers market
- CSAs
- 50 farms in FNSB
- Opportunities for subsistence

OTHER

- Variety



Participant Input: *What do you NOT like so much about food in Fairbanks? Do you face issues, challenges or barriers that you think need to be addressed?*

CONSUMPTION

- Health issues related to sugar and processed foods (cheap and easy to consume)
- Too much processed food as major portion of what is available
- Not enough locally grown/organic availability
- Not enough education on nutrition and health
- High cost for good local food and dairy products
- Increased access to locally grown produce to low income community members
- Locally grown food is not widely available for low income consumers
- Healthy food is too expensive
- Grocery bill high
- Cost of food
- Access to healthy food due to income (worse in remote communities)

DISTRIBUTION

- Going to Freds/Safeway and there is no milk on shelf or nearly expired
- Processed food is generally much cheaper than whole, organic food
- When outside sources of food can out-compete local food
- Lack of storage for local food (I can't store root veg at my place)
- Availability of organic produce

FOOD SAFETY

- Fast food
- Processed food
- High-sugar food
- Bars
- Restaurants with GMO/non-organic food
- Price
- Crappy quality (non-local)
- Poor access to local products
- Walmart sells food
- Transportation
- Depending on 95% of food to be brought in
- GMO foods are not labeled
- Restaurants don't use organic non GMO products

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

- More ability legally hunt for my meat
- Limited choices
- Labeling (GMO)
- Not sustainable
- Management or lack of management of resources (salmon, moose)
- Way too much vulnerability to weather, politics, etc. food is too pricey
- People who are food insecure if they don't have kids in school, are apt to fall through crack, due to qualification hurdle. Belong to church make too much and according to state.
- Not working... very little knowledge of how a food economy should work.

EDUCATION

- Few young farmers
- Athletics/ athleticization of society vs non-exercise activities (e.g. gardening)

TRANSPORTATION

- Truck order, jackknife – costs to private transportation companies for insurance
- Trans system is not efficient (ANC – SIT – JNU, bargaining to ANC, rail to FAI)
- Local grown food is hard to come by
- Food is expensive and sometimes not the freshest
- I don't like sending so much money outside
- We are dependent on importing most of our food
- High prices
- Long transportation from source
- Price
- Security sometimes
- Vulnerability
- Variety
- I don't like costs
- I don't like that produce is old
- I don't like the unavailability of certain foods
- Bananas- they bring in so green when they turn there is no flavor
- Costs, food safety

PROCESSING

- Seafood export processed in China
- No processing
- Local food costs high
- Costs too much
- No long term storage
- Can't distinguish GMO
- Deceptive labels
- Cost and short shelf life
- No local storage or processing
- Poor food security
- Just in-time marketing
- No local control

PRODUCTION AND HARVEST

- Most of our food is from outside Alaska
- High cost of production/ start up
- Too few farmers
- Short growing season/extending possibilities
- Availability of organic produce
- Not enough farms and local food
- Production cost
- It all comes from somewhere else!
- We need more farmers!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Seasonal availability, short season
- How depend we are on outside (of AK) sources for our food

OTHER

- Too many groups doing the same thing – dilution of effort
- Groups like this tend to work off too many assumptions (GMOs are necessarily bad, organic is necessarily better)



Participant Input: *Vision. Talk about the issues in detail and brainstorm potential solutions or actions to improve the issue. If describing a positive issue, explain why it is working.*

CONSUMPTION

- That we could afford locally grown food
- 95% of food to be local – Alaskan
- GMO's labeled
- Year round availability
- Majority local food
- Frozen vegetable and fruit storage, local fruits and berries
- Good access to fresh Alaska seafood
- Local honey is available
- Coops dominate marketing
- Way more local food options at all times and for lower price. 24 hour markets!

DISTRIBUTION

- The major chain stores disappear and are replaced by small-scale, regional food coops and farmers markets
- Effective distribution
- Healthy options
- Food security for all Alaskans
- Better way to get nutritious, affordable food to remote communities in AK
- All food, except specialty products is grown locally and sold locally. Walmart and fred meyer stop selling food.

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

- New farmer grants
- State veggie subsidies
- I want universities to leverage its purchasing power to support local food systems

EDUCATION

- More locally grown
- Much less imported
- A training and research program focused on profitability starting new farms in AK
- People would choose healthy foods because they are education to choose and cook healthy
- Old lead horse to water but won't drink – why not?
- Each family able to grown some their own
- More education about nutrition and health

TRANSPORTATION

- Winter barge system

PROCESSING

- Farmers co-op
- Marketing for farmers (like freeze) or prep-like washing
- Strong market so we can sell what we grow
- Easy access to quality local foods and products
- Better local food storage and distribution
- Statewide ban on GMOs
- Local for food security
- Chicken processing plant
- Indoor winter farming using sustainable energy source
- More dairy
- More farms
- Local farm products in schools, university, hospital
- Produce distribution
- Food processing to offer local foods all year
- Non-GMO
- Fresh food I could afford
- Locally grown meat and dairy

PRODUCTION AND HARVEST

- Better access for poor people
- Community gardens, large greenhouses for communities
- Food storage facilities
- Food processing facilities
- Taking advantage of hot springs
- Farm supply and equipment
- Large scale composting/big enough for farms
- Gardening plots
- Subsistent/sustainable for fruits, veggies, meat
- Food is produced locally and farmers are able to make a living wage (afford healthcare, etc)
- Federal subsidies for home gardens \$2000/year
- A perfect indoor growing environment year round for all types of produce
- No contamination of water and soil resources (includes chemical spills, mine tailings)
- Easy access to healthy food in rural Alaska
- Local food with variety
- Education and knowledge in schools
- Victory gardens everywhere!
- Year-round production energy-efficient greenhouses
- 50% local and gov't support for new farmers – grants!
- Affordable
- Locally grown
- Sustainable
- Secure
- Secure sustainable food source, produce, meat, chickens, berries, etc
- Affordable local and nutritional food
- Reindeer herds to provide meat instead of beef
- More farmers to grow all our food
- Large greenhouse heated by waste heat and CO2 from power generation, workers learning growing techniques while earning living
- Large greenhouses to extend our seasons.
- More interest in local markets
- Greenhouses also in bush communities
- We grow all the food we need to feed ourselves
- Animal agriculture – milk, meat, fiber, etc.
- Year round farming, e.g. massive indoor garden heated by Alaska's volcanoes

EMERGENCY PREPARATIONS

- Large scale winter storage root cellars and grants to help farmers do it

OTHER

- Locally grown eggs, meat, poultry that isn't budget busting
- Increase food stand and WIC doubling \$
- Meat and plants grown here, from organic seed raised and developed here, supported by local residents and by the state! Ability to be both artisanal exporters and independent, safe
- Centralized compost depository? The plant matter could be fed to farm animals (pigs)
- Global and local a balance of the two

Consumption

- Using the food stamp program in the short term
- Get more organizations together to build more food security, influence policy
- Get land into farmers hands and get restrictive policies out of the way
- Food access is problem, affordable
- Value food as much as luxury items
- Increase interest and desire for local food
- Hard issue!

Research

- Plant breeding
- Transportation
- Land use/policy management
- Economic studies (lifecyle analysis)
- IPM – pest control
- Independent networking
- Methods
- Agronomic public ed practices
- AFPC info hub/interchange
- Cooperative/participatory breeding
- Researching tools, breeds
- Endowed food policy chair
- Research areas: tools and methods (best practices), best breeds (animals), climate change effects
- Funding support for research needed, endow research chair/plant breeder/systems researcher/etc and other ideas, lobbying
- Create/Offer info: website/info bug with tools for public (research studies, database templates (seed and breed templates), etc), educational offerings/calendars

Food Safety

- Local poultry/eggs safer
- Ideas: education about GMO's, how they affect health and the environment; education on why local food is a better buy – animal pasture-raised not as confined, lower disease, lower pesticides/chemicals, less likely to have E.coli (hamburger)
- Public can effect policy

Distribution

- Desire to eat healthy local food
- How to get local farmers/fish to consumer

- Group of farmers working on it
- How to make regional food hub
- Listen to organization and their need
- What we have
- Vision: farmers talking about cooperative distribution, market study (results?)
- Market: hospital, University, Schools, grocery stores, bases
- What we need
- Our own food hub, more farms
- Capital: community members, grants/loans
- Talent: who? 3-5 passionate people
- Plan: Business plan, timeline, location, warehouse, manager
- Marketing: education, communicate, listen
- Major ideas: coop, farmers market, centralized distribution (market study, education, cooperative group, business plan, capital, talent), distribution to villages (education)

Policies and Regulations

- AK food system – educate
- Produces, storage, processing, market
- Crop insurance
- State Ag farming model
- Local grant council
- New Farmers Grants
- AK farm link
- State vegetable subsidy for growers and buyers
- Barley and Mill produce in Mat-Se
- Young farmers – connct with older landowners
- Nutrition to school, rewrite to use funds to process
- Agriculture policy = supply control
- Fishing, hunting regs

Education

- PROBLEM: we face barriers to acquiring and applying knowledge relating to nutrition and local food, both US and AK specifically. Even we have access, the complexity of growing in North is a problem.
- Schools need gardens – can subsidies go here, fund CES better, outreach funding
- How to get people excited, make food a priority
- Apply knowledge for family/community culture
- SOLUTION: mandatory school gardens, subsidies for education, continued outreach for local food (CES)

Transportation

- Dependency on barges, trains, planes (not reliable)
- What kinds of food transported? Bananas
- Barges e.g. ANC Mat-Su (SEA – ANC – SITKA), trucking
- We don't know how our food gets here – education on how our food gets from A to B
- Bypass mail
- Statewide transportation
- Climate change impacts
- Energy sources allow growing in locations easy/close to transport
- Alaska crops MatSu
- Grow a diversity of
- Economics of Cheap Food
- Local production costs dependent on outside products (fertilizers, reconstituted waste)
- Energy related to an extended growing season
- Fuel costs
- Geothermal Development
- Heat pumps
- FAI distribution system to interior villages
- Truck, train, plane, mail subsidy (bypass mail), barges winter
- Self reliance
- If we knew more about consumption economics? E.g. bottles of water
- What are the major transportation systems that affect costs in FAI?
- What is storage capacity
- Root cellars
- Food coop storing
- CSA – increase growth capacity, increase storage
- SOLUTION: 1. Knowledge of transportation systems, 2. Knowledge of consumption, 3. Knowledge of where our food comes from; distribution, scale of distribution and what areas produce what?
- Improving efficiency throughout state
- Improving food storage – economies of scale
- Improve composting
- Cost to private stores and companies
- Scale and distance HUGE
- How to grow more and store more, Fairbanks in position to send to villages

Production and Harvest

- Seed sharing
- Support local farms, farmers market
- Opportunities for subsistence
- High cost production, start-up
- Not enough farms
- Short growing season
- Want better access for poor people
- Large greenhouses for communities
- Storage facilities
- Hot springs growing
- Farm supply and equipment
- Large scale composting

Processing

- Large-scale food storage (root vegetables) – a guy in CHS did that
- Farmers cooperative processing/storage facility (pool resources to fund) – for school districts
- Food preservation (value-added)
- Freezing/Thanksgiving
- Canning
- Meat/dairy processing
- Not a lot of options
- Storage of winter veggies
- Ability to process chickens, cheese
- High costs



The Alaska Food Policy Council **Invites you to attend a**

TOWN HALL MEETING

- WHEN:** Monday, April 14, 2014 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Exhibit Hall at Pioneer Park, 2300 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska
FOOD: Light refreshments and beverages will be provided.
NOTE: Childcare will be available.

Why is food important to you?

The Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC) invites you to attend a community town hall meeting to gather your ideas and opinions about local food. The AFPC is interested in hearing input from local community members on local food system issues.

The purpose of these meetings is to increase awareness of Alaska food issues, promote involvement in local food issues by community members, and gain a perspective of local food issues to inform AFPC and policy makers.



photo credits: nomemade-nomealaska.blogspot.com, visitnomealaska.com

What is the AFPC?

The Alaska Food Policy Council works to strengthen Alaska's food systems to spur local economic development, increase food security, and improve nutrition and health. The Council serves as a resource for information on local and state food systems, and works to identify and propose policy and environmental changes that can improve the production, processing, distribution, health, security and safety of our food.

For more information, visit alaskafoodpolicycouncil.wordpress.com or call **907.575.8583**



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 11, 2014

Media Contact: Chelsea Ward-Waller, 907.575.8583

**The Alaska Food Policy Council to Host Seven Statewide Town Hall Meetings:
Information gathered from Alaskans will guide statewide food policy.**

Anchorage, April 11, 2014 - In 2014, the Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC) is hosting seven statewide town hall meetings to gather information and ideas from Alaskans about food in their communities.

The purpose of the meetings is to increase statewide awareness about Alaska food issues, promote involvement in the local food system by community members and gain a perspective of local food issues. The information gathered will be used by the AFPC to inform institutions, organizations and policy makers to improve and strengthen the Alaska Food System.

The two meetings were held in Nome and Juneau, on January 31st and February 3rd, respectively. Reports from these meetings can be found on the Alaska Food Policy Council website.

The third town hall meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 14th at 5:30 PM in Fairbanks at Alaska Centennial Center for the Arts Exhibit Hall at Pioneer Park (2300 Airport Way).

The fourth town hall meeting is scheduled shortly thereafter on Wednesday, April 16th at 5:30 PM in Bethel at Solo Café at the Longhouse (751 3rd Ave).

Planning is underway for meetings in Palmer, Homer and Anchorage in the early fall, 2014.

The Alaska Food Policy Council is an independent, statewide organization with a vision for a food secure, healthy Alaska. The AFPC works to strengthen Alaska's food systems to spur local economic development, increase food security and improve nutrition and health. The AFPC serves as a resource for information on local and state-side food systems and works to identify and propose policy and other changes that can improve the production, processing, distribution, health, security and safety of food in Alaska.

For more information about the Alaska Food Policy Council, please visit <http://akfoodpolicycouncil.wordpress.com/> or LIKE the Alaska Food Policy Council on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/akfoodpolicy>.

###



The Alaska Food Policy Council
invites you to attend a
**TOWN HALL
MEETING**



*Tell us
what food
means to
you!*

WHEN:

Monday, April 14, 2014 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

WHERE:

Exhibit Hall at Pioneer Park
2300 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska

FOOD:

Light refreshments & beverages will be provided.

NOTE:

Childcare will be available.

18505092-4-11-14L65

http://www.newsminer.com/features/latitude_65/afpc-hosting-town-hall-meeting/article_ae59eb76-c1c1-11e3-b82f-0017a43b2370.html

AFPC hosting town hall meeting

Staff Report | Posted: Friday, April 11, 2014 12:38 pm

FAIRBANKS - The Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC) is inviting the public to attend a community town hall meeting to gather ideas and opinions about local food. The AFPC is interested in hearing input from Fairbanksans on local food system issues.

The purpose of the meeting is to increase awareness of Alaska food issues, promote involvement in local food issues by community members, and gain a perspective of local food issues to inform AFPC and policy makers. The meeting is 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, April 14, in the exhibit hall of Pioneer Park, 2300 Airport Way. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided.

The Alaska Food Policy Council works to strengthen Alaska's food systems to spur local economic development, increase food security, and improve nutrition and health.

The council serves as a resource for information on local and state food systems, and works to identify and propose policy and environmental changes that can improve the production, processing, distribution, health, security and safety of food.

For more information, visit alaskafoodpolicycouncil.wordpress.com.

wordpress.com or call 907.575.8583

http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/food-policy-council-meeting-planned-in-fairbanks/article_41972f58-c2d9-11e3-9ebf-0017a43b2370.html

Food policy council meeting planned in Fairbanks

Staff Report | Posted: Sunday, April 13, 2014 12:00 am

FAIRBANKS — The Alaska Food Policy Council will host a community town-hall meeting on local foods from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday at the Pioneer Park exhibit hall.

The meeting is designed to increase awareness of Alaska food issues, promote involvement in local food issues by community members, and gain a perspective of local food issues to inform AFPC and policy makers.

AFPC works to strengthen Alaska's food systems to spur local economic development, increase food security and improve nutrition and health.

For more information, go to alaskafoodpolicycouncil.wordpress.com or call 575-8583.

Community

Alaska Food Policy Council Town Hall Meeting

Visit website

Monday, April 14th starting at 5:30 PM and ending at 7:30 PM AKDT. The Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC) invites you to attend a community town hall meeting to gather your ideas and opinions about

local food. The AFPC is interested in hearing input from local community members on local food system issues.

The purpose of these meetings is to increase awareness of Alaska food issues, promote involvement in local food issues by community members, and gain a perspective of local food issues to inform AFPC and policy makers.

Event Contact

Name: Chelsea Ward-Waller

Phone: 907-575-8583

Cost

Alaska Food Policy Council Town Hall Meeting is a **free** event.

Details

Contributed Free Family Friendly

Website: alaskafoodpolicycouncil.wordpress.com

Venue Information

Pioneer Park



Fairbanks Town Hall Meeting

Monday April 14, 2014

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Pioneer Park Exhibit Hall

2300 Airport Way

Agenda

- 5:30 – 5:45 PM: The Alaska Food Policy Council welcomes you! Come on in, find a seat, grab some food, we're so happy to have you!
- 5:45 – 6:00 PM: Who is the Alaska Food Policy Council? What are we here to accomplish tonight?
- Presentation by Alaska Food Policy Council Governing Board Members:
- Lorinda Lhotka, Section Manager, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Food Safety and Sanitation
- Mike Emers, Owner, Rosie Creek Farm
- Hans Geier, Executive Director, Alaska Farmers Union
- Darren Snyder, UA Cooperative Extension
- 6:00 – 6:15 PM: Group Exercise #1
- 1: What are the positive things about food in Fairbanks? What do you like? What is working? Are there new and innovative things happening that you want to share?
 - 2: What do you NOT like so much about food in Fairbanks? Do you face issues, challenges or barriers that you think need to be addressed?
 - 3: If you had unrestricted resources and budget, what would be your vision of an ideal food system in Fairbanks? OR Do you have any creative ideas for projects that you think would work in Fairbanks?
- 6:15 – 6:45 PM: Group Exercise #2
- In depth discussion about the issues or projects identified in Exercise #1. Talk about the issues in detail and brainstorm potential solutions or actions to improve the issue.
- 6:45 – 7:15 PM: Groups Report Back
- 7:15 – 7:30 PM: Closing: What happens next? Did we miss anything important that you want to tell us?

TOWN HALL MEETING



Alaska Food Policy Council
Fairbanks, Alaska
April 14, 2014



Did you know?

Alaskans spend \$2.5 billion dollars
on food each year at grocery stores
and restaurants.



Alaska Food Policy Council

Did you know?

It's estimated that 95% of Alaska's food is imported.
That makes Alaska vulnerable in times of disasters.



Alaska Food Policy Council

Did you know?

Alaska's food system creates a lot of jobs.
About 115,000 jobs are food-related.
That's 1 in 7 jobs in Alaska.



Alaska Food Policy Council

Did you know?

For each dollar invested in local Alaska food, \$3-6 circulates in local economies of our own food supply.



Alaska Food Policy Council

Did you know?

Rates of chronic disease related to lifestyle choices are escalating in Alaska.
That means high healthcare costs borne by the state.



Alaska Food Policy Council

Did you know?

\$459 million annual medical care costs are attributable to obesity in Alaska.

The State of Alaska pays one quarter of those costs.



Alaska Food Policy Council

Did you know?

Chronic diseases—such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes— are related to unhealthy eating and physical inactivity.

These are among the most prevalent, costly, and preventable of all health problems.



Alaska Food Policy Council

Did you know?

Increasing everyone's access to fresh, healthy food through programs like Farmers Markets or Community Supported Agriculture can reduce rates of chronic disease.



Alaska Food Policy Council

Our Food System



Alaska Food Policy Council

What is food policy?

Food policy is any activity that addresses, shapes or regulates the food system.



Alaska Food Policy Council

Who is the Alaska Food Policy Council?

Over 200 individuals and agencies across the state – driven by the need to strengthen our food system.



Alaska Food Policy Council

Alaska Food Policy Council Vision:

A healthy, secure food system
that feeds all Alaskans.



Alaska Food Policy Council

AFPC's Core Values



Alaska Food Policy Council

AFPC Goals

- **Goal 1** All Alaskans have access to affordable, healthy (preferably local) foods
- **Goal 2** Alaska's food-related industries have a strong workforce and operate in a supportive business environment
- **Goal 3** Food is safe, protected and supplies are secure throughout Alaska
- **Goal 4** Alaska's food system is more sustainable
- **Goal 5** Alaskans are engaged in our food system



Alaska Food Policy Council

Tonight we want to hear from YOU.

- We want to hear about the Food System in your community.
- What is working? What isn't working? What challenges do you face every day?
- Share your food system priorities the Alaska Food Policy Council so we can communicate with legislators, local and tribal government representatives.



Alaska Food Policy Council

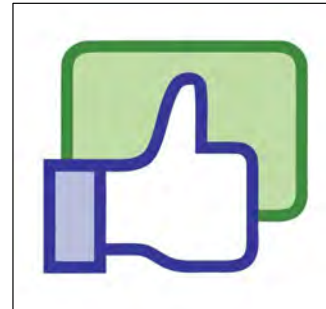
Keep up with Food Issues in Alaska!

Visit our Blog



alaskafoodpolicy.wordpress.com

Like us on Facebook!



facebook.com/akfoodpolicy

Alaska Food Policy Council

Contact the Food Policy Council

foodpolycouncil@gmail.com



Alaska Food Policy Council

The screenshot shows a news website interface. At the top left is the logo for KTVE 11 DT NEWS CENTER. To the right of the logo are login fields for 'Username' and 'Password', a 'Log in' button, and a 'Create User Account' button. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for Home, News, Weather, Sports, Entertainment, Community, Features, Contests, Marketplace, Mobile, and About Us. The main content area is titled 'Fairbanks' Food Public Review'. On the left side, there is a 'Stay Connected' section with links to follow the station on Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest, as well as RSS feeds, news links, alerts, and mobile apps. The main article text begins with 'Submitted by thansen on Tue, 2014-04-15 08:52' and 'FAIRBANKS- Most food that we see at our dinner table is probably imported and some groups say, that's bad for the economy (and your health), and it could be unsafe during a statewide disaster. Last night, the Alaska Food Policy Council wanted to see the pros and cons of Fairbanks's food system. They asked the public to organize their opinions into different categories and create a wish list. The council will use these ideas to update their strategic plan for 2015. They've also travelled to Nome and Juneau, and next they go to Bethel because they want to create a current "picture" of Alaska's food system.' Below the text are social sharing options for Facebook, Twitter, and email, and a 'Log in to post comments' link. On the right side, there is a 'Most Popular' section with a list of trending articles: 'Fairbanks man charged with assault (242)', 'Not guilty pleas for Fairbanks man accused of burglary (163)', 'Injured Hiker rescued from Angel Rocks (133)', 'Smoke moves into Fairbanks (86)', and 'Tour De Cure diabetes fundraiser this weekend (66)'. At the bottom of the page, there is a search bar and a footer containing contact information and copyright details: 'News | Weather | Sports | Contests | Contact Us | EEO | FCC Public File | Terms of Use | Privacy Policy', '3650 Braddock Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 | 907-458-1800', and '© 2014 Chena Broadcasting'.



Fairbanks Town Hall Meeting Report