



Newtown CHAT Meeting Summary

July 23, 2013

Robert L. Taylor Community Complex

6pm

Present: Jeanette Robinson, Beverly Phelps, Katie Leonard, Marsha Weiner, Kevin Anderson, Pascale Edouard, Susan Morin, Lou Siegel, Thelma Upshaw, Elva Hernandez, Shavon Reed, Vice-Mayor Shaw (City of Sarasota), Faith Chapman, Kari Ellingstad, Vicki Bartz

Updates

Susan Morin shared an English/Spanish book that Yummy Stuff Club, Inc. uses to help educate children on healthy eating behaviors. The book is currently disseminated to various schools throughout the county, including those in North Sarasota County.

Group Discussion

The primary focus of the meeting was the development of a plan of action for increasing access to healthy foods in the North Sarasota community. The group plans to coordinate with Robert L. Taylor Community Complex to offer:

- Educational programs
- Container gardening workshops
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) [Food Drop Off site]
- Gardening

The group emphasized the importance of education and will be reaching out to the University of Florida IFAS Extension – Sarasota County office for future collaborations.

Additional key stakeholders and partners that the group would like to include in community food access efforts:

- All Faiths Food Bank
- Orange Blossom Community Garden
- Community Master Gardeners
- Local culinary institutes (SCTI, Keiser University)
- Tempo News
- Home Depot
- Salvation Army
- Sarasota County Libraries
- Local colleges and universities (Ringling, New College, USF)

Kevin Anderson stated that he spoke with a Sarasota County staff member in reference to utilizing public land for agricultural uses. The group will be inviting a Sarasota County representative to August's meeting to get more information about future opportunities. Kevin also discussed 'Food Hub' efforts being done in Fort Meyers and will be sharing more information about the program at the next meeting. (http://www.winknews.com/Local-Florida/2012-06-06/Urban-farming-trend-comes-to-Southwest-Florida#.Ue_QPG3qV0U)

Pascale Edouard shared more information about her work with the I-Grow program in the Frenchtown Community in Tallahassee, Florida. The I-Grow program is a youth agricultural program that sells buckets for container gardening. There are different options for bucket purchase:

- A single bucket
- A bucket with soil
- A bucket with soil and plants

The group would like to explore the idea of a similar program in the North Sarasota community because it can be both educational, teach youth about business development, increase community economic development and increase access to healthy, fresh food.

Next Steps/Tasks

The entire group will think of a communication strategy to best share food access issues with the entire community.

Kevin Anderson – contact representative from Fort Meyers Food Hub program for further information.

Katie Leonard - arrange a meeting with RLTC staff (open to everyone) that will explore the ideas discussed at the meeting and strategies to move forward.

Susan Morin – find additional information about a food donation program at a local Presbyterian Church.

Next Newtown CHAT meeting:

Tuesday, August 27, 2013

Robert L. Taylor Community Complex

6pm

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