

Southern Nevada Food Council Update

Governor's Council on Food Security Meeting May 15, 2019

Background & History

August 2011: Three Square Food Bank brainstorming meeting

To determine the community's interest in

food policy issues

 To lay ground work for a potential food policy council in Southern Nevada



Established in 2007 to provide hunger relief

Issues That Emerged

- Mobile Markets
- Community Gardens
- Nutrition education
- SNAP at Farmers' Markets



Lowman & Manch Elementary School Garden

- Farm to School/School Gardens
- Fund-raising/Grant writing collaboration
- Online Community Food Security (CFS) site
- Marketing of gleaning programs through HOAs

Background & History (con't)

- October 2011: first meeting of the Vegas Valley Community Food Security Council
- May 2012: Farms & Family Festival @Springs Preserve
- November 2012: Planning Retreat with Mark Winne
- May 2013: Changed name to Southern Nevada Food Council
- Late 2013: SNHD facilitated meetings, list serv & updates
- 2016: Facilitation moved to UNCE



Mark Winne facilitating Planning Retreat in November 2012 at the Springs Preserve

Southern Nevada Food Council

Vision:

 Equal access to healthy food for all Southern Nevadans

Mission:

 The SNFC will leverage the collective resources, expertise and passion of Southern Nevadans to influence the creation of an equitable and sustainable food environment through education and policy



Steve & Ginger Johnson, Las Vegas Farmers' Market was first in Nevada to accept SNAP/EBT

How can we improve?



START WITH FARMERS

Recognize the people that make your food. Farmers form the backbone of a community food system.





LEARN TOGETHER

Understand how your food is produced and its impact on community and environmental health.





GET ENGAGED

Eat local foods, educate others, and encourage your neighbors to get involved.



CONSUMPTION COMMUNITY **FOOD SYSTEM**

A community food system is one in which food production, processing, distribution, and consumption are geographically integrated and benefit the environment, economy, and social and nutritional health of a particular community.





BOOST SUSTAINABILITY

Protect resources for future generations.

- O Preserve the land
- O Decrease pollution
- O Lower transportation costs



IMPROVE ACCESS

Increase the availability of affordable, nutritious, and local foods.









SUPPORT LOCAL **FOOD ECONOMIES**

Create jobs for local workers from farm to fork.

Food Action Planning Meeting

Strengths:

- SNS Regional Plan
- Access to a land-grant university
- Potential for large impact
- On the cutting edge of indoor agriculture
- Robust school garden programs
- Food As a Tool
- Quick Starts:
 - Focus on easy, quick solutions
 - Use a "quick start" filter to prioritize issues



Dr. Wayne Roberts, Canadian Food Policy Analyst August 23, 2017

Action Plan Accomplishments

- Develop food policy recommendations for Southern Nevada.
 - <u>UNCE SP 18-01</u> outlines ideas to help w/foodrelated objectives contained in the SNS Regional Plan
 - AB326 Workgroup input amendment & map
- Advocate for food policy that supports our vision for the Southern Nevada food system.
 - 2017 Qualified Allocation Plan for community gardens (alerted by WCFPC)
 - Henderson Development Code revision for apiaries
 - 2019 Legislation: AB326, SB95, SB389

Action Plan Accomplishments

Promote public education

and outreach on food issues.

- Food System Field Trips
- Monthly SNFC Meetings
- Promote collaboration among food system groups in Southern NV.
 - Monthly SNFC Meetings
 - Monthly SNFC Updates
 - Grants: 2017 FINI; Veggie
 Buck Truck Dignity Health



Field trip to Ponderosa Dairies, Nevada's largest dairy farm located just 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

Current Projects

- REACH Focus Groups
 - Henderson food desert
 - Perceptions of food access
- City of Las Vegas 2050
 Comprehensive Plan
 Recommendations
 - Visioning session 4/25/19
 - Policies & programs
- Ongoing support
 - Food related policy
 - Food system grants, etc.



Several Council members participated in the CLV Visioning Session.

Questions?

"Cheap food is an illusion. There is no such thing as cheap food. The real cost of the food is paid somewhere. And if it isn't paid at the cash register, it's charged to the environment or to the public purse in the form of subsidies. And it's charged to your health."

- Michael Pollan, author

