

Ag Workgroup Agenda  
Tuesday, January 23, 2017  
211 Livingston Ave, 4:00 - 5:00pm

### 1) Co-Chair Updates for Ag Workgroup

- Andrew Schlesinger expressed interest in serving as co-chair from Elijah's Promise
- We do not have an established process in place to change co-chairs but are creating one currently
- Thus far:
  - Andrew has submitted a statement
  - Lauren has nominated Andrew
- Discussion on next steps with Andrew as co-chair:
  - Andrew is coordinator of Promise Agriculture so it makes sense for him to work with the Agriculture workgroup and have Anthony move to the Food & Economic Development Workgroup
  - Lauren mentioned that with the upcoming schedule for Promise Ag/Promise Garden, that there is a lot of potential synergy with the Ag Workgroup
    - Andrew mentioned the same along this point, mentioning that the added platform of the Ag Workgroup and NBCFA will be very beneficial for both EP programming and the community

### 1.5) Leadership Retreat 1/31

- Look for shared priorities across the Alliance
  - How can agriculture connect with other workgroups within the Alliance
    - Economic Development - giving skills to residents, providing space to grow
    - Healthy food access - produce production
    - Advocacy & Policy - beekeeping policy/chicken-keeping
  - Outreach & Youth Outreach
    - Workshops achieve this goal
  - Better communication
    - Update the Parks & Garden map
    - Create generic garden fliers to get people to sign up
- Outcomes from the Retreat:
  - 3-4 projects for the NBCFA
- What will we prioritize in the retreat
  - Community engagement
  - Community Advisory board
- Where can we improve:
  - Communication concerning with garden sign ups, rules, and regulations
  - We've done a good job with the workshop focus, however we can be a bit more broad in our efforts
- Going into the retreat, the Ag workgroup has absorbed the CGC. How does that look in practice?
  - Most of the same people
  - Revisit priorities and make the language of the Ag workgroup more broad to encompass
- **Think through a couple ideas for collaborative project ideas**
  - Community co-op selling body that lets gardeners sell extra produce for income (?)

## 2) Winter Food Forum Updates

- Workshop idea - having community members choose topics and times for community demos
- Other workshop ideas
  - Seed swap (confirmed)
  - FoodCorps Activities
    - Face painting
  - Planning out your garden bed
  - Kids activities
    - Lauren will talk with Tiana

## 3) Seed Swap Time, Date, Location, Updates

- We will have the Seed Swap on March 3rd

## 4) Garden Updates

- Unity Square
- Jones Ave
- Promise Garden
  - We will potentially have a 20'x22' greenhouse installed at Promise Garden this year
  - We have our 20'x10' hoop house that we will be installing in March or April
  - April - we will have a Hub City Music Fest on Earth Day at PG
    - Do we make it dovetail with an event at the NBCFM
- Promise High Tunnel
- Hot bed will be installed over the next couple weeks
- We will be incorporating a mushroom incubation operation @ Promise Garden
- Recreation Park
  - The NBCFM is going to send an MoU to New Brunswick concerning the management of the Recreation Park community garden
  - No timeline as of yet to start managing the community garden @ recreation park
- General
  - Garden sign ups - late february/early march
  - Seed ordering - we may not have many seeds before March 3rd
- Seed swap packets
  - We have a great turnout at the MLK day of service
  - We need to count how many seed packets were made and assess if we need to make more

## 5) 2018 Garden Season

- Events
  - Earth Day Hub City at Promise Garden Saturday, April 21
  - EP is hashing out events schedule
  - Other
    - September NBCFM Harvest Fest
    - October Ciclovía/Mercado event
      - Both of these events could be paired with additional ag workgroup events & workshops
        - Ideas

- Sweet potatoes
  - Beekeeping
  - Winter greens
- Shared Workshop Calendar - Combine all garden workshops for 2018
  - As we continue onwards within the year, we will need to open up dialogue with interested community members concerning what topics they want to see covered
  - This is the right time to start talking about it
- Workshops that Gardeners are interested in hosting?
  - EP Promise Garden - Composting, sheet mulching, soil bed prep, beekeeping, herbs
  - EP High Tunnel - Installing Drip Irrigation, mushrooms, wood palette bench construction
  - NBCFM/Jones Ave Farmers Market
    - Trelicing
    - More events TBD
- Other?
  - We need to begin creating toolkits and resources to replicate workshops year after year
- Deadlines
  - Have an idea of events in the growing season by April 1st, 2018

**Next Meeting:** Food Forum Planning Meeting 2/20 @ 4pm @ 211 Livingston Avenue