

NBCFA Food & Economic Development Meeting
3-21 @ 5:30
Fatto Americano, New Brunswick

Introductions

- Present: Jason, Manny, Anthony

Following up from last meeting

- Update on Kitchen Incubator Project headway and setbacks
 - Discussion on use & variance & zoning
 - Creation of separate LLCs
 - Call for any leads
 - Review of document for FNBN Meeting on 4/8
 - Notes
 - It has been a long process to find out what is the path forward with this project
 - Currently at a standstill before we engage the FNBN on 4/8
 - Questions over if the facility is actually zoned and has designated usage for building usage as an incubator
 - Feedback from the interim planner at NB was that he wasn't sure there was enough gray area to let these churches/houses of worship to use their spaces as-is
 - In CT, organizations have tackled this by helping propose and changing and ordinance in the city
 - Idea:
 - Can we frame it as a donation to work around the incorporation within a church
- USDA
 - Community focus groups @ Food Forum on 3/30
 - Pilot program with value added production taking place summer of 2019
 - Any leads on farmers?
 - Any preferences on products?
 - On track for pilot program, Manny asked how can we eventually expand this to bodegas in town
 - A pushed back concerning some of the travel logistics for farmers and bodega owners for 2019
 - Manny asked
- Friends of the Mercado
 - Next meeting TBA
 - Needs from the Friends:
 - Graphics

- Marketing
 - Outreach strategies & outlets
 - Link to Membership perks (Anthony will get this in after the fact)
 - How do we tap into bulk pricing with Restaurant Depot
 - Thoughts:
 - Expanding on A&P's project to create a portal/forum to match local food to entrepreneurs and institutions
 - Manny has a potential connection
- Update on Mercado Coop development
 - Next steps on organization:
 - Call with Pace Law professor 3/27
 - From there, following up on leads and research to incorporate

New Business

- Food Forum Program
 - Restaurant Tycoon Extravaganza!
- Get together waivers
- Make sure to scan all entries from folks
- Information for RTC & UCEDC
- Recommendation from Manny: Judging the best idea
- Need to make
 - Raffle slips
 - Sign up sheets

Action Items/Next Steps

- Identify the ordinance that's holding us up with the city
 - Reach out to the non profit in CT
- One pager for the city/community momentum: What is the rationale for making this change?
 - Let's get churches on board first, then build momentum
 - Friends of the Mercado can move the momentum
- Put together mock expensives
 - Mention rental rate @ EP: \$20/hour
- Eliminating financial barriers for churches?
 - Identifying foundations and sources of revenue

Next meeting: May 16th, Location TBA @ 5:30

Parking Lot

- Bonners at F&ED