



SHAPE UP KITTITAS COUNTY—Food Access Coalition
Thursday, April 9th, 2009
10:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.
WSU Extension Conference Room
MEETING MINUTES

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

Food Access Coalition for Kittitas County Mission Statement:

To advocate for all people of Kittitas County to have consistent access to healthy food and an understanding of nutrition by promoting and developing local programs and partnerships.

ATTENDEES

Roger McCune, FISH
Robin Read Ochoa, Shape Up
Billee Lorig, FISH
David Hurn, Ellensburg Youth & Community Center
Colleen Donovan, Heifer
Joann Hutton, community
Denise Horton, community
Kayla Shelton, CWU Nutrition Science
Frank Schuchman, Upper County
Stefanie Wickstrom, KEEN

Updates

- After introductions, Robin shared a few quick updates.
 - There is now information about the Food Access Coalition linked to the Shape Up website, www.shapeupkc.org
 - Shape Up is helping the community garden out this year by giving them some funds to purchase new tools.
 - Shape Up has some funds available through the end of June that the Food Access Coalition could use to purchase some supplies (bags, t-shirts, project supplies, etc.?)
Robin is uncertain on the amount available at this point, but it is likely in the hundreds.
- FARM TO SCHOOL: Robin & Colleen attended the National Farm to Cafeteria Conference in Portland a few weeks ago. Colleen passed around some neat nutrition resources that she picked up at the conference. Robin is doing some research into the resources she brought back and will be putting together some information at a later date. More info about Farm to School efforts can be found at www.foodsecurity.org
- SPRING WORKSHOP: Our spring workshop held on March 7th was a success. 18 people attended and Robin gave everyone a summary of the activities and results.
- UPPER COUNTY: Frank Schuchman shared with the group that he has been talking to lots of community members in Upper County and with Shape Up staff help, is organizing a meeting on May 5th 5:30pm-7:30pm at the Roslyn Public Library to discuss food access issues and come up with some potential areas of focus. Anyone is invited to attend. It is exciting to see some movement happening in Upper County—thanks to Frank for taking this on

- FISH: Lots of updates!
 - The Ellensburg Rotary will be building a kitchen for the FISH food bank—very exciting!
 - Hopesource donated a truck to FISH that is very helpful in transporting food and will be a good resource to have for gleaning
 - RiverFarm will be designating a plot for food bank donation
 - FISH is looking into opening a satellite food bank in Kittitas
 - FISH freezer space is full!
 - Billee is working hard making connections with CWU to organize a gleaning project this season.
 - Billee is working on piloting a weekend backpack program at Mt. Stuart school
- KEEN: The sustainable agriculture committee that Stefanie coordinates is working on a few potential projects that are of interest to the Food Access Coalition
 - They are working on holding a screening of “Good Food” soon
 - Thinking about holding a workshop of some sort about local foods, the community food movement, and sustainable food systems
 - Public recognition of restaurant who serve local foods
 - Community Food Assessment
- Colleen shared that she will be helping to hold a city chickens workshop, now that the ban on chickens in the City of Ellensburg has been lifted. She will also be doing a small-scale beef production workshop with the help of Joann Hutton, a local grass-fed beef producer.

Priorities

Due to time constraints we didn't get as far along with this activity as planned. However, Robin shared a list of 10 potential focus areas that was based on what has been done in the past, what has been discussed in the coalition meetings, and what was discussed in the spring workshop. The group had some discussion around the areas and how we could narrow them down to what the coalition wants to focus on for 2009. There is the possibility that committees and action plans will be formed around the priority areas.

The 10 areas are (in no particular order):

- Produce donation (promotion, flyers, logistics, etc.)
- Gleaning (organizing, volunteering, etc.)
- Community Food Assessment
- Membership (formalizing, recruitment, bylaws, etc.)
- Community event (potluck, etc.)
- Local food promotion
- Upper County
- Nutrition education
- Community kitchen
- Website/newsletter, etc.

No additions were made to the list, but the group present at the meeting requested that Robin write up some context about each of the areas so that people who are less familiar or who have less history with the coalition understand the background behind each of the areas. There was discussion around how to make decisions about what would be focused on. The group decided that Robin could send out an online survey to the coalition list serve and we could use the results to help inform our decisions. However, any final decisions would also have to take into account if anyone is really willing to put time and effort into the focus areas, among other factors.