

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

KARA HAHN
LEGISLATOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

- COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
- ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST REVIEW BOARD
- WATER & LAND INVASIVES ADVISORY BOARD
- FOOD POLICY COUNCIL



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& AGRICULTURE

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PUBLIC SAFETY
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& ENERGY

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**TO: Members of the Food Policy Council:
All interested parties**

FROM: Honorable Kara Hahn

DATE: April 8, 2014

RE: Food Policy Council Meeting Agenda

I. INTRODUCTIONS:

II. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

- **Community Gardens:** *Iman Marghoob (Chair), Kara Hahn, and Zahrine Bajwa*
 - In March there was a meeting with community gardens all over LI to discuss creating a LI community Gardens Association and creating a board to continue education and to explore funding. Also if it is a 501c3 they could apply for more grant opportunities. The community gardens website is up and running currently there are 42 mapped community gardens. Concession stand legislation is still in Public Hearing but the owners of the 3 county operated beach huts own a total of 7 huts across Long Island and will be implementing any healthy changes they make to all of their locations.
- **Food Equity:** *Erin Thoresen (Chair), Randi Shubin Dresner, John Woods, Gregson Pigott and Stephen Kramarcik*
 - Weir's Deli in Gordon Heights is trying to figure out what changes they could realistically make because the owner will not be willing to spend a lot of money to make changes. Cornell had done a similar project in

riverhead with a bodega and they were able to update the façade and change the layout for the better. The committee is also trying to go into a North Bellport location on Montauk Hwy but it does not take EBT. It was suggested that the group try and partner with a local school to make it a community event of updating the local store with healthier options and a better layout to encourage consumers to buy fresh produce. Zahrine mentioned another location in Gordon Heights that the group could look into updating as well. Lori Hewlett suggested they involve the local schools to work on the problem. They can help design posters and recipe cards. Lori said she would help Greg talk to schools in the district if they would like to pursue that additional level of participation.

- ***Why Buy Local?*** August Ruckdeschel (Chair), Robert Schaefer, Paule Pachter, Joel Panagakos and Joe Gergela
 - The committee has been working with Sachem School District to create a healthy eating campaign potentially involving PE, Art and marketing classes. They are trying to get a curriculum that would use calorie counting and translate it into an easier concept such as if I eat X amount of this I will have to exercise for X amount of time. This could also link math or writing classes and it would be connecting classes through health education. DASH NY is Empire State Funding for healthy eating and physical activity projects so the school is hoping to apply for this grant.
 - The committee is also building an “agricultural education” work group that would work with K-12 and higher education institutions to develop agricultural education options for Long Island residents. The County Executive will be calling a forum in the future to discuss. One recommended model was the “Farm School NYC” certification program - <http://www.justfood.org/farmschoolnyc>

III. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS:

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- What’s next?
 - We would like the group to let us know what they think we should focus on next and any suggestions as to where things should go next or any issues we should look more into.
- It was suggested that the FPC invite Tritec to a meeting to discuss the Ronkonkoma hub project. Leg. Hahn said she would look into the matter.
- US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand’s regional office would like to conference call in to a future FPC meeting.
- Iman suggested that “food distribution” and mass transportation options, including rail, should be a topic of future discussion.
- Another suggestion made: mobile food markets
- Gigi Turbow Marx suggested the Council expand its social media reach beyond Facebook to LinkedIn and Twitter.

- The creation of a new “Education” sub-committee was proposed. Several members have already expressed an interest in this new sub-committee.
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V. ADJOURNMENT:



Attendees:

Name	Organization	Email
August Ruckdeschel	SC Eco Dev and Planning	august.ruckdeschel@suffolkcountyny.gov
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Gregson Pigott	SC Dept of Health	gregson.pigott@suffolkcountyny.gov
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Alyssa Turano	SC Legislator Kara Hahn's Office	alyssa.turano@suffolkcountyny.gov
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Kara Hahn	Suffolk County Legislator	kara.hahn@suffolkcountyny.gov
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