

CHHS Food Security Workgroup Meeting – 9/18/17

Farmers Markets and Community Gardens –

Attending:

Anne Whigham, CHHS Board

Nikki Graham-Brown, CHHS Staff

Pam Almeida, GSC Meals on Wheels

Connie Nelson, Shalom Ministries

Natalie Tauzin, Spokane Regional Health

April, Spokane Regional Health

Chuck Teagarden, Communities in Schools

Pat Munts, Spokane Community Gardens Association

Kathy Hedgecock, Second Harvest (by phone)

Natalie and April from SRHD presented data mapping of farmers markets and community garden locations.

Farmers markets and community gardens in Spokane are by majority located in or near areas at or below 185% of the poverty level.

Greatest issues affecting farmers markets are due to dearth of good farmers. It is difficult to get them in community markets.

Urban agricultural ordinances up to 6000sqft of growing area (Spokane Municipal Code, Section 17C.380.010). Home gardeners are needed.

Spokane Urban Agricultural Network, including the Spokane Community Gardens Association, provide tool check-out services and courses taught at Spokane County Extension or at community centers if there is no fee for use of the space. The next Spokane Community Gardens Association meeting is on October 5th at the extension office at 6pm.

Issues for gardeners include lack of land, water location, and liability insurance. They may receive a plot of land to use; however, it may not have access or just limited access to water. Liability insurance is a problem due to lack of funds

Two schools as part of the Zone Project started gardens; however, there is no coordination from District 81 on gardens in schools. Facilities people are a barrier to access and materials.

Growing season does not align with the school year very well. There is a short growing season (May planting and frost by mid-September), unless they add low or high tunnels; however, City Building Code requires them to use a commercial kit (expensive and not always appropriate/necessary).

The school district also moves staff around that are part of garden projects. For example, the Stevens Elementary vice principal moved to Cooper Elementary.

The Community School has a great garden model that includes a stipend for students.

City Parks have received grants to start/run gardens; however, there are issues of vandalism and theft (for example, Polly Judd Park).

The Spokane Community Gardens Association has received \$10K for one Americorps worker.

Gaps in current services:

- Convenience
- Geographic
- Education/awareness
- Redemption of vouchers
- Small number of vouchers
- Transportation
- Hard to sustain

Strengths in current services:

- Grassroots/community-based
- Association creation
- Low-income areas
- Urban agriculture
- Pat Munts
- Resources/history
- Food Policy Council

Duplication in current services:

- Discussions happening all over
- Not enough networking

Rating values were not completed for gaps/strengths/duplications due to concerns about how the values were being determined. Discussion to take place at next meeting.

Next meeting at 8am on Monday, October 16th