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Dennis Andresky
Town of Davie
Parks & Recreation
3801 S Pine Island Road
Davie, Florida 33328

RE: THOUGHTS FOR THE MEETING OF THE DAVIE URBAN FARMING INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

Dennis,

I regret I cannot attend the first meeting of the Urban Farming Initiative Task Force (UFITF). Davie is taking an important step in forming this task force, as the city has the perfect combination of resources to become a regional hub for sustainable urban agriculture. As a graduate student of urban planning who has been studying the social, economic and ecological importance of urban farming, I would like to offer a couple thoughts for the UFITF as they begin to formulate their purpose and direction.

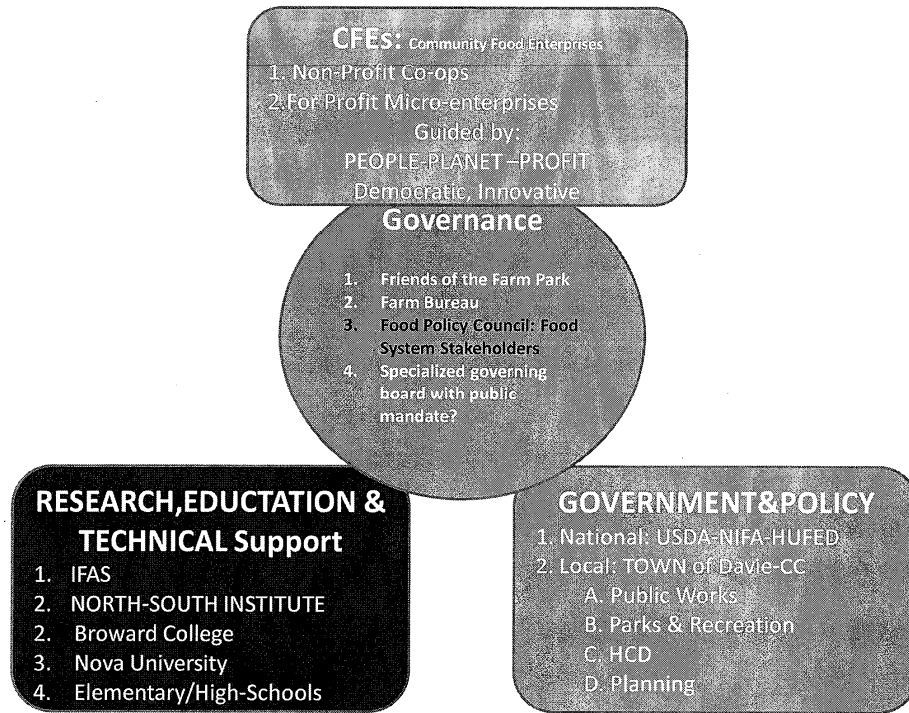
The UFITF members may want to consider the examples of cities like Seattle and Toronto, which have established Food Policy Councils to frame their community garden and urban farming activities as part of a regional *food system* (the production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste recycling of food and its inputs). Ideally, a Food Policy Council consists of stakeholders from all links of the food system chain such as anti-hunger and food justice advocates, educators, nonprofit organizations, concerned citizens, government officials, farmers, grocers, chefs, workers, food processors and food distributors. The first step of a Food Policy Council usually involves making an assessment of the food environment and the opportunities for improving it (such as a land inventory for community farming). Guiding this assessment is a *food charter*, which forms the basis for directing actions to be taken. Examples of food charters from Seattle and Toronto are on the next pages.

No longer just a form of recreation, community gardening and urban agriculture have become immensely popular as ways to rebuild torn communities, reestablish food sovereignty, combat climate change and launch micro-green enterprises. I would like to make myself available to the UFITF for any research it may require in its efforts to make Davie a premier center for urban farming in the Southeast.

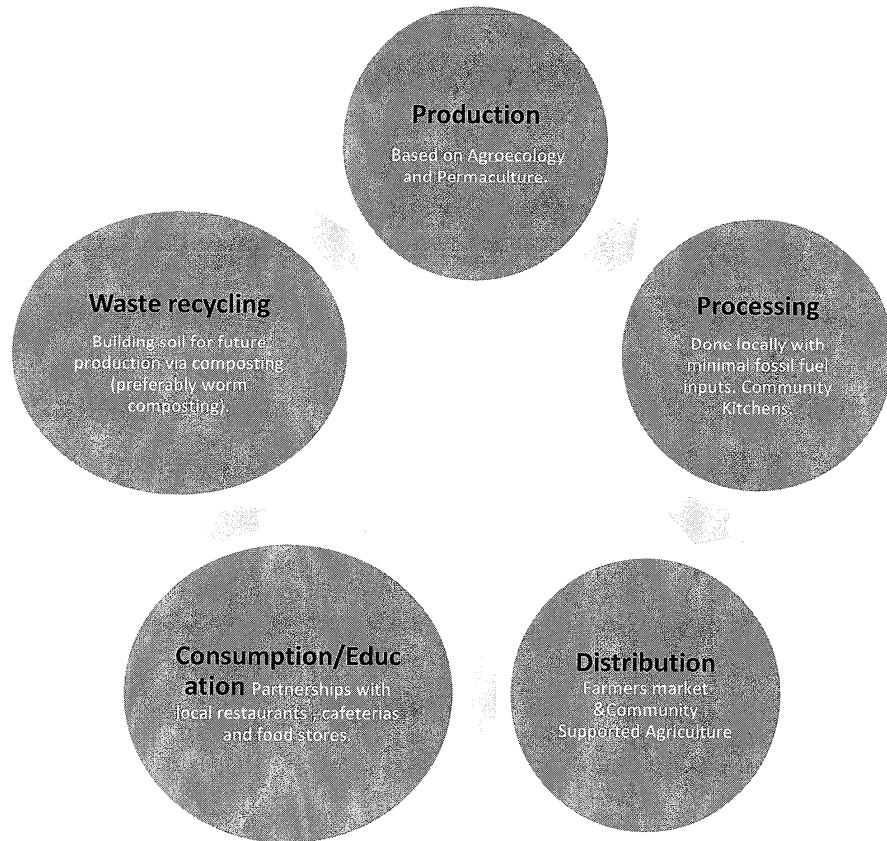
Best,

Anthony Olivieri
FAU School of Urban and Regional Planning

Model for Community Urban Farming institutional guidance:



Food System Model:



Toronto Food Charter Example:

Source: http://www.toronto.ca/food_hunger/pdf/food_charter.pdf

Toronto's Food Charter

In 1976, Canada signed the United Nations Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, which includes "the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger." The City of Toronto supports our national commitment to food security, and the following beliefs:

Every Toronto resident should have access to an adequate supply of nutritious, affordable and culturally-appropriate food.

Food security contributes to the health and well-being of residents while reducing their need for medical care.

Food is central to Toronto's economy, and the commitment to food security can strengthen the food sector's growth and development.

Food brings people together in celebrations of community and diversity and is an important part of the city's culture.

Therefore, to promote food security, Toronto City Council will:

- ✔ champion the right of all residents to adequate amounts of safe, nutritious, culturally-acceptable food without the need to resort to emergency food providers
- ✔ advocate for income, employment, housing and transportation policies that support secure and dignified access to the food people need
- ✔ support events highlighting the city's diverse and multicultural food traditions
- ✔ promote food safety programs and services
- ✔ sponsor nutrition programs and services that promote healthy growth and help prevent diet-related diseases
- ✔ ensure convenient access to an affordable range of healthy foods in city facilities
- ✔ adopt food purchasing practices that serve as a model of health, social and environmental responsibility
- ✔ partner with community, cooperative business and government organizations to increase the availability of healthy foods
- ✔ encourage community gardens that increase food self-reliance, improve fitness, contribute to a cleaner environment, and enhance community development
- ✔ protect local agricultural lands and support urban agriculture
- ✔ encourage the recycling of organic materials that nurture soil fertility
- ✔ foster a civic culture that inspires all Toronto residents and all city departments to support food programs that provide cultural, social, economic and health benefits
- ✔ work with community agencies, residents' groups, businesses and other levels of government to achieve these goals.



Excerpts from Seattle's Food Policy Council Resolution

Source: <http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us/~scripts/nph-brs.exe?s1=&s2=&s3=31019&s4=&Sect4=AND&I=20&Sect2=THESON&Sect3=PLURON&Sect5=RESN1&Sect6=HITOFF&d=RES3&p=1&u=%2F~public%2Fresn1.htm&r=1&f=G>

Resolution Number: 31019. Date adopted: April 28, 2008

A RESOLUTION establishing goals, creating a policy framework, and identifying planning, analysis and actions for the purpose of strengthening Seattle's food system sustainability and security.

A RESOLUTION establishing goals, creating a policy framework, and identifying planning, analysis and actions for the purpose of strengthening Seattle's food system sustainability and security.

WHEREAS, food and water are sustaining and enduring necessities and are among the basic essentials for life; and

WHEREAS, hunger and food insecurity are important issues that most adversely affect low-income and minority populations; and

WHEREAS, the "food system" is defined as the agents and institutions responsible for production, processing, distribution, access, consumption, and disposal of food (Kaufman 2004); and

WHEREAS, food system activities take up a significant amount of urban and regional land; and

WHEREAS, the food system consumes a major amount of fossil fuel energy, land area, and water in production, processing, transportation, and disposal activities; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and improving the security of our local food supply is essential to local emergency preparedness and local self-reliance; and

WHEREAS, the food system represents an important part of community and regional economies; and

WHEREAS, according to research conducted by Sustainable Seattle, the returns to our local economy for each dollar spent at local, community-based restaurants, farmers markets and grocers is more than two times greater than the usual impact of spending at restaurants and grocers; and

WHEREAS, the second leading cause of premature death among United States adults is chronic disease, for example heart disease, stroke and hypertension, linked to diet and low physical activity; and

WHEREAS, obesity and associated costs and diet-related diseases significantly impact the health of Seattle residents, and

WHEREAS, improving our local, regional, and statewide food systems advances the Seattle Comprehensive Plan goals of economic opportunity, environmental stewardship, community, and social

justice; and

WHEREAS, there are significant community-building benefits to community gardening and community kitchens; and

WHEREAS, the American Planning Association Board of Directors adopted on April 15, 2007 a Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning recommending the inclusion of food policies in local and regional plans and the American Public Health Association adopted a policy on November 6, 2007 entitled "Toward a Healthy, Sustainable Food System", recommending a food system approach as key to better human health and environmental quality; and

WHEREAS, approximately 82 cities and regions have established Food Policy Councils; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

Section 1. Goals. These goals are meant to provide guidance for analysis, program development, policy development and actions related to Seattle and the region's food system sustainability and security. The overall intent of this local food action initiative is to improve our local food system and in doing so, advance the City's interrelated goals of race and social justice, environmental sustainability, economic development, public health and emergency preparedness. These goals include:

- a. Strengthen community and regional food systems by linking food production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste management to facilitate, to the extent possible, reliance on our region's food resources.

- b. Assess and mitigate the negative environmental and ecological effects relating to food system activities.

- c. Support food system activities that encourage the use of local and renewable energy resources and minimize energy use and waste including:
 - * Reducing food in our waste stream,

 - * Discouraging or restricting excessive and environmentally inappropriate food packaging at all levels of the food system (production, wholesale, retail and consumer), and

 - * Reducing the embedded and distributed climate impacts of Seattle's food system.

- d. Stimulate demand for healthy foods, especially in low-income communities, through collaboration with community-based organizations and institutions.

- e. Increase access for all of Seattle's residents to healthy and

local foods through:

- * Increasing the opportunities for Seattle residents to purchase and grow healthy food in the city,
 - * Disseminating of food preparation and preservation knowledge through educational and community kitchen programs,
 - * Supporting new opportunities for distribution of locally and regionally produced food,
 - * Addressing disparities in access to healthy foods in inadequately served populations and neighborhoods,
 - * Supporting increased recovery of surplus edible food from businesses and institutions for distribution to food banks and meal programs,
 - * Addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, such as children, people living with disabilities and seniors to accessing adequate, healthy food, and
 - * Increasing the amount of fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy and meat in the food support system, including food banks and meal programs.
- f. Integrate food system policies and planning into City land use, transportation and urban activities.

- g. Develop and enhance partnerships within the City, as well as regionally, to research and promote local solutions to food issues.
- h. Establish a strong interdepartmental focus among City departments on programs and policies affecting food system sustainability and security.
- i. Support procurement policies that favor local and regional food sourcing.
- j. Enhance emergency preparedness related to food access and distribution including working toward the goal of establishing regional capacity for feeding the population for 2-3 months in an emergency.