

Nechako Valley Food Network
March 2, 2011 7 – 9 PM
CNC Vanderhoof

Present: Maya Sullivan, Lisa Burgener, Andrew Beuzer

1. Letter of Support for Beyond the Marketing Project

- Andrew will do
- Maya will connect the Bornos and Jillian

2. Local Producers Directory

- created a budget
- Andrew will draft, circulate to executive, then send to RDBN
 - Andrew will do radio show re: NVFN and the producer directory (Wolf, etc.)
 - Lisa has already submitted gist for article to Omineca Express
 - will call any producers who have not responded in last two weeks before the deadline
- Lisa will ask Karyn to circulate info among Farmer's Market vendors
- extras for Library, Chamber, green events/trade show

3. Community Clean Up

- hamburgers. Processed patties. Find out sponsorship amount before make final decision
 - veggie burgers (20), napkins, condiments, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, onions from Coop
 - buns Farmer's Market vendors may put bid on (approved by Angela)
 - Lisa to coordinate details – Coop BBQ, requests for bids in paper (asap),
 1. transport of leftovers to Neighborlink or intermediary kitchen until they are ready to receive it
 - tap or purchased water (not bottled) discuss with NWRI (Lisa), knives for spreading
 - file for a temporary food safety permit (Andrew) (using form in NVFN email account see Angela's response)
 - Andrew to BBQ
- assessing bids . . . Andrew, Lisa, Maya

4. Trade Show Booth

- free mini burger 'handouts' from local beef, buns/wheat
- local producers to take shifts handing out burgers and promoting the food value of local
- Andrew to coordinate cooking and serving of burgers (mezzanine if possible)
- burgers only on Saturday??
- promote community garden
- volunteer recruitment
- storefront/Farmer's cooperative
- Margaret and Steve are also willing to 'man' the booth
- bulletin board???
- plants for draw again . . . challenge?? continue discussion at April's meeting

5. Community Garden

- logging around museum space = better sunlight for former location
- more family friendly location (park, bike park, cross walk over highway)
- Andrew to confirm that it will be used (is more space possible?)
- Andrew to check if Historical Society will do charitable receipt for farmer donating manure to the garden
- Summer Recreation (Ashley) and Carrier Sekani interested in space
- Maya and Lisa interested. Potentially plant one half of space.

- long term planting – raspberries, rhubarb??
- get seeds from seed companies (donations/leftovers)
- Katimavik will be here over summer and is looking for summer projects ---- people plant but away . . . Katimavik tends?
- most responsible K volunteer to coordinate garden over summer, based at Neighborhood Space/ Smithers House? Receive some direction from Maya

6. Local Food Purchasing Policy

-detailed feedback from seven different producers:

- issues with price filter – percentages too wide – tighten up
 - burger patties are costly to make locally (lose advantage)
 - small vs larger scale producers in area?
 - is organic really sustainable (economically speaking)

competitive versus cooperative efforts for producers

-always supporting one producer = not very sustainable for the region need to keep several in area . . . how to acknowledge that with event purchasing . . .?

-guidelines for community . . . several options for selecting in guideline --- the chart, asking for letters of intent . . . producers who are interested . . . meet together and decide how to do it . . .(each provides one third or competitive or?)

****Producers see a need for more cooperative efforts . . . Storefront/Farmer's Cooperative were requested as a service from NVFN (to coordinate the gathering of interested parties) . . . contact Kathie Laforge re: finding examples of Farmer's Cooperatives/Storefronts from similar type communities . . . share with producers

-NVFN please provide feedback to producers and local processing businesses re: +/- of purchasing local for events . . . so, producers/processors can accommodate that feedback

-NVFN keep working to get local food into community events.

Andrew will attend the Agricultural Plan working group meeting scheduled for March.

Lisa will update the BB/website to seed starting information.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15 PM