

TFSC / Thurston Food System Council	
<i>(date)</i>	3:00pm – 5:00pm at TRPC
Meeting	Monthly Meeting Minutes
Facilitator	Peter Witt, Co-Chair
Note taker:	Zachary Fleig, Communication WIT, Secretary

AGENDA:

- I. INTRODUCTIONS (10 min.)
- II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES (5 min.)
- III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (5 min.)
- IV. ELECTION (25 minutes)
- V. WORKING ISSUE TEAMS (WIT) REPORTS:
 - A. LEADERSHIP (10 min.)
 - B. MEMBERSHIP (10 min.)
 - C. COMMUNICATIONS (10 min.)
 - D.
 - E.
- VI. (20 min.)
- VII. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (5 min.)
- VIII. EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 min.)

NEXT MEETING: 3:00pm **February 5th, 2014** at TRPC
 Future Meetings on **1st Wednesdays**

Attendance and Introductions:

Sash Sunday, OlyKraut — Chair
Peter Witt, Friends of the Farmers Market & Kiwanis Garden Projects – Vice Chair
Zachary Fleig, TESC Campus Food Coalition Co-Coordinator, Sustainability and Social Justice Dining Coordinator at TESC; — TFSC Secretary.
Lucas Patzek, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Thurston County
Karen Parkhurst, Thurston Regional Planning Council
Loretta Seppanen, Slow Food Greater Olympia; SSCFT and TFSC Memberships
Lesley Wigen, Thurston County Public Health Nutrition; TFSC Communications
Aslan Meade, West Olympia Farmer’s Market and Bank Local Washington
Erik Hagan, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Mason and Thurston Counties; Mason Conservation District; and Co-Founder of West Olympia Farmers Market.
Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity
Katie Rains, Executive Director at GRuB
Diane Grace, Food Sovereignty Nutritionist, Nutrition and Citizens Sector Liaison

ABSENT:

Heather Sundean, Produce Manager for the **Thurston County Food Bank** and
Satellite Liaison with Hunger Relief Organizations
TJ Johnson, Sustainable South Sound, Adjunct Faculty at **TESC**

VISITORS:

Linda Watt, Port Issues, Institutional Purchasing and Policy to encourage low-cost/now-cost food resources for people in need.

Rachel Floyd, AmeriCorps Food Justice VISTA, CYS/Center for Youth Services and
Thurston County Food Bank “School Gardens” racheljacklynfloyd@gmail.com

Kyle Merslich, Food Assistance at the State level (WSDA) kmerslich@agr.wa.gov

II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES (for *Wednesday, January 8, 2014*) (Diane Grace – exiting TFSC Secretary)

Meeting Minutes for (December) were motioned, seconded, and passed for approval with the following changes, and submitted for upload to TFSC website.

[Clarified descriptions re: organizational descriptions.]

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

No comments were offered.

IV. ELECTION

DRAFTED SLATE ADOPTED with no changes

Sash Sunday elected to Chair

Peter Witt elected to Vice Chair

Zachary Fleig elected as secretary (with Loretta as backup)

V. WORKING ISSUE TEAM (WIT) REPORTS:

A. LEADERSHIP

(Peter Witt - TFSC **Vice Chair**)

No updates (beyond the election).

V. B. MEMBERSHIP: (Loretta Seppanen- Membership Lead)

Marco Pinchot unanimously approved to be approached as a new member of the Council

Patrick Suther approached as co-member (liaising with TESC) with Zachary Fleig **Lucas** and **Erick** have agreed to a shared membership; this format approved by the council.

Reviewed the operating procedures of membership requirements – especially attendance and the proxy/alternate membership provisions. The Council made suggestions for revisions and clarification to these stipulations, to be approved at the next meeting.

V. C. COMMUNICATIONS: (Lesley Wigen - Communications Lead)

The web team is continuing to work on the website revision(s). Highlighted changes include: adding buttons on the home page that would take visitors to deeper regions of our web presence.

Further, the Membership was in agreement with the Communications WIT regarding specific high-priority tasks which the website should deliver. The Council reaffirmed the goals of the website, particularly the potential for this resource to accurately articulate who we are, what work we hope to support, and why we wish to do so. We collectively revisited the idea of populating the website with the history of the organization (with the Food Summit history as a component of this).

Lucas proposed that a donation button could be added to the site, which would help The Council build an optional, small donation fund from organizational entities (as a kind of a dues system- for those willing and able to pay into it). The Membership was enthusiastic about this idea, but needed more clarity around logistics of making something like this happen (seeking a bank, fiscal agent, non-profit status for The Council, etc.) Key to any future discussion of this idea is the tenet of autonomy for our operation as a community-based group. Voiced in the discussion of the Council having a discretionary fund fed by outside organizations was the concern that (1) our work should not be grant-/donor-dependent (inherently fragile), and (2) our mission, goals and means of executing projects should be independent of money-backed interests that may seek to steer the Council. When, or if, The Council decides to implement a discretionary fund, we will need to strengthen and clarify our internal structure and bylaws to address these concerns.

Lucas offered to follow up on the possibility of the McLane Grange as fiscal sponsor (a possibility as the Grange is a state-recognized 501c3 non-profit); WSU offered as another potential fiscal sponsor.

The Council collectively felt that there needs to be a more effective, robust mechanism internal to our meetings that would facilitate updates, and to break-out and work together (and with the community at large).

Lucas, Aslan & Zach expressed a desire for a more substantive “updating” component to each meeting, which will allow us to collaborate together in a more informed way. The Council is working to develop an improved format for sharing updates in a way that relates to the larger projects that the Council is working on. We may need to meet more often, and more in depth (both in our WITs, and as a Council) so as to create a more substantive and effective presence.

VI. DISCUSSION / DECISIONS:

Lisa offered that what we offer as a Council at the moment is a Convening function and a Leverage function.

Projects for this year:

Food Action Plan* WIT (inspired by Multnomah County’s Plan) Katie and TJ plan to lead the work toward a (Katie has found funding to have dedicated hours for working on this WIT) – funding research and requests.

*One of the first tasks to make this work possible is to develop a Work Plan to guide future efforts and make the project appear, and effectively be less amorphous and daunting. (The TFSC discussed the benefit to having a clear work plan: that this would make this work more possible, and attractive to potential funders) **Action Steps must be identified (what is done to achieve a certain outcome).

Lisa volunteered to take the lead on a Port/Economic Development Strategies WIT – the role of this group needs to be clarified at its first meeting (Lisa offered that there is a clear need to help develop rural economic growth through the Port of Olympia – and that perhaps this group would write the Economic Development chapter of the larger Work Plan)

VII. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

No comments.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES & EVENTS:

To post **Events and Announcements**, please send edited version to tfsc0@yahoo.com.

Councilmember Updates:

Lucas:

- Announced a WSU extension program happening this weekend — Saturday, January 11th, 2014
- Center for Natural Lands Management – livestock workshop series on developing management plans for ranchers — CNLM received DOD funds to help make this happen. ***??date??***
- Submitted a grant (with 2 TESC grad students) to investigate craft distilleries and the relationships they have with local farmers
- Study grant to look more deeply at fruit and vegetable production in food hub development (brining in EDCs, Ports, etc.) Lucas is working on the grains aspect of this as well.
- Investigated (with an Evergreen student) the history of farmer cooperation. (Why they came together, what worked, what failed, etc.)

Peter:

- Farmers market – revamping how the FoFM interacts with the community; how to connect more effectively with banks and funders.
- FoFM passionate about improving connections between and amongst farmer's markets this year – combating Olympia centrality (developing the reputation of Thurston County markets as a holistic view)
- FoFM now has folks sitting on the Farmer's Market board, and vice versa
- Attending the Food Hub conference in Raleigh, NC in March.

Lesley:

- Community Garden assessment (2012) Grant period extends through the next few years – successfully established 4 of 5 proposed community gardens (3 of the 4 at churches) helped build priority for community garden support in these two low-income zip codes: 98501, 98503; grant funding also available for local, independently-owned restaurants committed to lowering salt/sodium in recipes, and increasing fresh produce in their recipes.

Diane:

- Excited to be participating with the TFSC more fully, now away from note-taker position.

Zach:

- Submitting a survey to the campus community re: community kitchen space
- Helping host a Real Food Challenge Regional Strategy Retreat @ Evergreen Feb 21st, 22nd, & 23rd. **(any and all local folks involved with higher ed. are welcome to attend!)**

Sash:

- Developing OlyPak, a resource to create lightly processed locally-sourced foods
- Olympia School District placed the first order for products made by this super-local business!

Loretta:

- Farmland preservation efforts – presentation to League of Women Voters Thursday January, 23rd 2014 7-9pm at United Churches (@ Capitol and 11th) (what's needed on a policy level, and how to participate as individuals)

- Farmland trust preparing a proposal to add to the Scatter Creek farm and conservancy (County funds for Conservation Futures)
- Slow Foods Olympia – trial planting of endangered/rare/near-extinction seeds.

Erik:

- Farmlink project Thurston CD investigation of fallow lands, contacting landowners about why the land is in disuse – informing them of opportunities available through farmland trusts, etc.
- Actively databasing landowners currently, will be offering forms to lease these fallow lands at the next meeting.
- Plans to collaborate further with the farmland trust, CLT, etc.
- Investigating developing agroforestry Best Management Practices with Northwest Professional Development opportunity investigating water resources on farms (agroforestry as a way of buffering ecosystem impacts from farming)

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