

TFSC / Thurston Food System Council	
February 6, 2013	3:00pm – 4:30pm at TRPC
Type of meeting	Monthly Meeting Minutes
Facilitator	TJ Johnson; Karen Parkhurst
Note Taker	Diane Grace <gracedd@earthlink.net>
Timekeeper	TJ Johnson
Attendees	TJ Johnson, Karen Parkhurst, Peter Witt, Loretta Seppanen, Treacy Kreger, Lisa Smith, Lesley Wigen, Lucas Patzek, Erik Hagan, Sarah Rocker, Kim Gaffe, Diane Grace, Sash Sunday, Robert Coit. GUESTS : Ben Panish, Jess Tevik, Zach Fleig, Laurel Smith.

AGENDA:

- I. Introductions and Updates (15 min.)
- II. January Minutes - Feedback
- III. LOGO: Feedback and Discussion (10 min.)
- IV. WORKGROUP REPORTS:
 - A. LEADERSHIP and STRUCTURE (20 min.)
 - B. PROJECT CRITERIA (15 min.)
 - C. COMMUNICATIONS
- V. MEMBERSHIP (15 min.)
- VI. LEADERSHIP (15 min.)
- VII. Next Meeting / Next Steps: March 6, 2013

Introductions and Updates:

Loretta Seppanen, Slow Food Greater Olympia and SSCFT Membership: SSCFT's Annual Meeting, Potluck and Dance will be Friday, March 15, 2013, starting at 5:30pm with Networking and tabletop displays. (See flyers. Send registration to Loretta.)

Lesley Wigen, Thurston Public Health: A two-year grant was received to build 5 additional community gardens in low-income neighborhoods. The new website is <thurstoncommunitygardens.org>.

Peter Witt, Kiwanis Garden Projects and American Farmland Trust: Peter has been named President of the Friends of the Farmers' Market.

Treacy Kreger, Friends of the Olympia Farmers Market: There is lots of growth for the Olympia Farmers' Market as a major food hub. Five events are being planned, interactive, on the stage, including Will Taylor, Chef of Acqua Via; Kirsop Farm, Wines from Dirt to Bottle and Demonstrations. (Additional details noted in January 9th Minutes).

Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity.

Kim Gaffe, GRuB: GRuB is interviewing to hire a new Executive Director soon. The Olympia School District is looking at the site next to Centennial Elementary as a site for a new replication of the GRuB School model. Olympia High School students will start this summer and throughout the school year, earning high school credit in science and business. The school district already owns the parcel, which is part of a historic farm previously owned and stewarded by the Muirhead family.

Karen Parkhurst, Thurston Regional Planning Council.

Lucas Patzek, WSU Ext./Small Farms: They are hiring a new 4H Coordinator to diversify and expand the program. A comprehensive Food System Assessment of Fruits and Vegetables {and more?} in Thurston County has started.

Erik Hagan, WSU Ext./Small Farms for Mason & Thurston Counties, Co-Founder of West Olympia Farmers Market and Mason Conservation District.

Sarah Rocker, TESC's Flaming Eggplant.

Diane Grace, Food Sovereignty Nutritionist: Diane (and others) testified this week at State Senate and House Agricultural Committees in support of SB 5327 and HB1437, which supports the "Reduction of Farm House property tax to the Agricultural rate", a continuation of a Food Summit Vibrant Farms action working group. Diane has received encouragement from Robert Coit and other Emergency Management groups to continue the "Neighborhood Emergency Food Preparedness" template, as a "citizen participation and responsibility" piece.

Sash Sunday, Olykraut: Working on her MBA BGI on "Food & Agriculture in Western Washington".

TJ Johnson, Sustainable South Sound: SSS has hired their first Executive Director, Michelle Morris, who starts on February 15, 2013 as part-time Director. A sufficient number of qualified applications were received, and they are pleased to have made the best selection. The City of Olympia passed all of the Urban Ag ordinances into Law last night, effective in 30 days. This includes 5 chickens, 1 goat per first acre, taller fences and 5-foot setbacks.

Robert Coit, Thurston County Food Bank Director.

GUESTS from TESC and Flaming Eggplant. Should there be an on-campus food bank?

Ben Panish, Flaming Eggplant: Spring Event; Transition to a self-operated dining model. Who, What, How? They are looking at Santa Cruz's example, and are planning on community involvement.

Jess Tevik, TESC Campus Food Coordinator: Designing a Permaculture Community Farm, through an open forum, at the end of this quarter. All are invited.

Zach Fleig, TESC Campus Food Coordinator: He is interested in creating a "Local Farms: Dorm-Friendly CSA" (using winter-food). (OlyKraut is interested.) There is no Community Kitchen for students on campus. They are exploring the Industrial Kitchen in the old cafeteria.
evergreenfoodcoalition@gmail.com

Laurel Smith, AmeriCorps/Vista Intern and Coalition for Community Based Learning
cbcla.vista@gmail.com is exploring Food Justice and looking at the Food System as a Community Catalyst, by working with and within community.

II. MEETING MINUTES for JANUARY 9, 2013 – Feedback

The improved format of the Monthly Minutes was appreciated. **Corrections to January 9th Minutes:**

- Kim Gaffe’s email is kim@goodgrub.org .
- Regarding TJ Johnson’s Update: “In 2013, we will work with the **City of Olympia, to include a Food System Vision (Phase 2) and later, an Action Plan (Phase 3).**”

Updated Minutes for December 5, 2012 and January 9, 2013 will be presented for final Approval at March 6th meeting. Diane (as Acting Secretary) will then forward Approved Final Minutes to Lesley Wigen, for uploading to TFSC Website.

III. LOGO – Feedback and Discussion (TJ Johnson)

Several updated logo samples were presented. New font for the word “Thurston” received strong approval. Logo “#1, The Pear” back ground was liked, however not chosen; nor were lighter background tones. Two logos were favored at a “straw pull”:

1. **“#5”, Dark Brown box, with white text and 2 forks** – Strong positive winning consensus, including ease of “black and white” photocopy duplication of letterhead logo.
2. **“#3”, White page background, with two-tone font (yellow and brown) with 2 forks**, without box framing - 2nd highest preference; some concern for “black and white” duplication. The “T” of Thurston creates a rounded top-left corner. This logo seemed to be preferred for the TFSC Website.

OTHER COMMENTS:

- Ease of recognition is important.
- Website vs. Letterhead: The “use” may influence which logo is to be used.
- Jaime Heinricher feels that the “forks” detract from the logo.
- (One of the forks is a “manure” fork.)

IV. (A) WORKGROUP REPORTS: “LEADERSHIP and STRUCTURE” (TJ Johnson)

The Administrative Leadership Team, of TJ Johnson, Karen Parkhurst, Peter Witt, Loretta Seppanen and Kim Gaffe, distributed a **hand-out** titled **“Leadership and Organizational Structure; Work Group Recommendations”**. (Please refer to original document for complete text and context.) A partial summary of points include:

LEADERSHIP: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer, to serve through the end of 2013.

TJ Johnson has accepted Chair Leadership through December, 2013.

1. The need for bylaws and term limits for leaders and members will be considered.

2. The Leadership team is empowered to act on behalf of the Council between meetings, including drafting letters of support for projects.
3. They reports to the Council monthly, and receives agenda input from all TFSC members.

DISCUSSION on LEADERSHIP TEAM:

- Term limits: Realistic, constant flow of new faces and ideas. Sit out, to allow others in.

STRUCTURE #1: TFSC accomplishes is work through temporary and permanent “Working Issue Teams” (WITs);

1. WITs are created by majority vote of the Council, with an appointed council member to lead and provide monthly reports, with transparency; with Agenda and notes posted on website.
2. WITs are designed to advance the mission, vision and one or more goals of the Council. Non-council members are recruited to assist each WIT, and may be requested, upon Council discretion, to participate in discussions or presentations. All WIT Meetings should be open to the public (as appropriate).
3. Recommended 2013 WITs are: **Membership**, and **Communications**;

DISCUSSION: [“Farm to Market Initiative” was deleted. Suggestion to replace with “Meetings are open to the public” was discussed, “pending review of implications”.]

DISCUSSION:

- It is important to stay informed of progress made by other “non-WIT” groups.
- Distinguish funding specific to a project, whether WIT or non-WIT. Move with growth, individuation, and continue with updates.

STRUCTURE #2: Appointed TFSC Council Members will sit at the table, participating in discussions and decisions.

- Public attendees are encouraged to attend TFSC meetings, sitting beyond the table. All Agendas will include opportunity for non-members to address the Council.

Consensus addition to Structure #2: “Bring Community Reports of “non-WIT” groups to the monthly Council table.”

VALUES / NORMS: (2013) County-level focus, with occasional sub-regional or extra-regional scopes.

1. TFSC Meetings Will be conducted in an inclusive manner, with equal opportunity for all members to participate in discussion and decisions.
2. Leadership is shared responsibility.
3. Consensus is the goal for all decisions, with decisions made based on a majority of members present. A quorum of 51% of members must be present for action to be taken on any issue.
4. No absentee or proxy votes.
5. Dissenting or minority views will be recorded in meeting notes.

DISCUSSION and suggestions on VALUES and NORMS:

- Include “Regional” contacts without isolation (for flow of information).

- Have a Memorandum of Agreement, from Organization to Organization, for information and project sharing. Strive to avoid overlap. Communicate via contact or email. [Example, RFPC.]
- For 2013: For 1st year's focus, "Just Thurston County." [Recognize the agencies that supported TFSC's inception: "Sustainable Thurston – Local Food Policy – Elected Officials"].
- Recognize that agriculture has no boundaries; (Ag is independent of county borders).
- Recommendation to add "Regional outlook" to mission statement.
- Suggestion to edit website ("wordsmith") to define inclusive measures: Mason and Lewis Counties.
- Consider monitoring WSFFN's "Washington State Food Policy Council" (brand new, just getting organized.)

V. MEMBERSHIP (-TJ Johnson)

Open to all current attendees, up to 20 members. Initial appointment is 1-year ; (11-months, for 2013). Members missing 3 consecutive meetings without notice may be asked to resign.

The MEMBERSHIP WIT is tasked with strategically recruiting additional members, to provide missing voices, broad representation and to reflect a wide range of local food system stakeholders and interests.

1. Members act as liaison between TFSC and their organization. A substitute from their organization may be appointed to attend meetings when the member is absent; Substitute will enjoy the same privileges and responsibilities during the meeting.
2. All Members serve on the Leadership team and/or a WIT.

DISCUSSION on MEMBERSHIP:

- Multiples? Can two members work for the same agency, if representing different sectors?
- Liaisons representing and reporting for a Sector have a large and serious responsibility: (progress, research, contact, email, reporting back).
- For "Broad Representation" among 20 members, multiples may mean that some of us may have to step back, to the back seats (as missing voices are recruited and join the table as members).

DISCUSSION on "Can elected officials join TFSC as members?" "Cross when we get there."

- Some elected officials would like to join. Does that change "grassroots stakeholders"?
- {Who we are: "grassroots organization composed of diverse food system stakeholders".}
- Citizens are not elected. This food system council is not a policy council. Power versus Equal voices.
- "Special guests are welcome"; "Elected officials, Come sit-in at the table". [Ad hoc "at large" non-voting members].

MONEY: The Council may support member and other organizations' funding requests if asked, and if fitting with our mission/vision/goals.

- Expenses incurred by members on behalf of the Council will not be reimbursed, until such time as the council has funds available.

DISCUSSION on MONEY:

- People can ask; we can vote at meetings.

- If specified as urgent, time sensitive or an application deadline, the Leadership Team may vote immediately regarding Letters of Support (or funding), and whether a request is fit or not fit to receive Council support or endorsement; they then report back at the monthly Council meeting, or via email and reply, if urgent.

IV. (B) WORKGROUP REPORT – “PROJECT CRITERIA”
(- Lisa Smith, Sarah Rocker; [Jim Goche’ absent])

SUMMARY: “How do we determine which projects are eligible for Food Council approval and inclusion?” Three documents were distributed to the Council members present, for review and discussion:

1. **“Considerations for Projects to be Supported by the Food Systems Council”**
2. **“CRITERIA FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS** (related to food production and agriculture), **TRPC Food Council Group, (Draft, Jan. 10 2013)** approved by Jim Goche’.
3. A **Minority Report** submitted by Jim Goche’ (dated 2/3/13) via email to members of the Project Criteria and Leadership Teams (with reference to emails dated Jan. 11 and Jan. 25).

The contents and ideas of these documents were discussed by the Council; the Minority Report and dissenting opinion has been taken under consideration, as a part of setting up Project Criteria.

Jim Goche’ is requested to please come forward with suggestions, to work on terms that are focused on the whole food system. Leadership Team will task this onto the Agenda.

Peter Witt will join the Project Criteria Team, by request.

DISCUSSION on PROJECT CRITERIA:

1. The Process and time frame of team communication was reviewed. It was felt that insufficient contact time was available to make decisions.
2. “These are important questions to answer”. Acknowledge schism.
3. There appears to be the need to clarify Definitions to move forward; define semantics and terminology, relative to TFSC’s usage:
 - a. “Social Justice”
 - b. “Sustainable”
 - c. “Environmental Protection”

The Recommendation was supported to address “definitions” within the year of 2013.

4. Are there underlying and primary concerns about the Food Council that need to be addressed? Are these questions for a new workgroup? For discussion? For Membership workgroup?
5. The Food System is “larger than farms and farming”. Collective impact; Strength + Power multiplied by collaboration. Update old ideas, the Food System is “not simply one piece”. Support choices to transform.
6. Recommended Goal: “Encourage Partnerships (Collaboration is not strong enough)”. Collective voice, using coalitions. Align with projects and plans.
7. “Frame Issues” of the food system; (in non-WITs, too).

8. Re: Document #1, item #5 "Funding/ Resource Consideration": Is it Mission appropriate? Does it contribute to vision / goals list? Does it require staffing or liaison? Does it generate a beneficial outcome under the Food Council's belt?
9. Consider comparison with "Quadrants" from Multnomah plan, to compare on spreadsheets:
 - a. Local Food / Healthy Eating / Prosperous / Socially Equitable. Known success!
 - b. No Action Plan, so it's difficult to discern Criterion
 - c. This could generate a WIT group? Or, ask a non-WIT group?
 - d. Suggestion for a 5th Quadrant: "Environmental", initiate a WIT.
 - e. Have a checklist, "Relationship to Council", etc.
 - f. Recommendation, to "Draft answers to these questions" and submit for Workgroup approval.
10. Recommendation to broaden and expand verbage, to encourage bringing in more people (stakeholders) to the Council.

IV. (C) WORKGROUP REPORT - COMMUNICATIONS (-Lesley Wigen)

Peter Witt announced that Lesley Wigen has volunteered to lead this workgroup. As Lesley will be utilizing computers at Thurston Public Health, a disclaimer is stated that any TFSC Website text is not to be considered "endorsed" by Thurston Public Health. Contact her by email Lesley Wigen WigenL@co.thurston.wa.us or (360) 867-2515. Sarah Joy will train Lesley on "wordpress". Jaime will participate with the Communications team in the use of the logo graphics.

There will be "links" to community gardens on the website.

Sub-Projects for the COMMUNICATIONS Workgroup:

1. Lesley: "Learn the process up update" the website.
2. Peter: "How to communicate with the public", to educate "Who we are"?
3. Peter: Create a "Formal e-mail list". Please update your e-mail and contact info with Peter.

Next COMMUNICATIONS Workgroup Meeting will be Wednesday, March 6, at 2:15pm at TRPC, before the next Food Council meeting.

VI. ELECT LEADERSHIP (-TJ Johnson)

NEXT MEETING.

- HOW? Council Members are requested to e-mail their interest to the Leadership Team by March 1, 2013: "I offer _____. My alternate is _____."
- Suggestion: On March 6th, we can "sign-in" where we want to serve.