

TFSC / Thurston Food System Council	
April 3, 2013	3:00pm – 5:00pm at TRPC
Type of meeting	Monthly Meeting Minutes
Facilitator	TJ Johnson, Chair; Karen Parkhurst
Note Taker	Diane Grace, TFSC Secretary <gracedd@earthlink.net>
Timekeeper	TJ Johnson

AGENDA:

- I. INTRODUCTIONS (3:00pm)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (3:10pm)
- III. MARCH 6, MINUTES – Changes/Approval (3:25pm)
- IV. WORKING ISSUE TEAM (WIT) REPORTS:
 - A. MEMBERSHIP (3:25pm)
 - B. COMMUNICATIONS (3:40pm)
 - C. CLOSURE on PROJECT CRITERIA & WITs
- V. NEW WIT PROPOSAL (3:55pm)
- VI. “SUSTAINABLE THURSTON” UPDATE (4:10pm)
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENT (4:20pm)
- VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS (4:30pm)
- IX. **NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 3:00pm, TRPC;**
with MEMBERSHIP WIT Meeting at 2:00pm.

Attendance and Introductions:

Peter Witt, Friends of the Farmers Market and Kiwanis Garden Projects
Loretta Seppanen, Slow Food Greater Olympia and SSCFT Membership
Lucas Patzek, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Thurston County
Erik Hagan, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Mason & Thurston Counties,
Mason Conservation District, and Co-Founder of West Olympia Farmers Market
Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity
Aslan Meade, Membership WIT
Lesley Wigen, Thurston County Public Health
Ron Lawson, Boys & Girls Club, Lacey City Council
Kim Gaffi, Outgoing Executive Director of GRuB
Katie Rains, Incoming Executive Director of GRuB
Diane Grace, Food Sovereignty Nutritionist
Sash Sunday, OlyKraut
Karen Parkhurst, Thurston Regional Planning Council:
TJ Johnson, Sustainable South Sound, TFSC Chair
Zachary Fleig, TESC Campus Food Coalition Co-Coordinator

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (-Visitors)

Laurel Smith, AmeriCorps Vista, focusing on Food Justice at the Center for Community-Based Learning & Action (CCBLA) at TESC: *As a Community Partnership Catalyst, Laurel (& others at the CCBLA) connects students to Food Justice activities, as well as other meaningful work within the community at large. The Thurston County Food Bank (TCFB) opens its Satellite Food Bank at TESC April 9th from 4-6pm. TCFB Produce Drive Saturday, April 6, 2013 at the Co-op and other participating groceries.*

III. MONTHLY MINUTES, March 6, 2013: Amendments (- Diane Grace, Secretary)

Clarifications and corrections received by email for March 6 Draft Minutes are *“italicized”* below:

- **Ron Lawson, Lacey City Council:** They have identified a building for a Farmer Owned Cooperative and Food Store, and are seeking *“\$7,500.00 for a professional 'Feasibility Study'.”* “[Lucas Patzek added: *“Ron is seeking funding from the City of Lacey to support assessing farmer needs that can be met with a new Cooperative/Food Store. Ron approached Lucas Patzek about contracting with his WSU Extension program to expand his local food system assessment work to collect information relevant to Lacey.”*]
- **Kim Gaffi, GRuB: ...HB 1276 GRuB School Replicator Bill** *“has passed the House and is now in the Senate. ...Together with SSCFT, GRuB is applying for Conservation Futures money to purchase 1 acre of its current leased site.”*
- **Zachary Fleig, “TESC Campus Food Coalition Co-Coordinator:** *Participating in a partnership between Evergreen's Division of Student Affairs, the Center for Community-Based Learning and Action, and Thurston County Food Bank (TCFB) in establishing an official TCFB Satellite location at the College to better serve the campus community, and offer another site to serve the community at large. zachary.fleig@gmail.com, evergreenfoodcoalition@gmail.com”*
- *“[The LEADERSHIP Workgroup is now discontinued, as their purpose has been fulfilled.]”*
- **MULTIPLES:** *...“Organizations may have two employees on the food council if one is the representative of a different entity or sector.”*
- **Regarding PROJECT CRITERION, Draft 2:** Moved forward (including revisions), seconded. *“All voted in favor of approving Criterion “with the addition of the amendments discussed”; none opposed.*

The TFSC Monthly Meeting Minutes for March 6, 2013 were motioned, seconded and passed for “Approval with Amendments noted above”. Amended Minutes then submitted to website.

IV. (A) MEMBERSHIP WIT Report (- Kim, Loretta, Erik, Aslan, Katie)

SUMMARY: During their first meeting, the Membership Team decided to:

1. **Focus recruitment on five “essential” Sectors:**
Tribal, Fish/Shellfish, Grocery, Distributor, Co-ops.
2. **Carefully create a “one-page pitch”** with key message for potential members, an introductory “soft invitation” letter inviting them for “membership, recommendations for membership or presentation”.
3. **Define Sector “Liaison”:** How does one represent an entire sector, without strain?

4. **Create a Membership Form:** How will you interact between TFSC and that sector?
 5. **“Tribes”** discussion: How to be a good Ambassador? Interfacing with Tribal Governance; “Meeting them there” may be more appropriate; and other considerations.
 6. **“Farmer Memberships”:** How to work cooperatively with Full-Time Farmers and the Farm Bureau, respecting the value of their voices and work, versus missing seasonal meetings. Just let us know! Consider having a “revolving chair at the table” to be shared by a few Farmers? “Meet Full-Time Farmers where they are”.
 7. **MEMBERSHIP WIT will “recommend appointments”;** council members vote them in.
 8. Some sectors have a council member signed up to “help” but not as “Lead Liaison”.
- DISCUSSION with Food Council members:

- It’s hard for one person to represent an entire sector.
- Ad hoc TFSC groups can be agile: Not just here (at TRPC location).
- Research what are “their” priority issues? Design a WIT to address “Farmers’ issues”.
- Farmers: Geographically (overlapping County lines), or within Thurston County?
- Five primary focus categories: (Lisa Smith; Washington State “Source?”)
 - Hunger & Access
 - Farmland Preservation
 - Health & Nutrition
 - Food System
 - Washington State Products
- Have a Liaison for collaboration with existing projects, and Regional and State groups.
- Coalesce and cluster around a particular or interrelated issue(s); identify gaps?
- “Chicken and the Egg”; What comes first: Action Plan vs. “Who is at the Table”?

IV. (B)	COMMUNICATIONS WIT	(-Lesley, Peter, Karen, Zach, Ron)
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“Email Contacts List” was circulated for verification. Two separate lists will distinguish **M** = Member, from **NM**= Non-Member and “Interested” (non-voting) contacts, including Commissioners and Elected. A column notes WIT participation. (This was distributed via email after the meeting.)

- The Agenda will be posted on the website.
- Zach will help fit logo graphic onto website, both B&W and color.
- Members can email the group via this on-line list; a notice could be forwarded to each individual’s personal email address. members@tfsc0.yahoo.com
- Zach will “rebuild” the website with Lesley.
- Free Resources are available via Jeff at the County Library.

- Draft a template letter to “All organizations involved with FOOD in the Area”. Create a “Clearing House” for food! See Zach for “List building”.
- Access the “Food Summit Outreach List” from the Outreach Committee, with 75+ organizations listed. (TJ will look for this.) “Partners”, “Resources”, “Stakeholders” (to help orient people).
- Put the “**Submission Form**” **on-line**, not via mail. Keep things electronic, without printed paper. (Does TFSC need a P.O. Box? The cost is about \$60/year.)
- Karen will draft a **FAQ Sheet** about TFSC.
- Peter will create a **standardized PowerPoint presentation about TFSC**. (Cheers.)
- Consider using “Google.docs” for “inside” council documents available to members only. “Drop Box” is free, however it may have “size limits”. Google.docs was found to be inconsistent.

IV. (C)	PROJECT CRITERIA & WITs	(- Lisa Smith)
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SUMMARY: For now, it is sufficient to “Endorse” ideas, within/outside of the Council. Further development of applications, operations versus functional, require further infrastructure; “Hand over to the next group” in the future. (We aren’t there yet.)

1. “Endorse” versus “Support” was again discussed. (#5) “**‘Endorse’ means encourage, as it aligns with our values and may include a letter or other public acknowledgement.**”
2. In **Items #2 and #5: delete the word “support”**. Replace it in (#2) with “**Alignment**” with the stated vision.
3. Semantics? “Reinforces” stated vision. We “vet”, examine”. Keep it open, if there is a strong feeling, and if one council member is willing to act as liaison. This is not a procedural document.
4. Format: Use “**Roman Numerals**” for the six bullet points, and “numbers” for the goals.
5. The Council needs an **Action Plan**; (both WITs, too)
6. Moved for Approval to include discussed updates, seconded. “**Project Criterion Draft #3 Passed with inclusion of the discussed Amendments**” noted above.
7. Is anyone willing to move this forward: “**WIT Project Application**: Fill it out this way, email to TFSC, and you will be notified”. Can the COMMUNICATIONS team put the **questions** from the “Draft 2” Application into an **on-line version**?

V. NEW WIT PROPOSAL: “Neighborhood Emergency Food Preparedness” (-Diane G.)

SUMMARY: Diane Grace discussed and answered questions regarding the project. The project was passed for **Endorsement** and **WIT** formation, seeking volunteers from outside of council membership. TJ Johnson said that Sustainable South Sound would sponsor an Evergreen Student Intern / Resources to assist the project.

DISCUSSION:

- Application for TFSC Endorsement and WIT formation was distributed via email prior to meeting for Member review: process, timeline and current Template (Draft 3b). As a complement to Emergency Management instructions, this “citizens’ participation” piece revisits the food system, access, nutrition and localizing the food chain that feeds us.
- If non-endorsed, Diane will finish the project independently, seeking feedback that any impact on the council is appropriate.
- Level of Readiness: “almost ready”. The project seeks help finishing research (“Faith-based EM plans; Rural Thurston and Tribal voices”) and optional formatting.
- The project has received strong interest from a dozen Neighborhood Associations, a City of Olympia Associate Planner, and Vet’s Cafe; encouraged by Robert Coit of Thurston County Food Bank and Emergency Management; and reviewed by two EM Counselors.
- The project brings together Interns, Resources and Leadership. It is tangible, a marketing opportunity for TFSC name and Logo, something to show the community. “TFSC is the place for this”.
- “Council Member Overtime” was revisited, to avoid “strain” on the group and existing WITs. Outreach outside of the council has already begun, for 3 volunteers.
- Is WIT approval necessary, or just “Endorsement”? Is “one person a WIT”? Norms were reviewed.
- Two Members feel that a “Launch” is desirable. Press promotion? How, and what process? Blog entry? Promotion and public speaking skill-set needed. Completion goal is May 20th for final Template submission, for approval and logo; Project and WIT completion goal is June 15, 2013.
- “Completion Reporting” idea on website is cost prohibitive. How can a “measurement of project impact” be attained? Some suggestions were discussed.
- “Motion to Endorse”, and “Motion to create Temporary WIT” both seconded, voted all in favor, **Passed**. One opposing non-voting voice noted.

VI. “SUSTAINABLE THURSTON” UPDATE (- Karen Parkhurst)

SUMMARY: This is a two-year Federally funded program, including Housing, Urban Development, Land Use, Transportation, Environmental Protection, Climate Change, Energy, Public Health, Water, Sustainable Economy and Local Food Systems. Please see the “White Papers” at www.sustainablethurston.org .

- There has been outreach to the Community, seeking to staff each Task Force. Robert Coit is the Local Food Systems Chair. We had a public process last year, throughout the year and again last week. We asked, “Do we have the vision right?”
- **“Creating Places – Preserving Spaces”:** They are “Creating Centers” in neighborhoods and urban areas, in both north and south county. Are there community gathering spaces? Are there places where Food Trucks can come in? This needs to be scaled to the community. We want walking and food access.
- **Preserving rural spaces:** Why? Statistics! By 2035 we will have lost 19,000 acres of Forest with loss of Agricultural land and Economic Vitality. We want to keep money multiplying locally. We need to ensure that Resources are used wisely, such as water. Demographics are “aging” with many Baby Boomers “over 85” by 2035.
- **LEED PLATINUM buildings** and healthy Air and Water!
- **Results:** Regional Plans in Housing and Development. Adoption is planned for December of 2013. Progress has been made in many directions, including communities. It’s time to recommend an Action Plan.
- **Priorities:** Please see website; comment and vote. **EngageSustainableThurston.org.**
- Maybe we aren’t being bold enough? We need to “move the needle on the dial”. Look at Vision, Challenges and Strategies; look at Modest and Mighty Measures. What strength or “will” is needed? This is open to the public.
- The White Page documents, handed out, were revised after the last two comment periods.
- **Meetings held 1st and 3rd Mondays, 9:00am-11:00am.** Next Meeting is April 22, 2013.

DISCUSSION:

- Policy makers want this information!
- April 5, 2013, Friday at 8:30am at TRPC: “LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS 101” presented by Lucas Patzek (45 min). This is the most “talked about” topic, with broad interest engaged. This series will continue on the first Friday for the next 4 months. Task Force members will be asked “What do we want to hear next?”
- Lucas will discuss: “What do we produce? Why? Where are we going with production? What did we produce? Where do we go with farmland preservation?”
- Food Council Members’ suggestions for future topics: “Rail” Forum; “Local Food”; “Thurston Thrives” (Public Health Initiative); “Energy” Grant.

VIII. EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The TFSC website has been updated with all of the food related events that have been forwarded to this email address: <http://thurstonfoodcouncil.org/events/>

If you would like to add an event to the website please email the information to this email address. You can include electronic documents.

- *Please note - The Google Calendar is not functioning at this time, so you will find all the events listed under the Events tab. --Lesley Wigen, TFSC Web Coordinator*
- *“What is our TFSC role, and website communication, for such events?”*
- *Suggestions: “Interview and receive picture in advance”; “Promotion”; “See where my food comes from”; “Event Watch on the blog”.*

April 4: “Opening Day” for **Olympia Farmers Market**.

April 5: Sustainable Thurston’s **“FOOD 101”**, **8:30am** at TRPC.

April 6? Sat. 11am: **Food Justice** talk at Olympia Library, \$5 advance RSVP via Co-op.

April 9, Tuesdays 4pm-6pm: **17th Official Thurston County Satellite Food Bank** at TESC.

April 10th, 6:30pm: **“Wild Fermentation and The Art of Fermentation”** with author Sandor Katz, Community Economics and Fermentation; dinner with fermented foods, by Chef Ryan McClelland. Hosted by OlyKraut, \$45 in advance, benefit to help pay for Katz’s trip. **Bread Peddler**, [222 Capitol Way N #103 Olympia](http://222capitolway.com). <http://olykraut.eventbrite.com>. Additional lecture at TESC, \$5 to \$7 each.

April 19, 7pm: **“Our Food, Our Right”** Book Launch, Traditions FT Café; Kim Gaffi will speak.

April 19 – 21: **“Environmental Film Fest”** at Capitol Theater (Online “Fest Pass” costs less):
Sat. 6pm “Symphony of the Soil” by **Debra Koontz Garcia** with Q&A, hosted by Sustainable South Sound;

Sun. 5pm “A Place at the Table” hosted by Thurston County Food Banks; Grub recommends.

May 4, from 1pm-6pm: **“Co-opatopia”** at St. Martin’s Pavillion www.coopatorpia.coop

May 9-10-11, “Synergy” at TESC:

May 9: Farmworker Justice

May 10: Rachel Carson / Food Sovereignty

May 14: Tuesdays 4pm-7pm: **West Olympia Farmer’s Market Opens** and is “Seeking Produce Vendors!”

Opportunities for the community joining together for a local food focused meal this summer. Here are the events and ideas for events that have been posted:

May 25, 6:30 pm - Seasonal Dinner at the Market, Olympia Farmers Market, 6:30 pm - featuring a local chef paired with a market vendors providing the seasonal foods. Supports the [Friends of the Farmers Market](#). Look for price, chef and wine information on the FOFM website by late April.

June 20, Local Foods Progressive Dinner (Tentative) at three downtown restaurants in walking distance of each other. Look for price, time, restaurants and sign up information at the [Slow Food Greater Olympia](#) website in late April.

July 27, 6:30 pm - Seasonal Dinner at the Market, Olympia Farmers Market, 6:30 pm - featuring a local chef paired with a market vendor, providing seasonal foods. This supports the [Friends of the Farmers Market](#). Look for price, chef and wine information on the FOFM website by late April.

August 10, 4 to 8 pm, 13th Annual Summer Capitol Land Trust Gala, Helsing Junction Farm featuring feast farm produce, local seafood prepared by Xinh Dwelley, local beer and Washington wines. Tickets are \$75 per person purchased in advance or \$85 at the door.

August 20, 6 pm 14th Annual Taste of the Market, Olympia Farmers Market. The market bounty is prepared by chefs from local restaurants. Funds support the Friends of the Farmers Market. Tickets are \$60 in advance.

August 23, 5:30 pm Slow Food Greater Olympia Farm to Table Dinner on the Colvin Ranch (south of Tenino). Learn about sustainably raised grass fed beef on the historic Colvin Ranch and enjoy a relaxing meal with local wines and veggies from the Slow Food Ark of Taste Gardens prepared by Chefs Treacy Kreger (Slow Food Board Member) and Will Taylor (Acqua Via). Price to be set at (about \$70). This is a fundraiser to support Slow Food Greater Olympia.

September 1, 4:30 to 9 pm, Slow Food Local Food with Chef Treacy Kreger and Friends (tentative); At Vern's Foods and Farm house with guest Chef Laurie Nguyen of Dockside Bistro. For details see [Slow Food Greater Olympia](#) website.

Sept 14, 6:30 pm - Seasonal Dinner at the Market, Olympia Farmers Market, 6:30 pm - featuring a local chef paired with a market vendor providing the seasonal foods. This supports the [Friends of the Farmers Market](#). Look for price, chef and wine information on the FOFM website by late April.

Sept 21, 5 pm - South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust 2013 Farm Forever: A Dinner for the Benefit of Farmland Preservation; Expo Center at Thurston County Fairgrounds. Farm and chef collaborations bring you the freshest and best quality local food prepared by experts with a passion for good food and farmland preservation. Check the website for price and farm/chef collaborative info in early June.

Also in the planning stages: GRuB fund raiser featuring local foods and wine. (At Alderbrook?) **Kirsop Dinner**. There are **more Educational events** than in the past, due to Peter Witt and Friends of the Farmers Market. \$45 to \$75, fine restaurant quality and Growers.

Clam Bake at the McLane Grange with Taylor Shellfish: Affordable local; (August & Winter).

Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity:

17 Agripreneurs have completed training; Fall Graduation event. The Farm Incubator with Land Trust is working through issues and training in Food, Ag and Forestry. Microloans are processed for food, fish and farming. Working with proposals to Community Farmers, Producers and Institutional Buyers in Thurston, Mason and Grays;

IX. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 1, 2013, 3:00pm at TRPC.
MEMBERSHIP WIT meets at 2:00pm.