

TFSC / Thurston Food System Council

May 7, 2014	3:00pm – 5:00pm at TRPC
Meeting	Monthly Meeting Minutes
Facilitator	Peter Witt, Vice Chair
Note taker:	Loretta Seppanen for Zachary Fleig, Secretary

Agenda

- I. INTRODUCTIONS (10 min.)
- II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES (5 min.)
- III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (5 min.)
- IV. WORKING ISSUE TEAMS (WIT) REPORTS:
 - A. LEADERSHIP (10 min.)
 - B. MEMBERSHIP (10 min.)
 - C. COMMUNICATIONS (10 min.)
- V. DISCUSSION: ACTION PLAN PROJECT ARC - Katie & TJ (65 min.)
- VI. EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (10 min.)

Attendance and briefs on member projects:

Peter Witt, Friends of the Olympia Farmers Market and South Sound Fresh
 Friends of the OFM are revamping their organization to be more helpful to the success of the market

Heather Sundean, Produce Manager for the Thurston County Food Bank and Satellite Liaison with Hunger Relief Organizations
 Updated group on SNAP (food stamp) Ed and the role of the Thurston County Food Bank in serving the food banks in the state

Diane Grace, Food Sovereignty Nutritionist, Nutrition and Citizens Sector Liaison

Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity

Lesley Wigen, Thurston County Public Health Nutrition, TFSC Communications

NEXT MEETING: **2014** at TRPC 3:00pm
 Future Meetings on 1st Wednesdays: **June 4, 2014**

Loretta Seppanen, Slow Food Greater Olympia; South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust (SSCFLT)

Indicated that dates, ticket prices and registration information for summer farm to table dinners are on the TFSC website - <http://thurstonfoodcouncil.org/events/>. The first such dinner is June 10 at the Olympia Farmers Market.

Katie Rains, Executive Director at GRuB

Shared information on the Annual Pay-What-You-Can Back Porch Plant & Seed Sale starting May 8th until May 11th, from dawn till dusk

Aslan Meade, West Olympia Farmer's Market and Bank Local Washington

Announced that the West Olympia Farmer's Market will open this coming Tuesday at 4 pm with lots of engaging activities.

TJ Johnson, Sustainable South Sound

Shared information about his conversation with Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administrator of the federal National Organic Program since 2009 who served in a similar position in Washington. Recently the USDA revised the National Organic Standards board's "sunset" rule, making it harder to take things (like carrageenan) off the list of materials that can be considered organic. TJ expressed concern that this administrative change reduces the credibility of organic certification.

Karen Parkhurst, Thurston Regional Planning Council

Drew our attention to today's New York times editorial by Mark Bittman on food issues "Leave Organic Out of It".

ABSENT:

Sash Sunday, OlyKraut

Erik Hagan, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Mason and Thurston Counties;

Mason Conservation District; and Co-Founder of West Olympia Farmers Market.

Zachary Fleig, TESC Campus Food Coalition Co-Coordinator

Marco Pinchot, Community Relations and Sustainability Manager, Taylor Shellfish Farm

Lucas Patzek, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Thurston County

VISITORS:

Susan Ujcic, Helsing Junction Farm. Because Susan Ujcic is being invited to join the council as a farmer representative she participated at the table with the council.

II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES April 4, 2014

Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2014 were motioned, seconded, and passed for approval without changes, and submitted for upload to TFSC website.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

Susan Ujcic indicated that she and her partner farm owner, Annie Salafsky are willing to share responsibilities as member of the TFSC. The summer time farm commitments, may however, occasionally preclude either from attending.

IV. WORKING ISSUE TEAM (WIT) REPORTS:	
A. LEADERSHIP	No report this month

IV. B. MEMBERSHIP	Loretta Seppanen
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The WIT plans a Institutional Buying presentation for the July meeting. Speakers will include John Cruse, Mason General Hospital and hopefully the buyer from Top Foods.

IV. C. COMMUNICATIONS:	Lesley Wigen
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The membership asked for a presentation on the revised website at the June meeting.

V. FOOD SYSTEM ACTION PLAN discussion	Katie Rains & TJ Johnson
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Following considerable discussion and agreement on processes and member commitments, the group affirmed its commitment to the Action Plan work by considering, seconding and passing a motion to approve the concept proposed by TJ and Katie for the creation of a Thurston Community Food Action Plan built on the existing actions coming out of previous work plus action identified through focused discussion in winter of 2014. **This action creates a Food Action Plan WIT.** Members include Katie, TJ, Heather, Diane, Peter and may include others in the future. Katie and TJ agree to be the co-leads of the WIT.

The group is committed to the following work:

Phase 1.1: April to August 2014

- Compile and create documentation of the results from the food summit and Sustainable Thurston process. **Peter Wit** agreed to take the lead on pulling this material together.
- Identify and contact individuals and organizations that represent the identified sectors and who are willing to help organize events to bring the voice of their sector to the planning process. The sectors are identified by their affiliation such as by where they live, how they make their living, their cultural group. **Katie** has agreed to lead this work. **Diane and Heather** agreed to support this effort especially in regard to engaging voices commonly absent from such conversations.
- Identify and secure short-term funding to support the process through the winter of f 2014-2015. Katie agreed to take the lead on this work.

If an estimated \$25,000 in funding is secured by winter of 2014 the following work will progress:

Phase 1.2: Fall and winter 2014-15

- Host focused conversations in collaboration with sector leaders, identifying issues of concern, visions and actions. With funding, Katie could secure considerable support from GRuB alumni and supporters for this work.

Based on that work The TFSC will apply for grant funding for the final state of planning (creation of the actual action plan, securing adoption) and implementation.

The group agreed to frame the final plan around the Whole Measures framework: *Justice and Fairness, Strong Communities, Vibrant Farms, Healthy People, Sustainable Ecosystems and Thriving Local*

Economies. The group recognized and encouraged other work on improving the local food system to progress ahead of the creation of this report.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

Given the hour, no announcement were made.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at TRPC at 3:00pm

[Conference phone is available at TRPC for those unable to attend June 4.]
Future Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, July 2, 2014

Contact Chair Sash Sunday if unable to attend (sash@olykraut.com) in advance or if a last minute change occurs call TRPC for absences or late arrival notifications - 360-956.7575 or info@trpc.com