

TFSC / Thurston Food System Council

July 2, 2014	3:00pm – 5:00pm at TRPC
Meeting	Monthly Meeting Minutes
Facilitator	Sash Sunday, 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 (5 min.)
 - B. MEMBERSHIP (5 min.)
 - C. COMMUNICATIONS (5 min.)
- V. REPORT FROM THE NGFN FOOD HUB COLLABORATION CONFERENCE (40 min)
- VI. COMMUNITY FOOD ACTION PLAN WIT REPORT (40 min)
- VI. EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 min.)

Attendance and briefs on member projects:

Sash Sunday, OlyKraut - announced OlyKraut winning UW Business Competition finalist prize
 Peter Witt, Friends of the Olympia Farmers Market and South Sound Fresh - *Invited members to his home for a Spanish Tapas event July 9*
 Aslan Meade, West Olympia Farmer's Market, Bank Local Washington and newly hired part-time with Enterprise for Equity. *West Oly Farmer's Market is having Barbecue Day, Tuesday July 15th - 4 - 7 - South Bay BBQ, bluegrass music.*
 Lesley Wigen, Thurston County Public Health Nutrition, TFSC Communications
 Erik Hagan, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Mason and Thurston Counties; Mason Conservation District; and Co-Founder of West Olympia Farmers Market - *announced at July 12 [Small Scale Commercial Cheese Production Workshop](#)*

NEXT MEETING: 2014 at TRPC 3:00pm
 Future Meetings on 1st Wednesdays: **Sept 10, 2014**
NOTE - NO AUGUST MEETING

Katie Rains, Executive Director at GRuB
Karen Parkhurst, Thurston Regional Planning Council
Loretta Seppanen, Slow Food Greater Olympia; South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust
(SSCFLT) - *Invited all to [July 20 open house](#) at Scatter Creek Farm & Conservancy hosted by SSCFLT, July 12 [Slow Food Nisqually Valley Dinner](#) and the SSCFLT's September 20 [Farms Forever Dinner](#)*
Rachel Floyd, Food Bank - *substituting for Heather Sundean - 600 lunches being served at the summer lunch program which is 50% federally funded.*

ABSENT:

Susan Ujcic, Helsing Junction Farm
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
TJ Johnson, Sustainable South Sound
Diane Grace, Food Sovereignty Nutritionist, Nutrition and Citizens Sector Liaison
Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity

VISITORS:

Tanya Moore - new to community, *seeking to encourage food growing where people live*

II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES June 4, 2014

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

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

None

IV. WORKING ISSUE TEAM (WIT) REPORTS:

IV. A. LEADERSHIP Sash Sunday

Sash said the leadership WIT has agreed to the following approach to agenda preparation:

- A tentative agenda will be developed at the end of the meeting one month in advance.
- Any changes to that tentative agenda are due to Sash 10 days ahead of the meeting (the Monday a week before the meeting)
- Sash will prepare the final agenda for distribution on the Wednesday one week ahead of the meeting.

IV. B. MEMBERSHIP Loretta Seppanen, Aslan Meade, Erik Hagan

John Cruse, Mason General Hospital Catering was unable to come to this meeting. The WIT would like to offer a facilitated discussion with institutional buyers including John Cruse at a future meeting.

No date was set. The WIT also asked if members are interested in an update from Patrice Barrentine, WSDA about the Food Safety Modernization Act. Revised draft rules were due out in mid June 2014. The members expressed interest in having a presentation on the FSMA update.

IV. C. COMMUNICATIONS:	Lesley Wigen
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The updated TFSC website will be ready for presentation at the September meeting if that fits into the agenda.

V. FOOD HUB CONFERENCE	Peter Witt and Sash Sunday
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Peter and Sash shared highlights from the 2014 [National Good Food Network Food Hub Collaboration Conference](#) which they attended in March of 2014. Regional **food hubs** are businesses or organizations that actively manage the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified **food** products primarily from local and regional producers to strengthen their ability to satisfy wholesale, retail, and institutional demand. Food hubs move the local food system beyond the direct sales market in a cost effective way for the producer and the wholesale, retail or institutional market. For example a meat food hub can turn locally grown animals into "restaurant ready" cuts of meat - the cuts that chefs are looking for. Peter and Sash learned that the business structures can be quite different from each other and the focus can be quite specific (a seafood hub, for example) and very broad. Group GAP & GHP certification through a food hub can save farmers and producers considerable costs. Multiple sources of funding are available and used. Food hub structures need to plan for significant storage area (as much as 60 percent of the area.)

VI. COMMUNITY FOOD ACTION PLAN WIT	Katie Rains, Peter Witt, Karen Parkhurst
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WIT members TJ Johnson, Katie Rains, Peter Witt, Heather Sundean, Michaela Winkley and Karen Parkhurst worked on the following letter to the council regarding a change in direction for the action plan work and funding support:

The Community Food Action Plan (CFAP) WIT is of the opinion that an action plan developed without meaningful conceptual & financial buy-in from local jurisdictions (Port, Cities, County) will not have the needed momentum to see implementation. If the plan is not going to be implemented, it lacks value.

The CFAP WIT is also of the opinion that the Food System Council presently lacks the capacity to coordinate and implement such a plan of its own accord, namely due to a shortage of resources and the absence of an organizational structure through which to hire contractors and/or an employee to facilitate implementation & stakeholder support of such a plan. There is undoubtedly potential for organizations at the table to bring these activities under their financial umbrella, and presently, it is not feasible for any one organization to shoulder the burden of fundraising for community-wide food system planning alone.

It is with this in mind that the CFAP WIT proposes to the council that the plan & timeline be modified to prioritize an appeal for funding to local jurisdictions, starting with the Port (Q3, Q4 2014), and then with Cities/Counties (2015 Budget), to facilitate the allocation of \$40-\$60,000 to hire 1 FTE food system coordinator for a 6 month period to execute a planning process that includes both community & economic development frameworks, and that results in a plan with a

Whole Measures, triple-bottom-line framework. Depending upon the time that a large enough portion of the funding can be secured (Ideally by October 2014), it is the hope that the 6 month planning process would be complete by June 2015. Within this timeframe, the council could still apply for a USDA Community Food Project (CFP) grant. At present, it is unclear if individual organizations represented on the council intend to apply for this funding individually, and a conversation is desired to determine if it makes sense/is feasible to wrap several projects into a CFP grant proposal within the framework of early implementation.

Lingering questions:

- 1. Who would be the most appropriate employer of an FTE food action plan coordinator? An assessment of the pros/cons and implications of various partners should be considered before a decision is made.*
- 2. How much funding, exactly, is needed for this process to be successful and lead to an actionable plan that is broadly supported in our community.*

Specific Actions & Next Steps in this proposal:

- 1. Draft a letter to TRPC, the Port, Cities & County from the Thurston Food System Council requesting resources to finance the work that we've been tasked to do through the Sustainable Thurston plan. Once approved by the Council, present this letter to each jurisdiction, and plan to present at August/September meetings to request consideration during 2015 budget.*
- 2. Pending approval of the letter from the Council, WIT representatives would meet with Port Commissioner Sue Gunn to request initial funding in an effort to leverage Port support for other local jurisdictional buy-in.*
- 3. Draft a job description for the Food Action Plan (or Food System Strategic Plan, TBA) Coordinator and outline the essential elements of the planning process and desired framework.*
- 4. Assess options for housing this FTE and present a proposal to the council in September.*

By consensus the council supported the direction recommended by the CFAP WIT. The council encouraged the WIT to finalize a draft letter to the jurisdictions for review by council members prior to the Sept 103 meeting. Members agreed to raise concerns in advance of the meeting so that a final letter could be approved at the September meeting. Council members recommended establishing a specific funding request for each jurisdiction sufficient to cover the anticipated costs including the staff cost.

Karen Parkhurst advised the group that the letter to jurisdictions may raise the issue of having elected officials as members of the council.

Peter Witt indicated that the WIT members are currently reviewing the summary of work the background to the Food System Action Plan. When that review is complete it will be shared with all members. He drew attention to the many assignments given to the TFSC in the final report from the Sustainable Thurston project.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

Given the hour, no announcement were made.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at TRPC at 3:00pm

[Conference phone is available at TRPC for those unable to attend in person.]

Future Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, October 1

Tentative Key Agenda Items for Sept 10

- Food system Action Plan (25 minutes) (members will receive several documents to review and provide feedback in advance of the meeting)
- Patrice Barrentine (Food Safety Modernization Act Update) OR Website update

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