

| TFSC / Thurston Food System Council | |
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| Oct 1, 2014 | 3:00pm – 5:00pm at TRPC |
| Meeting | Monthly Meeting Minutes |
| Facilitator | Sash Sunday, Chair |
| Note taker: | David Skattebo in absence of secretary |

AGENDA:

- I) Introductions + Projects (3:00-3:10)
- II) September Meeting Minutes (3:10-3:15)
- III) Public Communication (3:15-3:20)
- IV) Working Issue Team (WIT) Reports
 - a) Leadership – 2014 leadership team (3:20-3:30)
 - b) Membership (3:30-3:40)
 - c) Communications (3:40-3:50)
- V) Discussion of Thurston Thrives Food Action - Karen Parkhurst (3:50-4:15)
- VI) What should we do with the rest of the year? (Sash) (4:15-4:50)
- VII) Public Communication (4:50-4:55)
- VII) Events and Announcements (4:55-5:00)

Attendance and briefs on member projects:

Sash Sunday, OlyKraut – mentioned she was working with distributors to get her products to Bellingham, Spokane, and beyond and that it was frustrating.

TJ Johnson, Sustainable South Sound- The grain project is wrapping up, and he is doing data crunching.

Karen Parkhurst, Thurston Regional Planning Council

Loretta Seppanen, Slow Food Greater Olympia; SSCFT and TFSC Memberships – brought copies of the 2014 Timberland Library Food Event Guide. Mentions Thurston County’s launching of the Bountiful Byway, a rural highway that spans Thurston’s agricultural areas. October 13th event at one of the farms on the byway. Also farm to table event at Eastside Urban Farm and Garden Center on November 2nd.

Lesley Wigen, Thurston County Public Health Nutrition; TFSC Communications

Diane Grace Crutcher, Food Sovereignty Nutritionist, Nutrition and Citizens Sector Liaison – mentions article in PCC Sound Consumer about different ways NW agriculture is being affected by climate change.

Michaela Winkley

Gifford (Marco) Pinchot

Rachel Floyd, TESC Campus Food Coalition Co-Coordinator – informs us that Zachary Fleig has stepped down from the council because of schedule conflicts, and that she will be his replacement representing TESC students and the Campus Food Coalition.

ABSENT:

Susan Ujcic and Annie Salafsky, Helsing Junction Farm
Aslan Meade, West Olympia Farmer’s Market and Bank Local Washington
Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity
Katie Rains, Executive Director at GRuB - absent due to a death in the family

VISITORS:

Zack Holcomb, AmeriCorps member at the Food Bank working with school gardens
David Skattebo, TESC student examining inequalities in the local food movement
James Hibbs, Americorps VISTA, Center for Community-Based Learning & Action at
TESC Food Justice Liaison

II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES (September 10, 2014)

Meeting Minutes for September 10th, 2014 were motioned, seconded, and passed for approval without changes, and submitted for upload to TFSC website.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

James Hibbs talked about his work as Americorps VISTA Food Justice Liaison at the CCBLA, replacing Celi-Tamayo Lee.

IV. WORKING ISSUE TEAMS

IV. A. LEADERSHIP Sash Sunday, Chair

Sash Sunday announced that Peter Witt has resignation as vice-chair and as member of the council. Katie Rains has offered to vice-chair. While the operating procedures for the group do not specify the action to fill a vacancy in the position leadership positions, the group agreed that it is appropriate to select an interim vice-chair until the annual election at the start of the new year. Katie Rains is unanimously accepted as interim vice-chair for the end of 2014.

IV. B. MEMBERSHIP (Loretta Seppanen)

The membership committee plans this month to talk to the members that have not recently attended meetings.

IV. C. COMMUNICATIONS: (Lesley Wigen)

Sustainable South Sound paid the \$13 to keep the domain for the TFSC website because it was less complicated than shifting the payment to the TRPC.

There is discussion about finding a way to count visits to the website. Lesley Wigen agrees to look into this.

V. DISCUSSION of Thurston Thrives Food Action Team work (Karen Parkhurst)

Thurston Thrives project lead by the Thurston County Health Dept looks at the question of what a healthy community looks like. Katie Rains and Food Bank Executive Director, Robert Coit co-chair the Food Team (one of 9 teams) that looks at how best to improve the health of the Thurston County community through food. As a way to summarize the Food Action Team's work, Karen Parkhurst shared the Food map - see the map at http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/thrives/docs/Maps/FoodStrategyMap_090414.pdf The key areas are: 1) healthy food 2) healthy weight of community members 3) healthy, safe food available for all people.

The focus of this team's work is on healthy and available food without regard to the origin of the food (local versus from a distance). Never-the-less, the strategy map includes increased local food production as an activity leading to the desired goals. The TFSC is listed as a player in some of the actions listed in the map. While to team discussed many aspects of food policy, one area where the TFSC is mentioned, only policy related to agritourism is listed. That is partially due to a choice to list action steps where annual measures for the action already are in place.

The food strategy map and all the others will be presented at the Oct 14 meeting of the Thurston County Board of Health with the Thurston Thrives Advisory Council from 3:30PM-5:30PM at the Thurston County Courthouse 3:30PM-5:30PM at the Thurston County Courthouse. That presentation will not, however, be the last gathering of the Food Team which intends to keep meeting quarterly.

The group asked Karen Parkhurst to provide an alignment assessment at the next meeting regarding the local food system components in Thurston Thrives and Sustainable Thurston and possibly also the Asset Building Coalition. Members requested a visual showing the connections and disconnects would be especially helpful.

VI. WHAT NEXT FOR THE COUNCIL -DISCUSSION / DECISIONS: (Sash Sunday)

Sash Sunday opened this discussion by asking generally what are some exciting things we can do for relevancy and visibility. TJ Johnson offered several ways for us to work beyond/through/despite the inherent tension given the conflict between some of our goals (for example, a local food/organic/farmland preservation focus vs. food

security/poverty alleviation focus). He indicated that food councils elsewhere have drawn varied interests to the tables—processors, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, farm preservationists—with differing goals. Some such organizations have imploded over the tensions inherent in these differences.

On the other hand, if our council can work together towards something meaningful maybe we can survive despite these tensions. The group considered possible projects on which we can work. Ideas discussed included acting as local advocates for farmland preservation or cataloging the local policies at odds with sustainable local food systems and recommending changes to those policies. A rich discussion followed exploring what it would mean to focus on either one of these two project areas. The group also explored the tension between those who seek analyze and develop plans and those in the group wanting to be action-oriented.

Eventually the Council discussion turned to the threats to a strong local food system inherent in current policy an practices, with a focus on city and county policies and practices (interpretations of policy) but not excluding state or federal policy. Policy can prevent the attainment of the goals we seek and the organizations we represent often already have done some analyzes of those problematic policies. By sharing what our organizations have identified as policy barriers we may be in a position to recommend changes to cities, the county or the legislature.

Members agreed to go back to the organizations we represent to identify to research policy barriers to the food system goals of value to those organizations. Each person present agreed to prepare a two minute presentation on policy issue they had researched. Others not present at the October meeting would be asked to make presentations on other policy issues at a subsequent meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

None

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

There is discussion about some of the organizations on the Council sponsoring an event for the community on Food Day.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at TRPC at 3:00pm

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

Future Meetings: December 3

Draft Agenda Items:

- 1) Members to present 2 minutes each on policy issues of importance to the groups they represent on the council
- 2) Karen Parkhurst will provide an alignment assessment regarding the food work of Thurston Thrives, Sustainable Thurston and the Asset Building Coalition.