



Wednesday, December 2, 2015
3:00 - 5:00 PM
Thurston Regional Planning Council

Members Present:

Charissa Waters, Lesley Price, Alyssa Auvinen , Karen Parkhurst, Loretta Seppanon, Mary K Johnson, Tara Witten, Lisa Smith, Aslan Meade, Katie Rains, Tracy Smaciarz

Members Absent:

TJ Johnson, Justin Smith, Mary DiMatteo, Marco Pinchot

Public Attendees:

Mindie Ruehle, Diane Grace Crutcher, Greg Schindler, Rachel Friedman, Bill Kinter, Judy Jones

1) Food & Holiday Cheer!

2) Introductions, New Council Membership & Public Communications

- No minutes taken for member introductions; members advised to send a follow-up email to the TFSC list serve to ensure accurate distribution of details
- Tracy – Heritage Meats, Tara – WSU Extension have been elected as council members as of 12/1/15
- Alyssa & Tanikka have pending applications – please vote via email by 12/31/15

3) November Minutes

- Mary D. is still drafting the minutes & will email them to us shortly

4) Standing Working Issue Team (WIT) Reports

- **Leadership**
 - No one has yet surfaced willing to accept a nomination for the secretary role; Rachel may be interested in both membership and serving in this capacity.
 - No one has yet surfaced willing to accept a nomination for a new treasurer role; Alyssa may be interested pending approval of her application.
 - Karen Parkhurst nominated Aslan Meade and Katie Rains as Co-Chairs for 2016. No other nominations were presented; votes cast at January meeting.
- **Collaborative Grant Policy –**
 - Karen, Lisa, Tanikka, TJ & Katie all met the week after our November meeting to discuss USDA Community Food Project grant. Enterprise for Equity submitted their pre-prepared proposal in partnership with the conservation district and other partners. TJ & Katie indicated an interest in working

toward a TFSC collaborative planning proposal that integrates some aspect of the Community Food Action Plan (resurrected from 2014) and some aspects of early implementation

- Katie, TJ & Lisa will work on refining a policy for TFSC grant collaboration to present at our February meeting, date TBD.

○ **Communications**

- **ACTION ITEM:** Council Member Bios – Send a current photo, affiliations/title, a few sentences about why you care about Thurston Food System Council to thurstonfoodsystemcouncil@gmail.com by January 5th, 2016.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Please look at the website <http://thurstonfoodcouncil.org/> & Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Thurston-Food-System-Council> & offer feedback about anything you'd like to see changed or added; Members are also welcome to directly post relevant content to the Facebook page.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Review the spreadsheet Aslan sent out and try to refine the listserve- do we need to remove people or are there folks who should be added?

○ **Inter-food Group Relations**

- Asset Building Coalition is currently recruiting a Food Hub lead. Nominations are due December 31st. Several individuals are being courted.
- The Asset Building Coalition Food Hub has already formally merged with the Food Action Team of Thurston Thrives in November 2014.
- Thurston Thrives' Food Action Team met on November 10th and approved the 2014 Food System report that will be provided to TFSC members and discussed a merger with Thurston Food System Council.
 - No content or mission-based objectives emerged in the discussion
 - Logistical concerns surfaced, specifically around meeting time & frequency – proposal to change meeting time for inclusion
 - In order to stay true to the mission of Thurston Thrives, willingness to maintain a collaborative interest in improving the health of our community and impacting health disparities must be part of our mission to enable a merger with the Food Action Team
 - TFSC agrees to consider alternate meeting times for 2016 & Katie will follow-up with a scheduling poll and/or proposed schedule

5) 2015 Event Reports

- Zero Net Loss – Farmland, Preservation, Restoration & Expansion
 - Held on November 17th
 - A great success, with a full turn-out & nice lunch provided by Lucky Lunchbox
 - One attendee said, "I've been waiting for this conversation for 20 years."
 - A list of prioritized outcomes will be drafted & shared by TRPC staff. The top four identified priorities were all related to funding and include:
 - An investor opportunity network
 - A coalition to increase Conversation Futures property tax amount
 - An open-space bond measure

- A coalition to request federal farmland preservation money: Regional Conversation Partnership Program
- Anchoring Local Food – Institutional Food Procurement
 - Held on October 29th
 - Loretta observed that what appeared missing in the conversation is a discussion of how institutions can adapt their procurement model to better access/support local farmers; most of the dialogue focused on how farmers can better participate or adapt to the current procurement model. How can we meet in the middle? One
 - Feedback from buyers was that this event was very close to Farm to Fork which makes it difficult to take time off to attend both; Consider spreading these events out
 - We want “action” – institutional buyers are looking for something to change the conversation. Where do we go from here?
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Mary K will add the Ted Howard film about anchoring institutions leading economic development as the featured link resource on our webpage

6) 2016 Priorities/WIT Exercise – All Possibilities Surfaced, No Priorities Established

- Zero Net Loss Follow-up
- Water Shed Management
- Quantify Value Proposal of Local Food
- Understand new FSMA requirements & explore options to support
 - Local Farmers
 - Food Processors
 - Home Preservers
- Young Farmer Farm Management Capacity/Aging Farmer Succession
- Survey Farmers to Solicit Farmer Input for TFSC
- Economic Development – Port, Farm 2 Fork, Anchoring Local Food
- Port
- Institutional Procurement
- Housekeeping – Meeting Schedule, Mission, By-laws, Fiscal Agent, FAT Merger
- USDA CFP Planning Proposal
- Climate Change/Thurston Climate Action Council
- Health Equity – How do families with limited incomes access good food?
- Support for Farmers – Finances, T.A., Business Support
- Legitimacy
- Regional Food Shed Coordination

NEXT STEPS: Review & Prioritize at January Meeting

7) Meeting adjourned at 5PM.

- Optional Celebration at Three Magnets Brewing following the meeting