



SSFSN Minutes

October 3, 2018: 9:30-11:30AM

Thurston Regional Planning Council - 2424 Heritage Ct SW Suite A, Olympia, WA 98502

Officers Present: Marilyn Sitaker, Co-Chair & TESC; Celeste Wade, Co-Chair & CFLT; Rachel Friedman, Treasurer & Sustainable South Sound; and Cathy Visser, Senior Services for S. Sound, TABC Food Hub Rep. & Secretary.

Other Members Present: Katie Rains, GRuB; Stephanie Abraham, TABC; Christine Ciancetta, Slow Food; Karen Parkhurst, TRPC; Lesley Price, TC PHSS & Website Coordinator; Chris Koehler, GH WSU Ext.; and Krosbie Carter, Thurston Thrives.

1) Self Introductions & Announcements – Introductions and announcements were made. Members are encouraged to email event information to Lesley Price to be shared via the SSFSN email system and SSFSN website.

2) Leadership Working Issue Team (WIT) Reports

- Action Required –
 - ✓ September minutes were approved.
 - ✓ Financial Status – Rachel reported that there's been no change and the balance is about \$1700 dollars.
 - ✓ MOU Status with Thurston Chamber Foundation – The MOU for the Chamber to serve as our fiduciary is signed and completed.
 - ✓ 2019 Leadership Team Planning – We would like to hold an event in 2019.
 - ✓ New Meeting Site & Rack Card Storage Options – Rachel contacted room reservation information on 3 public library locations – Tumwater, Lacey, & Olympia. Wednesdays are not available anywhere and the Olympia site doesn't open until 11 a.m. Libraries schedule 6-mo at a time. The TC Conservation District office is available, which is over by SPSCC. Celeste suggested that we reserve the TC Conservation District office at 2918 Fergusson St NW in Tumwater for Nov and Dec and reach out to other potential sites. Karen suggested that we continue to store the rack cards at TRPC, which the group approved. People seeking cards, can drop by and get them from the receptionists. Katie reminded the group to update the website whenever the venue for the meeting changes.

3) Information about the SSFSN provided to Thurston Thrives:

Successes: 1) The 2017 Food Summit. 2) Local food educational campaign with rack cards. 3) Raised over \$35k for the food summit; 4) Food summit participation was large and diverse. 5) Our monthly meeting is well attended and participants come from many different areas of the

food system. **Challenges.** 1) The food processing WIT is exploring a plan for a local food processing facility and 2) SSFSN leadership is in transition.

4) Local Foods Consumer Survey Findings – to stay competitive farmers and small producers have to keep in mind the market for locally grown foods. USDA has done most of the research, but there have not been good studies on local food consumers. The goal of this research was to try to get rural people who buy from convenience stores to buy more locally-grown food. About 1/3 of consumers buy local food on a regular basis and their top reasons are freshness of product, supporting local farmers, and helping the environment. Impediments include price, desire to have the type of produce they desire year round, and challenges with getting to the market during limited hours and then using the produce before it spoils. The growth in local foods seems to be flat at this time, possibly secondary to competition at the commercial grocery store level.

5) WIT Reports

- a) **Food Processing WIT Updates** – Marilyn joined Stephen, Sydney and others for the Skagit Valley tour. They visited the Port of Skagit County’s commercial kitchen, the WSU Wheat Study site and others. Cathy mentioned that a full draft report is available in the latest WSU Cooperative Extension newsletter.
- b) **Garden WIT** – Rachel reported that the WIT has not met, but Sustainable South Sound continues to work on advocating with the City of Olympia and Lacey to promote community garden space. The City of Olympia bought and donated the land at the Common Grounds next to Fertile Ground to be a site for a community garden. They are also installing a community garden near the TC Courthouse, low-income apartments. The City of Lacey is meeting today to explore how they can support community gardening.

6) Policy Agenda Items – Celeste report **TT Coordinating Council (TCCC)** will be meeting on the 15th of October to pull together information about what we need for support from them. This segues into policy support we need for 2019. Celeste asked that we think about this for our next meeting. Karen mentioned that TRPC is doing a five-year update on “Sustainable Thurston County.” She’ll be drafting a document and sharing it before she presents it to the TCCC.

8) Adjourn

Upcoming Meeting(s) & Agenda Items:

- November 7, 2018
 - TC Conservation District, 9:30-11:30 a.m.at least for November and December.
 - Collective Learning and 2019 priorities
 - Others suggestions for the agenda?