



Food System Committee

Thursday, November 10, 2022

3-4:30PM

Zoom and in-person

Minutes

Members Present:

Name	Sector	Present
Margaret Gerard	Local Sales Farming	X
Nikki Oleson	Processing/Distribution	X
Riley Sweeney	Food Access	X
Amber Noskoff	Nutrition/ Public Health	X
Sean Hopps	Labor	X
Krista Rome	Natural Resources	
Rhys-Thorvald Hansen	Whatcom Food Network	X
Paul Burrill	Fishing	X
	Export Sales Farming	

Others Present: Ali Jensen, WCHD and FSC staff; Eileen Horn, New Venture Advisors; Mike Cohen, Bellingham Food Bank; Joy Patterson, Birchwood resident.

Call to order: Riley started the meeting at 3:01 pm.

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum.

Approval of minutes

Sean motioned, Nikki seconded. All approved.

Public Comment

Ali reminded the committee to upload photos for the food system plan to the Google Drive. Ali shared the new food system web graphic.

Process Reminder

Ali and Eileen shared the process of arriving at the 80% draft thus far. An 80% draft is a document that has been prepared 80% of the way with the specific intention of asking for stakeholder feedback. Subcommittees met twice over the past two months to finesse the language in each draft goal.

Sections ready for draft approval

The group voted on each goal for 80% draft approval, which is ready to share in public draft for community feedback.

Goal 1: Nikki motioned to approve, Amber seconded, committee unanimously approved

Goal 3: Rhys motioned to approve, Sean seconded, committee unanimously approved

Goal 4: Paul motioned to approve, Sean seconded, committee unanimously approved

Goals 2 and 5 will be reviewed in a subcommittee meeting to finalize drafts for committee approval at the December meeting. There needs to be more “county-speak” language in these drafts.

Community Engagement

The group had asked for more opportunity for community engagement. They discussed a big open house towards the final development. Riley offered use of Pioneer Pavilion in Ferndale and offered support with food and childcare.

Whatcom Food Network offered to do some events- at least one virtual conversation around one or two of the goals.

Rhys is planning to solicit plan input in Pt. Roberts. Sean will go back to labor leadership. Nikki will meet with Ali to discuss how to share with Non-GMO project staff and others. Amber will host groups at either Options High School, Sterling meadows, housing, or Bellingham Goodwill. Paul will engage fishermen and invite them to the open house event. Paul and Sean discussed waterfront labor.

Ali will create a form for community engagement so members of the committee can easily put their notes in one place.

The group is tasked with coming to the December meeting with some idea of what they want to accomplish in the way of engagement.

Next Steps

Eileen and team will get us fully fleshed out draft. Ali will work on the design with the communications team. The group will shop this to the County Council and persuade the public. The Committee will sign an editorial for local newspapers and will ask SMEs for letters of support for the plan.

Riley reminded the group that once this plan passes, the committee will get to implement it.

Next meeting: December 15th 3-4:30.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55pm.