



Food System Committee

Thursday, January 26, 2023

4:15-5:45

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 | X |
| Rhys-Thorvald Hansen | Whatcom Food Network | X |
| Paul Burrill | Fishing | |
| | Export Sales Farming | |

Others Present: Ali Jensen, WCHD and FSC staff; Noelle Beecroft, WSU Extension; Sam Norris, Foothills Food Bank; Jessica Epsy; Yvonne; Patrick Durgan, Bellingham School District; Kamea Black, Whatcom Food Network.

Call to order: Riley started the meeting at 4:16 pm.

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum.

Approval of minutes

Amber motioned, Nikki seconded. All approved.

Public Comment

Patrick Durgan, Director of Food Services for Bellingham Public Schools, presented on [WA State House Bill 1238](#), which calls for universal meals for all K-12 students in Washington State. He encouraged committee members to [submit comments](#) and support this bill.

Review of Timeline

NVA, the consultant, is working on writing and compiling the plan. They will be available for our February and March meetings. We will start the process to share this plan with Council in March.

Review Food System Plan Comments

Since the last meeting, the community has been invited to provide feedback on the food system plan draft actions via email, conversations, and an online form. Ali compiled the comments (up through 3pm on 1/26) and shared them with the committee. There were 14 people who filled out the form and a couple of people who shared comments via email and via conversations. The comments were considered and relevant changes will be made to the actions. The survey is open through 1/27 and Ali will ensure new comments are considered. She is also planning to follow up with Meals On Wheels to discuss 4.1.8.

Prioritization of Actions

Riley called on the group to share some of their favorite [actions in the plan](#), so we can highlight those when roadshowing this plan. This plan is long and dense and we want people to be invested and excited even if they don't have time to read the whole plan.

Each member of the committee shared some of their perceived highlights:

Riley - 3.1.2 easy concept to understand and fills a big gap and dashboard

Sean - 1.1.1 important

Margaret - 2.1.1, 2.4.4

Rhys - agrees with Riley and would add 3.5.1 and 5.5.2

Nikki - 5.1.5

Amber - 4.1.5; 4.2.3, 5.5.2 engaging tribal partners and cultural liaisons

Krista - section 5, investing in protection

Sam and Noelle, members of the public, also weighed in, adding support for 4.1.5, 4.1.6, and 3.1.5.

Open House and Road Show

The Health Department, City of Ferndale (Riley), and the Whatcom Food Network will be hosting a big open house at the Pioneer Pavilion in Ferndale on Monday, February 13th from 6-7:30pm.

Ali and Kamea will create an invitation to the Open House for people to personally invite folks. There will be a press release going out. Riley made a [facebook event](#) for people to share. Margaret suggested each person commit to inviting 5 SMEs. If possible, committee members can show up to have representation and gather feedback.

Riley invited elected officials.

Other events:

Ali will be presenting at the Northwest Farm to Table Trade Meeting hosted by Sustainable Connections on 2/7. Riley and Ali will be giving a lunch and learn talk on 2/23 with Northwest Ag and Business Center.

Riley drafted a letter of support for the food system plan. Ali will share with committee members.

Goodbye members, Next meeting

Krista and Ambers' terms are up and they will not be renewing. The committee is better for having had them these past 4 years.

Next meeting will be sometime in late February and there will be 3 new members.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42pm.