

Piedmont Triad Regional Food Council

Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

12:00pm – 1:30pm || Remote Call: Zoom

Objectives:

Today's Objectives:

- Provide check in/updates: council members + PTRC
- Approve February meeting minutes
- Provide an update on the food council retreat

Attendance: (c) consultant; (s) technical support staff; (v) visitor

Alyzza May (v)	Gary Williams	LaShauna Austria
Andrea Sheetz (s)	Jane Sayner (v)	Michael Banner
Annie Mills	Jennifer Bedrosian (s)	Rachel Zimmer
Cori Lindsay	Jose Abreu	Savannah Moore
David Allen	Kaitlyn Lamaster (v)	
Eunice Calderón	Kana Miller	

12:00 PM Call to order

- Kana Miller called the meeting to order.
- LaShauna Austria led the check-in with the question: what are you looking forward to this spring?
 - Council answers included flowers, gardening, weather, spring growth, longer days, more time outside

12:10 PM Update from Guest: Alyzza May with the CEFS- Food Youth Initiative Mural Project

- Food Youth Initiative works with youth across the state to work on a collaborative mural for a food truck for So Good Pupasas. First in person gathering last week in Durham, a few of the youth are connected to organization in the Triad. They'd like to replicate this model. This council can support the work and young people – May will be painting month; June is the unveiling of the mural. Council is welcome to attend and/or have a table.
- Gary Williams shared that Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation is accepting letters of intent for art installations, due March 25th: <https://www.zsr.org/inclusive-public-art>

12:15 PM Food Systems Coordinator Update: Jennifer

- Attended the City of High Point Bloomberg Harvard Leadership Initiative last month, the meeting was focused on a community, shared-use kitchen. I have been selected to work in a team of 8 with City of HP Staff and others on this project over 6 weeks that culminates in a trip to NYC at the end of April.
- PTRC is following up with shared gifting projects that were awarded in Forsyth County last summer. We'll post updates on the website and on social media.
- Excited about the retreat next week!

- Checking in with Randolph County on Farm, Food, and Family Education Center- connected them with EDA for possible funding. Also checking in on former Council Member, Carl Mitchell- they are seeking funding in Stokes County to expand meat processing at Mitchell's. Looking at second round of USDA Funding.

12:20 PM Council updates:

- Savannah Moore, Stokes County- Partnering with Forsyth Tech to host a free agritourism conference:
[https://www.facebook.com/events/667191011286188/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A\[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D\]%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/667191011286188/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D]%7D)
 RSVP:
https://rsvp.forsythtech.edu/event/269/sessions?fbclid=IwAR3K84eljndyGbgq3HvW85IwU5R_Spryq4a8q6Fm-Ef_ce0Ex0HHHMuRUFs
- LaShauna Austria, Alamance County- Been doing a lot around farmer listening sessions and learning what folks need. Has worked with Kana Miller on this. Wrote a grant with Ann Meletzke to continue to build out what has been learned. Involved in Community Land Trust and Community Gardens.
- Michael Banner, Forsyth County- Island CultureZ going well, looking forward to building cooperative. Send out letters to Grassroots Agriculture/Urban Farmers about Shared Gifting with funds from PTRC and match. Looking at collective purchasing, best practices, uplift community. Looking to get into fundraising space.
- Jose Abreu, Guilford County-
 A lot of activity happening in High Point. Jose Started FarmFit Program, working with two young apprentices training for 9 months and at the end will receive city owned lot to manage or manage Growing High Point Lot. Working with 3 churches to use community gardens to donate to senior food box program- give to 18 citizens. Twin Oaks chosen as first urban farm to participate with Second Harvest Food Bank produce program to pantries, starting in fall. Asking for ARPA funds for the Bridge Project, converting old police station to food port with multiple agencies- farms, food hub, indoor growing space, basic medical, and shared use kitchen.
- Jane Sayner, Second Harvest Food Bank- focused on next season of FarmFresh program that Jose mentioned. Expanding to High Point, still in process of identifying two pantry sites to work with. Food Bank working with outside contractor to work on composting program.
- David Allen, Randolph County- met with EDA on funding for Farm, Food, and Family Education Center. Meeting with architect. Funds approved for Food System Position in Randolph County.
- Gary Williams, Forsyth County- approached Z. Smith Reynolds for mural project at SHARE. Building progress for SHARE is moving along. Always seeking funding. Mentioned that Kate B. Reynolds wants to fund health equity programming; Gary will be talking with them about Food RX programs. Supporting HOPE WS with food to support cooking classes. Hosting Community Fun Day- come on by! Free food and games.

- Rachel Zimmer, Forsyth County- stepped back after Food RX and looking at sustainability of Food RX and similar programs. Writing about outcomes and research with program. Has lots of patients that can benefit from Food RX and always interested in conversations around collections of outcomes. Not food related, but moved to collaborate on health equity studies to amplify community voice in the science world and looking at health outcomes, especially around Weaver Fire- following folks over 5 years. Working with Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods.
- Eunice Calderón, Davidson County- work is being done on local food guide with farmers profiles, local food. Farm Tour is coming soon and will share dates. Doing excellent work around marketing for farmers markets. Expanding opportunities for community gardens and how to keep people engaged and create intergenerational opportunities. Partnering with UNCG Recipe for Success.
- Kana Miller, CFSA, Forsyth County- CFSA's 25th Piedmont Farm Tour is happening April 23-24 <https://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/pft/> . Will share update later in agenda on Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program. Expanding FarmsShare program across the state.
- Cori Lindsay, Caswell County- working on Center for Education and Agriculture Development project (CEAD) raised about 15 million, need about 10 million more. Is working with farmer cooperative pulling together to market and distribute eggs and vegetables- if you anyone knows of farmers in Piedmont Region that would like to be part of cooperative, reach out. Caswell County is planning Earth Day Event, on April 22nd: conservation, agriculture, good stewardship, youth. Will send out flyers.
- Annie Mills, Randolph County- Excited about local food systems coordinator position. Working on farmers market promotion, the number one thing identified in farmers market survey. For promotion: video, signs, banners, and rack cards for distribution, and page on Heart of NC Tourism website to list markets. Lots of gardening classes with focus on food production for families. This spring working with 4H to distribute seeds to families in the county with instructions and activities. Upcoming bucket garden project in partnership with 4H and local soup kitchen to distribute to 50 families.
- Kaitlyn Lamaster, Montgomery County- Community gardens are ramping up across county, great volunteer group and funding. Visited new food pantry built last year, increased both refrigerator and freezer space by 3 times. Packing boxes for the whole county at the one location. Trying to find ways to get more local produce into boxes; community gardens will try to supplement that. Working with senior day care centers to provide fresh produce.

1:00 PM Approve February Meeting Minutes

- Council reviews minutes
- Kana Miller motioned to approve minutes; Jose Abreu seconded the motion
- Roll call vote; minutes approved

1:05PM Food Council Retreat Details

- Food Council Planning Retreat held next week: March 29th, 2022 at the Conference Center at GTCC in Colfax. Time is 9am-1pm with light breakfast at 8:30am. Lunch at 11:30am. We can

provide mileage reimbursement. MDC Rural Forward will facilitate. Please wear a mask. Jennifer will send more details this week with final agenda. We're looking forward to seeing you in person and sharing a meal!

1:15PM Adjourn