

## **Piedmont Triad Regional Food Council**

Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

12:00pm – 1:30pm || Remote Call: Zoom

### **Objectives:**

#### **Today's Objectives:**

- Provide check in/updates: council members + PTRC
- Approve May Meeting Minutes
- Review Action Plan Priorities

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

David Allen

Jose Abreu

Savannah Moore

Gary Williams

Kana Miller

Sherrie Wise Thomas

Jan Jones

Michael Banner

Zachary Holder (s)

Jane Sayner (v)

Pearl Dowell

Jennifer Bedrosian (s)

Rachel Zimmer

#### **12:00 PM Call to order**

- Kana Miller called the meeting to order.

#### **12:05 PM Council Check-in & PTRC updates**

- Council had a brief check-in with a prompting question, "What is your favorite summer food?" Responses included: peaches, blueberries, watermelon, tomatoes, nectarines, okra

#### **12:15 PM Council Updates**

- Kana Miller, CFSA- FarmShare program is up and running (using ARPA funding) with 12 food hub partners across the state. Sustainable Ag Conference is in person in Durham this fall- Nov 5-7<sup>th</sup>.
- Rachel Zimmer, Wake Health- Had questions about Door Dash delivery program for non-profits. Both Jennifer Bedrosian shared information from the webinar and contact information. Jan Jones shared information from Second Harvest and Door Dash partnership. The Mobile Health program has some extra funding and are thinking about re-starting the Food RX program, looking at grants like GusNIP. A paper she wrote with partners, including Second Harvest titled, "*Strategies and Lessons Learned from a Home Delivery Food Prescription Program for Older Adults*" was published in JOURNAL OF NUTRITION IN GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS. Rachel shared the publication with the council.
- Jan Jones, Triad Rep- Second Harvest Food Bank covers 18 counties in Northwest NC. The White House Conference on Hunger Health and Nutrition is upcoming and Second Harvest is hosting 2 listening sessions 1 in Forsyth and 1 in Guilford. Feeding America is also gathering data from those with lived experience. Keep Kids Fed Act 2022 was signed by President Biden over the weekend to extend summer feeding waivers through summer, not sure that programs will be able to pivot because programs were set to expire June 30<sup>th</sup>. Did include school lunch increase by .40 cents and breakfast by .10 cents. Costs of meals are going up, and increases vary across the state.

- Jane Sayner, Second Harvest Food Bank- they are continuing to develop box programs, in the third season of Farm Fresh, now called Farm Fresh Nourish (local produce box program) and will focus on chronic illness. Getting very positive feedback.
- Gary Williams, SHARE in Forsyth County- supporting Liberty Street Farmers Market by taking produce every Friday. Intend to do more pop-up markets and bought a van to assist with this. Grants recently received from American Heart Association and Blue Cross Blue Shield to reinvent Food RX program. Coordinating across groups- funding from several churches to support box distribution. Looking at GusNIP grant as well.
- David Allen, Randolph County Commissioner- Ag Center coming along with Food Hub and Commercial Kitchen. Have been doing site visits to learn and revamping designs based on learnings. Secured another 4 million from Randolph Electric and 900K grant from Rural Transformation- over 26 million secured. Total dollars are estimated at 29 million, so they're really close. Hoping to break ground by next year at this time.
- Jose Abreu, Growing High Point- lots going on and moving along. Waiting for county and city to approve an ARPA ask. Finalized public orchard.
- Michael Banner, Island CultureZ- frustrated with lack of investment in urban farming and no city water access in W-S. Inspired by Growing High Point and all that has been able to accomplish. Planning to meet with Tiffany White with the City of W-S around urban farming. Island CultureZ has been awarded funds from ZSR that they'll use to survey the community on poverty that they can customize; funds will also be used to get bus up and running. Finalist in public art project that was highly competitive. Scheduled to give a proposal to Ag Advisory Council – to finish Brushy Ford Greenway project. Could PTRC help with plans or zoning? Also meant to tell you that we have gotten a shared (homestead) kitchen space funded and also tomorrow we will be closing on our first land acquisition at our site where we first implemented our guerrilla gardening which created the impetus for the Urban Ag Ordinance, so it is a historic moment for us...
- Savannah Moore, Cooperative Extension Stokes County- Working with Walnut Cove Farmers Market and food demos. Ag Awareness day planned for Stokes County on November 5<sup>th</sup>- all are welcome. They'll have a lot of county agencies to have booths with information – handling animals, chainsaw safety, etc.
- Sherrie Wise Thomas, Wake Forest- working on collaborative project with Atrium Health in Charlotte to use Community Health Workers to assist with meeting basic needs, food insecurity, and resources for those with high blood pressure. Also working with older adults that score high on frailty index to get needs met.

**12:40PM** Food Systems Coordinator, Jennifer Bedrosian, provided the following updates from PTRC:

- Asked the group about PTRC CARES project in September- In lieu of our September in-person council meeting, we discussed PTRFC hosting a farmer's market at PTRC in Kernersville from 11am-1:30pm. The goal would be to build awareness of PTRFC and connections between food council and PTRC staff as well as to lift up your businesses. Food Council members that grow

food or sell products are welcome. Lunch will be provided. We can invite neighboring business if desired. The council was supportive – calendar item sent out to save the date.

- County Project Updates- Working with City of High Point to support a commercial shared use kitchen. Attended Randolph County focus groups on shared kitchen and food hub. Visiting Piedmont Processing Center in Hillsborough with Randolph County Ext. later in July.
- Applied for student intern opportunity with Community Food Strategies and North Carolina Local Food Council with focus on marketing, building awareness of PTRFC. Will find out in the next few weeks. There also may be an opportunity to work with a student in Hannah Harrison's class at Wake Forest.

**12:55PM Approve May Minutes**

- Council reviews minutes
- Jose motioned to approve minutes; David seconded the motion.
- Roll call vote and minutes approved

**1:00PM Review Action Plan Priorities**

- Jennifer Bedrosian shared a graphic to help us visualize priorities for the action planning meeting and asked for feedback.
  - Amplify Community Voice
  - Develop a one-year action plan
  - Build awareness of PTRFC
  - Connect farmers to resources
- Comments: 1) Jan Jones supports and understands what is there and commented about how food security is tied into the highlighted areas. Let's not lose that. Door Dash program, for example, is an action for working with transportation. 2) Michael Banner wants to lift up food sovereignty and wishes to add that to equity and justice. Town hall type meetings are important to find ways to engage and participate. 3) Kana Miller suggested that we shift the graphic to reflect that equity and justice is the lens through which all areas work. 4) Sherrie Wise Thomas agrees that underlying theme is equity and justice. Will need to look at how to drive actions forward and what committees we'll need to accomplish.
- Jennifer Bedrosian shared a Draft Agenda for comment. Will send out to full council for comments due by Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**1:30PM Adjourn** – action planning session will be held at PTRC on July 21<sup>st</sup> from 9am-1pm. Lunch is provided. The regular Tuesday July food council meeting will be cancelled to honor your time. Thanks!