

Piedmont Triad Regional Food Council

Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

12:00pm – 1:30pm || Remote Call: Zoom

Objectives:

Today's Objectives:

- Provide space for check in/updates: council members + PTRC
- Approve June meeting minutes
- Review Action Plan Meeting + Survey
- Discuss September Farmers Market Planning
- Presentation: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs)

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

Daniel Johnson (v)

Kana Miller

David Allen

Michael Banner

Eunice Calderon

Pearl Dowell

Gary Williams

Rachel Zimmer

Hannah Harrison

Savannah Moore

Jan Jones

Jennifer Bedrosian (s)

12:00 PM Welcome

- Council answered a check-in question in the chat about a highlight of the summer. Answers included vacations, weddings, engagements, beach, food, and family.
- Daniel Johnson, Piedmont Triad Farmers Market Manager is a recent applicant to the council and joined the meeting today. Guest intro: Daniel Johnson, Manager of the Piedmont Triad Farmers Market in Colfax. Run by NC Dept of Ag, 1 of 4 run by NCDA. Close to 250 vendors for 2022 season. Open 364 days per year and 7 days a week. About 50,000 people per week. Hoping to expand on market, food justice, inclusivity and arts.

12:05 PM Council Check-in & PTRC updates

- Jennifer Bedrosian gave an update on Montgomery County and food insecurity conversations- there was a 40,000 lbs. delivery of food to pantries from Church of Latter Days Saints that went out to 13-14 pantries and was helpful. Pantries were down to about a 2-week food supply prior to the delivery.

Jennifer asked council about potential participation in a Regional Community of Practice nationally for regional councils. This opportunity is a collaboration from USDA AMS, Ohio State University, Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, and Colorado State- seeking 10 food councils across the country to participate. Participation will require a 6-8 hour commitment over 18 months from 2-3 food council members. If this is something you are interested in, please let Jennifer know ASAP. The application is due 9/6.

- Gary Williams, Forsyth County with SHARE Harvest Market. 95% of build out is achieved. Hoping for grand opening to be early September and will invite council. They are hiring entry level jobs in food market retail. Attending Liberty Street Market in W-S with a booth, offering fruits/veg.
- Eunice Calderon, Davidson County- working towards Food Hub. Recently toured High Country Food Hub in Boone. Applying for grants. Working on Local Food Guide, if anyone in neighboring counties want to be included, reach out to Eunice.
- David Allen, Randolph County- working on Food Hub and Commercial Kitchen in Asheboro. The schematic phase will be presented to County Commissioners in the first week of September. If approved, they move to advanced design and hope to put out in early next year. County Commissioners Association is showing a film in Randolph County called Resilience Food for All. There is also a showing the first week of September at NCA&T.
- LaShauna Austria, Alamance County- just finished a study with Wake County and food hubs and is happy to have conversations and support other counties working on this.
- Rachel Zimmer, Forsyth County- has been engaged in research projects with Joy Williams. Submitted a grant with YMCA and The Produce Box, waiting to hear. Mobile Health program will be expanding with support from Atrium. Duke sent out a summary of NC recommendations for the White House Conference on Hunger, Health and Nutrition- will send out to group.
- Jan Jones, Second Harvest- Received a grant from Feeding America to host listening sessions for the White House Conference. They hosted two: one in Guilford and Forsyth, interviewing people with lived or living experience with food insecurity. Key takeaways: 1. Better paying jobs 2. Reduce barriers to receiving SNAP (especially for college students and drug felons) 3. Better access to medical services and mental health services 4. Increase SNAP benefits because they don't last through the month 5. Universal School Meals for school-aged children 6. Better access to food in rural areas 7. Addressing structural racism in federal programs.

12:40 PM Review Action Planning Meeting & Survey

- On July 21, 2022 the food council held an Action Planning Retreat from 9am-1pm at PTRC. MDC Rural Forward facilitated the meeting and sent a follow-up report to all council members for review. Council discussed 3 priorities: Build Awareness of PTRFC; Link Farmers to Resources; and Community Listening Sessions. Following those conversations, council further narrowed this to 2 areas of focus for 2022-23: 1. Build Awareness of PTRFC and 2. Outreach to non-active counties.
- Based on Action Planning conversations, Hannah Harrison put together a list of projects for the survey and is asking for council support to move forward with a social media project with students at Wake University. Hannah is asking to establish a subcommittee to help guide the project from October- December. All council members are asked to complete the survey to prioritize projects by Friday, August 24th.

1:00 PM Approve June Minutes

- Gary motioned to approve minutes. Kana seconded the motion
- Roll call vote and minutes approved.

1:05PM September Farmers Market Event

- PTRC and Food Council are hosting a Farmers Market open to PTRC staff on September 27th from 11am-1:30pm. Food Council members that are producers, sellers, makers, are invited to participate as a vendor. This is in lieu of our September council meeting.

1:15PM CEDS: PTRC

- Michelle Slaton, Economic Development and Businesses Supervisor at PTRC presented information on the upcoming Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and asked for food council input through a survey and/or listening sessions. Further information will be sent out to the council following the meeting.

1:30PM Adjourn- The September food council meeting will be a Farmers Market at PTRC! Council should have a calendar invite with further details. Please join us September 27th from 11am-1:30pm!