

## Piedmont Triad Regional Food Council

Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

12:00pm – 1:30pm || Remote Call: Zoom

### Objectives:

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

- Provide space for check in/updates: council members + PTRC
- Provide opportunity to comment on August meeting minutes
- Share food council survey results from Action Planning Session & discussion for next steps

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

David Allen

Michael Banner

Eunice Calderon

Pearl Dowell

Hannah Harrison

Rachel Zimmer

Jan Jones

Savannah Moore

Jennifer Bedrosian (s)

Sherrie Wise Thomas

Kana Miller

LaShauna Austria

#### **12:00 PM** Welcome

- Council debriefed about the **September Farmers Market at PTRC. Highlights from the market included:** beautiful weather, seeing people in person, see and support producers, food truck, beautiful produce and displays, renew acquaintances, fellowship/staff/camaraderie. **We wish there would have been:** more time for vendors to socialize with other vendors, want to make this a recurring event and get the word out for more people and possibly invite elected officials or other stakeholders to see what's going on and the work we are doing.

#### **12:05 PM** Council Updates

- LaShauna Austria, Alamance County- You all may be aware that Ann Meletzke recently left Healthy Alamance and Alamance Food Collaborative. The food collaborative is processing next steps and renew the energy.
- Jan Jones, Second Harvest- they are moving offices this week to Whitaker Park in a brand-new space.
  - Across the service area: As of 9/30, the Farm Fresh Nourish program has reached 2,613 households and almost 7,000 individuals in those households. Estimated 29 farms are participating with the program this season, majority are women-owned. They have provided over 25,000 lbs. fresh produce this season- is continuing on through November.
  - As of Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, Second Harvest started a pilot with Novant Health that includes 122 clinics in the greater Winston-Salem area. Individuals were screened for food insecurity and in immediate need of food, healthy meal boxes were available to address immediate needs. As of 9/30, 157 individuals have received food boxes.

- Second Harvest re-launched senior feeding program in Guilford in Alamance- PTRC released ARPA for that program.
  - Through a grant with Sheetz, Second Harvest provided healthy meals to children in Forsyth and Alamance County- served 9,800 meals. Seeking funding to continue and expand the program. DoorDash delivered the meals in Forsyth, and in Alamance parents came to the school to pick up meals.
- Rachel Zimmer, Forsyth County- Received USDA GusNIP funding for a prescription food box program with YMCA-Winston Salem and The Produce Box. Rachel has asked Produce Box to buy from local farmers as part of the program and working with Emma and Fair Share Farm to strategize working with farmers. They plan to feed 250 people for a year, bi-weekly. This is part of a research study: looking for changes in food insecurity, fruit/veg intake, mood measures, and what other costs are being saved as a result of the program. Health coaching will be provided by YMCA. Hoping to make the case for more programs like this so they don't have to keep seeking grant funding. There will be a public announcement from USDA on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Kana Miller, Forsyth County- Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has signed agreement with NC for the Local Food Promotion Program. NCSA will announce soon. Exciting to see opportunity for NC! CFSA will expand the FarmShare program into other areas of the state to work with food hubs in 2023-2024.
- David Allen, Randolph County- Thanked Eunice and Jennifer for attending the film screening for Resilience Food For All and sitting on the panel discussion in Asheboro last week.
- Eunice Calderón, Davidson County- Piedmont Fresh has established an opportunity for Davidson County residents to purchase local food within 100 miles of Thomasville online: <https://piedmontfresh.com/>. If anyone is interested in being a vendor, you can submit online. Also highlighting farmers as part of the program to see who is behind the farm and operations.
- Jennifer Bedrosian, PTRC-
  - NC State University was awarded a USDA Regional Food System Partnership Grant: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/2022RFSPDescriptionofFundedProjects.pdf>. PTRC is a partner, along with 12 other organizations as part of the 3-year project.
  - USDA Regional Food Business Centers grant opportunity is out: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/rfbcp> to fund a minimum of 6 business centers across the US, awarded for 5 years. NCA&T is taking the lead for a Southeast Center. Reach out to Jennifer if you have specific questions or would like info from the USDA webinars. Kana Miller also mentioned a sign on letter that was drafted requesting an application extension and funding additional centers- reach out if you'd like to see the letter or sign on.
  - PTRC is accepting applications for new members for 2023, especially in Caswell, Davie, Montgomery, Rockingham, and Yadkin.
- Hannah Harrison, Forsyth County- Students at Wake Forest have been collaborating with a PTRC subcommittee to develop a social media project. They pitched project idea last week, and propose a series of well-thought out posts that feature data, a community profile, and an action

step. If you'd like further details, reach out to Hannah. Key items for PTRFC: 1. Students will be reaching out to council members to conduct interviews 2. The final project presentation is in December. Can we change the Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> council meeting time to accommodate their schedule?

- Council took a vote to change the time of the 12/6 meeting to 2pm. There was consensus to change the time. Jennifer will update calendar invite.

**1:00 PM Approve August Minutes**

- Council reviewed and approved August minutes

**1:05PM Discussion around Action Plan**

- Council reviewed action plan survey results from August.
- Council will form a subcommittee to discuss the top priority of hosting an event/organization resource fair. Jennifer will reach out to schedule meetings in November/December. If you're interested in joining this group, reach out to Jennifer.

**1:15PM Adjourn**- No November meeting. Next council meeting (in-person) December 6<sup>th</sup> at PTRC at 2pm!