

## **Piedmont Triad Regional Food Council**

Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

1-2:30 pm || Zoom

### Objectives:

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

- Check in with council members
- Share upcoming opportunities in the region
- Subcommittee presents Triad Food Symposium for council feedback
- Approve December meeting minutes

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

Beth Steelman (v)

Kana Miller

Courtney Alston (v)

Margaret Gibbons (v)

Daniel Johnson (v)

Michael Banner

David Allen

Pearl Dowell

Eunice Calderon

Sherrie Wise Thomas

Jan Jones

Sophie Farlow (v)

Jennifer Bedrosian (s)

Savanna Moore (v)

Jose Abreu

Jose Colon (s)

#### **1:00 PM Welcome**

- Check in question: What is the one non-work-related event/activity you are looking forward to in 2023? (hiking, in person gatherings, getting married, a real vacation, year of the trail)

#### **1:15 PM Opportunities and Updates**

- BCBSNC, [Advancing Food Equity Grant](#) is open now with informational webinar on 1/31
- Community Food Strategies, [Statewide Gathering](#) in March- scholarships available
- Carl Mitchell reached out to see if anyone has business contacts that might be interested in sharing space with Mitchell's Butchery in a 37,000 square foot building. They are looking for a partner(s) to lease out about 18,000-20,000 square feet. Contact Jennifer or Carl if you have interest or leads. We'll invite Carl to give an update at the next food council meeting.
- Upcoming Racial Equity in the Food System Opportunities:
  - Feb 11 - [Building Racial Equity in Land, Food, and Health Systems](#), Rutherfordton
  - February 7 & 8: [Register for Level 1 Workshop Here](#) (virtual)
  - March 7 & 8: [Register for Level 2 Workshop Here](#) (virtual)
- Jennifer is requesting food council members to assist with interviews for social media posts. This could be an opportunity to highlight a person, organization, or farmer that you work with. Email Jennifer if you are interested.
- PTRFC is recruiting new food council members through February. [Application is here.](#)

### **1:30 PM Council Member Updates**

What's happening in your county: Any success stories around local foods work from 2022 or plans/goals for 2023 with your organization that you would like to share? Any pinch points or resources that are needed?

- Courtney Alston Wilson - Randolph County/Guilford County – 6<sup>th</sup> generation farmer, live century farm (been there 152 years). Created vegetable processing facility. A big win for 2022 was that Glow House Society was named new RPN host through USDA (launched on November 9<sup>th</sup>), out of 22 states, 5 people were chosen out of NC. Rural Partner Network (RPN) identifies and establishes partnerships and relationships to fill gaps in community and supply chain, specifically underserved communities. Topics discussed, are health insurance access to healthy foods access. RPN can work with local governments, community colleges, and a variety of organizations.
- Rachel Zimmer- Atrium Health- re-starting Food RX program, hoping to start in Feb. Had to change it because SNAP benefits have been cut, so they increased amount of food provided. Year-long research study to look at impacts on diet and mood, focusing on older adults but not exclusively. Working with FRAC to develop healthcare provider survey- FRAC is looking for other partners to help them gather data to advocate for the SNAP benefits to be increased back again. Mobile program is also moving under Atrium Health.
- Jose Abreu – Growing High Point- The food prescription program is kicking off in May. Collaborating with Kitchenology as source for patients. Jose has an upcoming 9-month training for anyone interested in urban farming. Also, partnering with High Point Leadership for urban u-pick berry operation, also partnering with a church to receive volunteers to help re-build and engage communities.
- Eunice Calderon- Davidson County Local Food network – Retreat on Friday. Success with community garden. Piedmont Fresh (order food online) – looking for more vendors within 100 miles of Thomasville. There is currently a subscription with at 10% match.  
<https://piedmontfresh.com/>
- Jan Jones – Second Harvest Food Bank- provided context for the emergency allotments that were part of COVID waivers: this allowed every household that receives SNAP benefits to receive the full allotment for their household size. For one-person household the maximum allotment was \$281. February is last month to receive those benefits- estimated decrease of \$80 (per person) decrease to monthly benefits. Reached out to Eunice and Grace Kanoy in Davidson County- about DoorDash program, hoping to begin soon to deliver meals to senior homes (for those that are not receiving meals through Meals on Wheels or Congregate)
- David Allen-Randolph County- update on Farm Food and Family Education Center (F3EC), will entail a food hub, commercial kitchen, offices, digital learning lab, arena for demonstration. In design phase now, looking at construction and hoping to break ground towards the end of the year. Sophie has worked a lot on the food hub and commercial kitchen. Need a bit more funding due to rise of construction costs and inflation.
- Michael Banner- Island CultureZ- Working on building infrastructure and re-launch the board. Working on food council and convening more regularly and will pay participants. Goal is to build out an action plan towards land and food sovereignty. They have been able to buy 2 properties and lease 2 other properties in neighborhood. Trying to get food council more involved, expand, and take ownership. Building an app- called Thrive Lights- helps guide community member to resources, especially to identify resources outside of government (food producers, markets, drug counselors, etc.) Will enter data to open collective to be transparent. Working on inclusive public art installation: Building walipini (underground greenhouse). Location already established.

- Kana Miller- CFSA listserve, Guilford County put out a call for proposal for farmers interested in leasing parcels of land. Need farm business plan established. Additional info below:
  - Guilford County Purchasing Department is soliciting proposals from qualified Farmers interested in leasing parcels (Crop Parcel A–F and Pasture Parcels A–F) as outlined below for agricultural farmland located on or near **7315 Howerton Road, Gibsonville, NC 27249**. The purpose and intent of the Request for Proposal (RFP) is to obtain experienced and qualified Farmers describing their plan for the land including crop, rotation, watering or irrigation. The County invites all interested and qualified Farmers who meet the requirements to submit a response to this RFP. Please see link below to review all the attachments for this request for proposal.
  - **Click open bids – Bid Number 20116**
  - <https://guilfordcountync.munisselfservice.com/Vendors/VBids/SearchResults.aspx>
- Sophie Farlow- Randolph County Extension- Women in AG- Event scheduled for 2/1/2023 (multi-county event) – in Moore County
- Savannah Moore – Stokes County Cooperative Extension- Agritourism conference in Danbury. Almost fully registered, about 45 people.
- Pearl Dowell (emailed her update)- Surry County- Will be working with Dr. Bradshaw and Memorial Industrial to build a similar farm in Wilkes County on land that we own, growing ethnic crops. The intended population is people from the Caribbean, Asian, African and African American. We will grow in a green house and have requested funds from several sources to purchase a 40-foot hydroponic freight container farm that is portable. We will distribute food in Wilkes, Surry, Yadkin and Forsyth Counties.

#### 2:00 Subcommittee Presentation & Discussion

- Triad Food Symposium Proposal- feedback (Jennifer) – Putting together a proposal for putting together Triad Food Symposium. Jennifer shared one pager. Creating a subcommittee to plan this event.

Kana Miller- Sounds like a great idea. Excited about proposal. Is there a way to emphasize in the proposal that this event focuses on regional approach, vs statewide?

Sherrie- This sounds great to me

Eunice- Will you need letters of support? Not needed.

Rachel- What is the ask of council members? Presentations? Come up with breakouts? Yes, we'll need lots of council input.

Jennifer- Date not settled. Probably sometime around September – either Tuesday or Wednesday.

- Next Steps – present to BCBSNC Foundation and PTRC Leadership for approval

#### 2:15 Council Items for Approval Jennifer

- December Minutes

#### 2:20 Adjourn

- Next meeting on Zoom, February 28<sup>th</sup> 1-2:30pm