



Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023

Zoom | 1PM

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

Gary Williams, Michael Banner, Courtney Alston Wilson, Jan Jones, Daniel Johnson, Sophie Farlow, Jennifer Bedrosian (s), Samira Dahdah, Jose Colon (s), Jose Abreu, Kana Miller, LaShauna Austria, Rachel Zimmer, Savannah Moore, Sheneka Foskey, Sherrie Wise Thomas, Jenn Palmer (v), Christopher Gergen (v)

1:00 Welcome: Kana Miller (co-chair) kicked off the meeting.

- Check in & Intros: How are you taking care of yourself right now- what's a grounding practice you use?
 - Drinking cortados, relaxing in a hammock, hiking Pisgah National Forest, brewing family tea recipe, walks, rocking on porch in rocking chair, baking bread, mindfulness practice, morning mediation with the ancestors, nature, yoga, getting fresh air and sunshine.

1:05 Opportunities and Updates: Jennifer Bedrosian updated the council on the following opportunities.

- Social Media posts- Check out socials! Subcommittee is starting interviews. Please add to the list, if you have suggestions. Let Jennifer know if you'd like to help with interviews or if you would like to be interviewed.
- [USDA Seeks Members for Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production | USDA](#)
 - Courtney Alston-Wilson is considering an application to run, may ask for PTRFC support to join.
- [Golden Leaf Foundation Gathering](#): May 25th 9:30am-1pm
- Triad Food System Symposium
 - Advisory Team met yesterday – 3 subcommittees have formed to plan (1. Farmers market/Resource Fair; 2. Programming; and 3. Break-outs. Please let Jennifer know if you'd like to join one. The next full advisory team meeting is on June 26th at 3pm.
- Send ideas for guest speakers at council meetings to Jennifer. We've reached out to Rachel Zimmer for a presentation on the USDA Food RX project; Kana Miller for a farmSHARE update, and Piedmont Fresh in Davidson County.

1:15 Guest Speaker: Jenn Palmer and Christopher Gergen, [4P Foods](#)

- 4P Foods is a wholesale food distributor directly connecting farmers to restaurants, hospitals, universities, etc. Good connections with Elon, High Point University, and UNC-Chapel Hill. They

are planning an event in Caswell County on June 6th (10am-12pm) at Co-Square space in Yanceyville and with chefs at Elon, connecting Piedmont Progressive Farmers Coop with chefs. Aramark recently awarded PPFC with a grant to expand their operations. Presentation on 4PFoods and the work they are doing in the Triad (part of this is direct to consumer sales and wholesale). Food council is invited to attend, send email Jennifer by May 31st if you'd like to attend.

- Christopher Gergen joined later by phone and reiterated what Jenn said earlier and his excitement about building the food ecosystem in the Triad.

1:30PM Council Member Updates

Gary, from SHARE Harvest Market, turned in USDA GusNIP grant for Food RX and feeling hopeful. Project start date if awarded will begin October 1, 2023. Last week, BCBSNC was there for site visit and group meeting and went well.

Savannah Family Consumer Sciences Agent and Local Foods Coordinator with Stokes County Extension- Walnut Cove Farmers Market opening next week (runs Thursdays from 11am-1pm) and pop-up markets before concert series. Still looking for vendors: <https://stokes.ces.ncsu.edu/stokes-county-small-farms-horticulture/walnut-cove-farmers-market/>

Courtney- Glow House Ag is working on Ray Warren Project with Housing Authority in Greensboro as well as putting in community garden at Hall Tower on N. Church Steet. Stay tuned for grand opening! Ongoing they are offering garden and cooking classes with chefs.

- Samira asked who would maintain garden on regular basis. Garden Club will maintain with monthly upkeep from Glow House. If they ever need education for children, Recipe 4 Success is available, though Hall Tower is older adults. Glow House is working with 17 properties so there may be other opportunities.

Jan Jones, Director of Public Policy, Second Harvest Food Bank- in policy, things are really happening now. Watching debt ceiling negotiations and asking folks to reach out elected officials in DC. A proposed plan expands work requirements for food aid to older adults age 55; this means about 270K anticipated to lose benefits and coupled with emergency benefits ending, it will impact households and retailers. Second Harvest recently received grant from Feeding America from Elevating Voices: Power Summit-sending a person with lived experience to DC for 4 days/3nights to meet with others with lived experience and share stories and priorities for Farm Bill. Renee Wisely from Second Harvest who has lived experience was selected in a competitive process.

Attended Anti-Hunger conference earlier this month.

Expanding medically tailored meals program, working with Atrium Wake to work with patients with hypertension, renal disease, and sending meals.

Farm Fresh Nourish has kicked off working with local growers. Looking for additional growers to participate this year and next to get meals to those seeking food assistance.

Rachel Zimmer, healthcare provider Atrium Wake Forest Baptist Health- recently integrated with new national organization, Aurora Health, and building a new department. Huge undertaking to develop strategy around addressing community health in a more equitable way.

Food RX research program is running, finish enrollment by the end of the month. Does not plan to expand due to other obligations. Also working with Gary and SHARE to get mobile health program patients enrolled into their program.

Working with Food Research & Actions Center (FRAC) to complete a national survey of healthcare providers across the nation who provide care for older adults to determine their comfort with assessing and addressing food insecurity in clinical setting. June 1st they will begin mandatory screening patients for social risk factors in whole health system. Rachel is worried that capacity isn't there to meet the need of what they will find in clinical settings. Thinking about this strategically over the last few months.

1:40pm Council Business

- Approve April Minutes approved

1:45pm Adjourn

- Next Council Meeting: June 27th in person with lunch at 12pm; meeting at 1pm