



Food System Committee

Wednesday, May 15th, 2019

5:30-7:00 PM

Lynden Library

216 4th St Lynden, WA

Minutes

Members Present:

Name	Sector	Present
Andy Enfield	Export Sales Farming	X
Margaret Gerard	Local Sales Farming	X
Riley Starks	Fishing	X
Adrienne Renz	Processing/Distribution	X
Riley Sweeney	Food Access	X
Amber Noskoff	Nutrition/ Public Health	X
Maureen Darras	Labor	X
Krista Rome	Natural Resources	X
Mardi Solomon	Whatcom Food Network	X

Staff: Ali Jensen, WCHD

Call to order: Riley started the meeting at 5:35.

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Approval of minutes

Need date correction 12/20 should have been 1/20. Approved minutes with amendment.

Moved: Margaret; 2nd Amber. Approved.

Public Comment

No public comment

Values Discussion

Values are to be pillars for the food system plan and the process. The group agreed to brainstorm shared principles to guide the plan.

Group brainstormed several values and identified five categories:

Ecological Stewardship: sustainable, waste reduction, carbon neutral at every link, restorative, regenerative, ecological resilience, environment, animal welfare.

Healthy workers, land, water, sky – could be part of a vision

Thriving local economy – cooperativism, worker justice

Equitable wages, valued workforce, healthy work space

Workforce should be tied into economy, which relies on people having what they need to thrive.

Equitable

Equitable wages, land access & food access are human rights, transparent, inclusive, community informed

Food is a human right.

Access to nutritious food

Food sovereignty (Maureen's definition: The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically-sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and ag systems). The group will determine how the whole community is part of the discussion about food.

Ali will write up definitions and we all will keep brainstorming about them.

Interview Guide Planning

The group discussed the process of interviewing subject matter experts. The point of the interviews is to gather information for the Committee to draft the plan and ground truth the plan.

The Committee has been compiling a list of people to interview in the Google Doc. Next meeting, the group will draft the interview questions. The interviews will convene for the remainder of the year.

Committee members will interview subject matter experts from their sectors to get ideas to inform the food system plan and update the community food assessment.

The interview questions will be uniform across sectors, but will allow for some nuance, depending on who is being interviewed.

The group discussed developing a survey to get more input, but decided external quantitative data would be sufficient.

For homework, the group is tasked with generating questions informed by the values the group came up with.

Ali will send the CFA questions to use as a starting place. She will also send values to the group.

Riley Sweeney will draft the intro and outro for the interviews.

Announcements

- Whatcom Food Network Spring Forum is tomorrow, 2:00-5:00 at Squalicum Boat House
- Lummi Island Wild may be selling salmon to the Bellingham School district which is something they have tried to do for years.
- June 18, Ali & Riley will speak to County Council giving them an annual report.

- National New Farmers Coalition Group kickoff tomorrow at K2, May 22, 6:30-9.
- CMFC/SC & Young farmers coalition meeting May 23 at Rabbit Fields Farm in Mt. Vernon
- Season opener for Twin Sisters Farmers Market at North Fork Brewery, May 28, 6-8:00
- June 1 is Farmers Day parade and start of the Lynden farmers market

Homework and Next Meeting

Homework is to create a long list of questions, to be narrowed next meeting

Next Meeting is from 4:00-6:00pm at the Garden Level Conference Room in Bellingham.