



Food System Committee

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

4:30-6:00 PM

Zoom and in-person

Minutes

Members Present:

Name	Sector	Present
Margaret Gerard	Local Sales Farming	X
Nikki Oleson	Processing/Distribution	
Sierra Crook	Food Access	X
Noelle Beecroft	Nutrition/ Public Health	X
Sean Hopps	Labor	X
Trevor Gearhart	Natural Resources	X
Rhys-Thorvald Hansen	Whatcom Food Network	X
Paul Burrill	Fishing	
Rob Dhaliwal	Export Sales Farming	X

Others Present: Ali Jensen

Call to order: Rhys-Thorvald started the meeting at 4:32 pm.

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum

Approval of minutes

Rhys motioned to approve, Noelle seconded the approval of the April 24th minutes. All approved.

Public Comment

Noelle asked for people to ask their networks if anyone wants to serve on the Foothills Food Bank board. They are specifically seeking a grant writer.

Trevor reminded the group of Alan Chapman's interest in coordinating advisory boards around the Comp Plan update. Sean and Trevor will both sit in that group.

Task Force Reports

The task forces were created for each goal area and has a FSC member as lead. Task Forces 5 and 2 are scheduled to meet on June 4th. Task Force 3 is still scheduling a meeting.

Task Force 4 (food access) met on May 7th. Noelle is the lead. She was joined by Ali, Sierra, and Laura Ridenour. The group discussed the actions in the Food System Plan Goal 4 area and decided on the following three to focus on first:

- 4.2.3 Engage tribal partners and cultural liaisons to learn about barriers to and opportunities for hunting, foraging, and fishing as strategies to increase access to healthy food.

- 4.3.1 Adequately fund the Whatcom County Food Bank Network to meet the dramatic increase in food insecure individuals in the county; ensure that a portion of the increased funding to food banks is directed to purchase food directly from Whatcom County producers.
- 4.3.2 Ensure consistent funding for and increase the number of farmers markets and food outlets that accept nutrition incentive programs for SNAP recipients

Task Force 1 met and talked about who they would to engage and invite to the Task Force. They identified some specific groups to reach out to.

Report to Council Review and Approval

Rhys is presenting to the County Council on June 18th. They prepared a draft report for Council and broader community. The Food System Committee reflected on the report and added edits. The final report is available [here](#).

Wrap Up

Next meeting is June 25th, 2024 at 4:30. Meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.