

Interest Form for Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council

*The purpose of this form is to obtain information for use in making appointments to the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council, and to assist the City and County in making inquiries concerning the qualifications of applicants for appointment. Please note that information provided in this document is **public information**, with the exception of the confidential section. (Information in the confidential section will only be disclosed as required by law.) If you have a recently prepared biography or resumé, please attach it to this form*

Please return application, resumé and any additional information to:
Office of Neighborhood Involvement, 1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 110, Portland, OR 97204
Applications can also be submitted by email to: patrick.philpott@portlandoregon.gov

To help ensure equal access to programs, services and activities, the City and County will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Call 503-823-2030 or 503-823-4000 with such requests.

Name: Michael L Doherty
 First Middle Initial Last
Mailing Address: 504 NE Thompson ST, Portland, OR, 97212

Occupation: Farmer

Daytime Phone: 415.307.2920 Email: the.mike.doherty@gmail.com

Biography/Resumé Attached? ☒ Yes ☐ No

List education, including degree(s) earned:

BA-Urban Studies-San Francisco State University
BA-History-San Francisco State University
OSU Master Gardener Training
OSU Certified Organic Gardening Training

A. Reasons for wanting to serve on this group:

Growing up in a large family on a limited budget, my access to the diversity and seasonality of produce was lacking. Many years later, I still recall seeing artichokes in the grocery store for the first time and having to be guided through the cooking and eating process by a native west coaster. I moved to the west coast from Massachusetts in 1997, and since then, I have become increasingly enthusiastic about local and seasonal food systems. The abundance of foods has led me on a path to experiment with new vegetables in my own kitchen and in the garden, culminating in a life changing realization: *I want to directly participate in food production so that I can introduce new, healthy eating options to others who are unfamiliar with Oregon's bounty provided by local farmers.* I am very interested in serving on the food policy council so that I can participate in the assurance of food security, food equity, and the availability of healthy foods to all citizens.

I began work as a farm apprentice at Zenger Farm, a job that allows me to learn the craft of farming for an organization whose ideals of bringing affordable, healthy food to the underserved Powellhurst-Gilbert and Lents

neighborhoods. Armed with the knowledge of growing food in Portland, I have also worked with my neighborhood association and a local non-profit to expand access to vegetables by constructing a community garden. I feel that a position on the Food Policy Council would be a logical next step for me to share my passion of urban farming and healthy eating with the greater community.

B. List skills, knowledge or affiliations that would be relevant to the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council:

Skilled experience in:

- working directly with food insecure families,
- the challenges of identifying environmentally suitable locations for urban agriculture,
- the challenges of sourcing large quantities of local organic food in Portland,
- project management and evaluating primary research

Knowledge of:

- the challenges to urban food production,
- methods for promoting stakeholder involvement,
- land-use planning,
- the history and goals of the food policy council, including participating in the development the food action plan and urban food zoning outreach meetings,
- knowledge of the local urban farming movement and local stakeholders

Affiliations:

- Eliot Neighborhood Association (Board member),
- Friends of Family Farmers (Member),
- Oregon Master Gardener

C. List work or volunteer experience that would add to your expertise for this Board/Commission

<u>Dates (from/to)</u>	<u>Employer or Volunteer Activity</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>
4/11 to Present	Zenger Farm	Farm Apprentice/Farmers Market
1/11 to Present	OSU Master Gardener	Gardening Outreach
10/10 to Present	Eliot Neighborhood Association	Board Member and Community Garden Liaison
10/10 to Present	Project Grow	Urban Farm/Community Garden Volunteer
9/10 to Present	Healthy Eating on a Budget workshops - Zenger Farm	Food and Container Gardening Educator
8/95 to 8/10	Arcadis, U.S.	Environmental Project Manager

D. List your experience working on diverse teams or committees:

I have direct experience working with diverse groups;

- as a member of the Eliot Neighborhood Association;
- while developing a community garden plan for the Eliot Neighborhood,
- while participating in the various policy development workshops associated with the food action plan last fall;
- while participating in the urban food zoning workshops this summer; and

- as both a participant and presenter at community outreach events associated with environmental clean ups.

Additionally on both the farm and in my previous professional experience, projects were often completed in a cooperative team environment where problem solving was a group exercise that required the sharing and consideration of a diverse set of opinions.

E. Briefly describe your experience and/or interest in advancing effective food policy.

During a recent CSA pick up at Zenger Farm, I was helping a new participant pack up her box of vegetables. While she was appreciatively sorting and commenting on the vibrancy of the colors, she held up a bunch of especially colorful rainbow chard and asked “spinach?” It is this unfamiliarity with fresh vegetables that I want to help address. My interest in effectively advancing food policy is rooted such that everyone, regardless of socio-economic class or neighborhood in which they live, can have access to a large array of fresh, affordable produce AND have the confidence to cook and prepare healthful meals, with a bit of discovery along the way.

Teaching cooking (with seasonal vegetables) and gardening classes to low income families has given me experience with advancing food policy at the grassroots level. Additionally, through the Master Gardener program, I have conducted outreach to the community and provided expert plant advice.

I have also participated in public outreach events for the Food Action Plan and Portland’s Urban Food Zoning Code update.

Earlier this year, I visited Salem to directly lobby my State Senator and State Representative for changes to the State’s agricultural policies, which included supporting the Farm to School Programs and allowing the sale of value-added goods which were grown and processed on the farm.

My signature affirms that all information contained herein is true to the best of my knowledge, and that I understand that any misstatement of fact or misrepresentation of credentials may result in this application being disqualified from further consideration.

Signature:



Date: 10/17/11

Michael L. Doherty

504 NE Thompson St. • Portland, OR 97212 • (415) 307-2920 • the.mike.doherty@gmail.com

OBJECTIVE: An appointment to the food policy council which will allow me to share my passion for local food and my excitement to expand urban agriculture opportunities in Portland

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2010-2011: Farm Apprentice and Volunteer Educator

Zenger Farm, Portland

- Farm Crew – Daily activities may include tending the fields and poultry flocks; direct seeding or seeding into flats; transplanting starts; installing row cover; managing compost piles; manufacturing or repairing irrigation lines; weeding or fertilizing row crops; tilling soil; harvesting and staffing the farmers' market booth; sorting vegetables for restaurant delivery; and promoting the farm at neighborhood outreach events.
- Educator for Zenger Farm's "Healthy Eating on a Budget" and "Container Gardening" Workshops – Work included discussing menu planning and healthy food alternatives; promoting the growing of fresh seasonal vegetables and demonstrating cooking and gardening methods to low income residents of the Lents and Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhoods.
- Volunteer Leader – Lead work parties in field activities on the farm and provided mentorship to Portland Youth Builder vocational training students.

1995-2010: Certified Project Manager

ARCADIS U.S., Inc., Portland

- Project Manager – Managed construction site clearing and grubbing activities, and subcontractors; wrote health and safety plans and closure reports; assigned tasks to field personnel; reviewed and approved contracts and invoices; tracked project budgets; and presented monthly updates to senior management and regulatory bodies.
- Shop Technician – Oversaw the field support shop; maintained environmental sampling equipment, vehicles, and small engine powered equipment (generators, pumps, steam cleaners). Ordered consumable field supplies, tracked equipment usage and maintenance, and maintained the warehouse.
- Field Technician – Conducted all season field sampling of soil, water and aquifers to monitor environmental clean-up activities. Completed site audits and chemical inventories; trained new field personnel in the techniques of material sampling; and maintained clear and organized project documentation should litigation be required.

GARDEN RELATED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT EXPERIENCE:

2011: Volunteer Intern

OSU Master Gardeners, Portland

- Master Gardener Community Service Hours – Completed my Master Gardener training in the winter of 2011 and have regularly volunteered at the demonstration garden at the Learning Gardens Laboratory and at Pittock Mansion. Garden activities included maintaining the garden beds; removing invasive ivy; pruning trees, shrubs and caneberreries; planting new starts and bulbs; and harvesting for the food bank. Outreach activities included answering vegetable gardening questions at Farmers' Markets and on the Master Gardener's hotline.

2010-11: Board Member/Community Garden Liaison

Eliot Neighborhood Association, Portland

- Board lead for establishing a cooperative garden at Legacy Emanuel Hospital. My responsibilities included developing a partnership between the Eliot Neighborhood Association, the Lloyd District Community Association, Legacy Emanuel Hospital and the non-profit Project Grow to establish an urban demonstration farm and community garden. Participated in work parties to install garden beds and fencing in preparation for planting a 1 acre vegetable garden in the spring of 2012.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

2011: Growing Farms-Small Farm Management

Oregon State University Extension

2011: Master Gardener Training

Oregon State University Extension

2010: Certified Organic Gardener Training

Oregon State University Extension

2004: BA Urban Studies and BA History

San Francisco State University