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## FAB

**Katie Lynd** <katie.lynd@multco.us>

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To: Marina BAKER <marina.baker@multco.us>

Cc: Adrien SCHLESS MEIER <adrien.schlessmeier@multco.us>

Thanks Marina!

Good Morning Chair Cogen, Commissioners

My name is Katie Lynd and I am the Food Policy Coordinator in the Office of Sustainability. With me today is Adrien Schless-Meier, AmeriCorp Member serving in our office as a Sustainability Specialist.

Today we are presenting on the formation and appointment for a Food Advisory Board.

In 2002, through Resolution 02-093, Multnomah County and the City of Portland formed the Portland-Multnomah Food Policy Council - known as the FPC - a sub-committee to the Sustainable Development Commission.

The FPC served as a citizen-based advisory council to the City of Portland and Multnomah County from 2002-2012 to bring citizens and professionals together from the region to address food system issues and other policy initiatives in the current regional food system.

Some of the most notable accomplishments of the FPC include supporting work of the Multnomah County Health Department's Community Transformation Grant, Healthy Food Retail, The Multnomah Food Initiative and Action Plan, as well as numerous City projects including the Food Zoning Code Update.

The FPC was dissolved in 2012 after the council and staff found that Multnomah County's particular needs for exploring how the food system can help our most vulnerable populations differ from the needs of the City of Portland.

Staff recommended putting together a team that balances service providers with system experts to advise on specific ways Multnomah County services, departments and offices can leverage the local food system in order to improve the health, safety, equity, and prosperity of the community.

6 members of the FAB have a significant professional or community role representing a specific or multiple food system perspectives (e.g., farmers,

food-related businesses or nonprofit entities, academics, nutritionists, etc.)

The other 6 members have a significant professional role in the delivery of services to underserved and vulnerable populations (e.g., service providers for the homeless, community organizers, health clinics, etc.)

The FAB will be staffed by the Office of Sustainability and will meet quarterly to do three things:

- 1) provide input on selected issues, policies, and programs as requested,
- 2) provide input on the annual Multnomah County Food Justice Summit, and
- 3) engage the broader food community as necessary to implement county goals.

The FAB will not make direct recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners or the Chair; rather, they will provide feedback about County policies, and programs directly to staff and the Office of Sustainability.

Adrien is now going to share a bit about our recruitment process and the team we have assembled for appointment.

Good morning Chair Cogen and Commissioners. As Katie mentioned, my name is Adrien Schless-Meier, AmeriCorps member in the Office of Sustainability, and I will provide background on our recruitment and appointment process.

Convening a new Food Advisory Board allowed us the opportunity to reevaluate our outreach and recruitment methods using the Equity and Empowerment Lens, as well as to begin tracking baseline demographic data on our applicant pool in order to assess future recruitment processes.

We met with Sonali Balajee from the Office of Diversity and Equity, who advised us on applying the lens as we developed our outreach strategy, the language on our application and recruitment flier, and our scoring criteria.

We then met with each Commissioner district, who provided their input regarding various organizations and community groups to reach out to for recruitment.

Application was open for 3 weeks

- Posted on approximately 15 sites (including Idealist, CNRG Portland, PSU ISS)
- Sent to MC employees working on food issues
- Over 30 community based organizations including Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon, Oregon Food Processors Association, Center for Intercultural Organizing, and Friends of Family Farmers.

57 diverse applicants: share demographic info

80 percent reported all demographic info

Of these, 73% white, 27% POC; 87% female, 13% male; all but one were from the city of Portland

Applicants ranged in age from 21 to 68

After the application period closed, each member of our selection Committee, comprised of staff members from the Office of Diversity and Equity, the Chair's Office, Commissioner Judy Shiprack's Office, and the Health Department, read and scored every application to assess applicants' expertise in food systems or service delivery and their commitment to social equity in order to align the Board with Multnomah County's mission to serve our most vulnerable populations.

With that, it is with great pleasure that we recommend the following members to be appointed::

- Cecily Upton, Co-founder and VP of Programs at FoodCorps
- Amanda Peden, Project Manager at Oregon Public Health Institute
- Demetria Espinoza, Coordinator at Coalition of Communities of Color and Native American Youth and Family Center
- Doreen Binder, Executive Director at Transitions Project
- Ellen Wyoming, Urban planner and Mercado Project Manager
- Janet Costello-Plummer, SNAP Education Nutrition Educator at Oregon State University Extension
- Julie Ocken, Executive Assistant at Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
- Rose High Bear, Co-founder of Wisdom of the Elders
- Sarah Broderick, Market Manager at Lents International Farmers Market
- Stephen Green, Senior Business Development Coordinator at Portland Development Commission
- Susan Woodbury, State Director of WIC for Oregon Public Health
- Suzanne Hansche, Commissioner at Elders in Action

Why we chose them: We considered the top scorers among both system experts and service providers while also balancing the board to include people with varied professional affiliations and who have not historically been well-represented on advisory boards.

Thank you Adrien,

We are happy to answer any questions at this time.

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To learn more about Multnomah County's food system planning efforts visit [www.MultnomahFood.org](http://www.MultnomahFood.org)

The Multnomah Food Action Plan: a 15-year strategic plan for a healthy, equitable, and prosperous local food system



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