

Teton Food & Farm Coalition Meeting

January 27, 2021

12:00 – 1:15 pm via Zoom meeting

Recorded meeting:

- 1. Welcome and Introductions-** Jen Werlin, UI Extension Educator; Sheila Blackmun, market gardener; Randy Boesch, master gardener, board member Full Circle Education; Hannah Cooley, Whole Food Rescue JH, JH Community Garden; Mari Allen Hanna, Slow Food in the Tetons; Betsy Hawkins, Director of Community Resource Center; Bob Heneage, Teton county Commissioner; Amy Madera, CWC culinary/hospitality program in Jackson; Elaine Moehring, Teton Valley Food Pantry, Mst gardener, 4H garden leader; Juan Morales, Naughty Fruits; Tammy Sachse, UI extension office manager; Julia Scheller, Garlic Fete; Dale Sharkey, Cosmic Apple; Julia Tellman, Teton Valley News.
- 2. Review of November 2020 meeting-** brief overview of land use code revisions and addressing food systems in codes
- 3. Food Security in Teton Valley –** Betsy Hawkins presented an overview of food security in Teton Valley. 400% increase in food distribution in Valley since the beginning of the pandemic. Collaboration between Food Pantry, Food Rescue and Community Resource Center. Almost 60,000 lbs of food distributed this year. Food is 2nd biggest expenditure for families according to their surveys, 41% of community struggling. Elaine Moehring presented overview of the Food Pantry, 1st quarter 2020 demand exceeded all of previous year. Food Pantry supplies food for approximately 1000 households (4000 individuals) during the 4th quarter 2020. \$10,000 a month in food distributed in 2020. Hannah Cooley gave an update on programs with the JH Food Rescue. JH Food Rescue distributes 3200 lbs of rescued food through no cost grocery programs in 6 locations around the community of Jackson (apartment buildings, senior center, free clinic, etc). They have recently brought in a Spanish speaker to help with outreach.

They currently provide 57 weekend food bags, up from 30 a week previously. They are working on a summer and holiday food program in cooperation with the school district.

4. **Teton Valley Fairgrounds Garden Plans** Jen Werlin at the extension office has been working together with the TV Fair Board on revitalizing and using the old community garden space, to include the Extension Office, 4H, Fair Board, and Master Gardeners for a community wide service project and possibly even installing a playground or playscape. The area could also include a couple of rows to contribute to the Grow A Row program, growing things most in demand in the valley. Possible involvement and management by master gardeners. She is looking into applying for a Community Foundation grant for initial weed control and management. Suggestion was made to supply recipe cards with lesser-known vegetables.
5. **SNAP/EBT cards at Farmer's Market** Jen is looking into bringing back taking SNAP and EBT cards at the TV farmer's market with a possible grant or community donations to double each dollar for purchases at the farmer's market to give community members who qualify an opportunity to purchase locally grown organic produce.
6. **Comments** Randy Boesch noted the untapped resource of master gardeners in the Valley for programs such as the community garden, grow a row, SNAP/EBT program and thought further discussion of ideas to utilize the local master gardener community.
7. **Next meeting** scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021 AT NOON.**