**Slow Food Greater Olympia Minutes for Board Meeting October 21, 2015**

**Eco House**

**Board members attending**:  Bob Conner, Christine Ciancetta, Linda Chesnut, Lorrain Cornell, Emily Ray, Loretta Seppanen, Celeste Wade

**Unable to attend:** Ginny Codd, Joel Hansen, Treacy Kreger, Martha Rosemeyer (joined us near the end of the meeting)

**Guests:** Willing to serve on 2016 Board: Moira Buck, Ben Witten & Tara Witten; Jim, friend of Bob Conner;  

**Brief review of past and future events**

1. September 29 Canning Together – Loretta attended with 2 others, made Italian Plum Jam, Sweet Pickled Carrots and Sour Pickled Rat-Tailed Radishes. Always nice to use GRuB kitchen, but would have liked to see more people attend.
2. November 7 Vegetarian Potluck - Loretta advised that Treacy will not be able to host this event, but that Emily Ray has stepped up to host. The date has been changed to Sunday November 8th.
3. Fall event at Our Table Restaurant - Ben & Tara Witten are trying to connect with the chef’s at ‘Our Table’ (<https://www.facebook.com/OurTableOlympia/>) to set up a winter event. Loretta suggested something to tie in with “Trash Fish week”.
4. Technology needs - Loretta advised that Pat Starzyk has volunteered to help with Website redo, but we still need mail chimp leadership and help with Facebook. Moira volunteered to help with email and Facebook and will try to connect with Emily Dunn-Wilder for more Mail Chimp training. Ginny Codd and Celeste will assist as they are available.

**July Board Meeting minutes**

Apologies from Loretta and Celeste for being so late getting these out. No apparent changes needed. All members present approved minutes, ok’d to post to website.

**Reports:**

1. **Treasurer’s report** - Linda Chesnut - September 30 balance was $2,501. We netted, after expenses, $1,200 from summer and fall events and had expenses of $1,300 for our Slow Meat delegate travel and registration and $230 for our market education intern. Colvin ranch was the biggest revenue producing event. The Pigmans dinner had overly high expenses for several reasons, so did not raise as much as previous year. Celeste stated that due to Pigmans scaling back she doubted that a dinner would be held there next year.
2. **Membership report** – Loretta Seppanen - 2 new members and 17 renewals during the membership drive which gives us 57 local members. We also had 16 new members join during the year. Also we have about 20 people on our membership list that have primary memberships in other areas many participate in our events. Loretta shared the current members listing which is to be used for Slow Food purposes only.
3. **Slow Food USA**- Loretta – This year’s membership drive was 10% above last year's drive with $95,000 raised; 879 new members and 868 renewing members.   She encourages everyone to listen to the September call ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGjjlBmCSJc.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGjjlBmCSJc. )) which was a discussion with Alice Waters and Dan Barber.
4. **Conflict of Interest**: Loretta reminded Board members of the policy: if a board member is personally involved in a project or would benefit from it they should remove themselves from discussion and/or approval of event. Board can reimburse or pay board members for expenses, but not for time involved.

**Planning for the 2016 Board**

1. **Board Composition**: By Laws require committee to vet and recruit board members before the annual meeting. It was agreed that the board at this meeting would serve as the committee. Bob Conner and Emily Ray will be stepping down this year although both will assist with events, however. All others present, agreed to serve next year. In an email to current members about the Annual Meeting, Loretta will request other volunteers to be on the Board. Christine agreed to contact Paula Litchey about being on the Board; Emily will contact Liz Douglas.
2. **Board Roles:** After the January Board election, the elected Board establishes leadership roles for the year. Volunteers for various positions are:

Chair – Loretta Seppanen

Secretary – Celeste Wade

Treasurer – Linda Chesnut

Vice Chair – not yet identified

Membership Coordinator – Ginny Codd – another person yet to be identified

Food education/farmers Market – Christine Ciancetta - Celeste suggested she contact Gena Kraha (member) as a possible assistant

Gmail/Website – Moria Buck and others not yet identified

Facebook – Moira buck

Thurston Food System Council Representative: Tara Witten, Moira Buck as back up

Day of the Bed – Lorrian Cornell – she would like another person as partner (May event)

Website – not yet identified (Pat Starzyk is working on creating the new website)

Ark of Taste Gardens, Tastings – Loretta Seppanen

Connecting with Students at TESC – Martha Rosemeyer

Major Fund Raising Events – Treacy Kerger, Ben Witten, Christine Ciancetta with help at the event from Lorrain Cornell, Ginny Codd

1. Tentatively scheduled a sub-meeting on Nov 11th at the Oly Tap Room to make a standard procedure (‘How-To checklist’) for events: Christine, Ben, Tara, Lorrain, Ginny, Loretta.

**Upcoming Events**

1. **Farm-To-Table Community Feast**: Nov 21th from 7 to 10 pm at the Eastside Urban Farm & Garden Center: Local Farms, Local Food, Local Chefs, Local Music!  (**note changed to Nov 22**)
   1. Last year provided our Linens and dishes to this event. The dishes are stored at the store already, Loretta will bring the linens. Board agreed to the use again this year.
   2. Board members suggested that we start charging a small rental fee ($10-$20) to groups that use our dishes so that we can replace items as needed.
2. **Terra Madre Day event**? Would be for Dec 10th. Suggestions were a talk at the library again – possibly from Deston and Joel regarding the slow meat conference.
3. **February / March - Book discussion?** - The Third Plate: Field Notes on the Future of Food <<http://www.thethirdplate.com/>> , Dan Barber –perhaps several discussions - one with chefs, one with seed producers, one with meat producers  - invite a boarder audience (though book discussions are not really big draws)

**Plans for Annual Meeting – Sunday Jan 10th, 11am-1:30pm at Eastside Urban Farm and Garden**

1. Potluck brunch & election of the Board
2. Program ideas:
   1. Young Farmers and their challenges - (land, markets, climate change) Possibly have speaker from G&H poultry or August Farm
   2. Celeste suggested possibly hearing not just from young farmers, but also from the ‘average’ older farmer and their challenges (tech needs, constant worker turnover, retirement transition struggles etc).
   3. Christine suggested something about the general farm-to-table model – a discussion of how food gets to the consumer. Traditional: Farm-distributor-store-consumer; Farm via farm stand to consumer; Farm via Farmers Market to consumer
3. Help with set-up and breakdown? Lorrain, Christine and Celeste volunteered to help. Membership will also be asked for assistance.

**Ideas for 2016 Activities**

1. **Member education**: Agreement to continue food education at the Olympia Farmers Market. Agreement that we are not able to expand to also do a Sunday food education at the Yelm Farmers Market per a request from that market.  We will further consider expansion to the Westside or Tumwater markets which are closer to where our members live and open on a different day of the week than our current Olympia Farmers Market education day.
2. **Ark of Taste/food heritage work**: Request to continue the work at the Fertile Grounds garden and expand to the Olympia Library GRuB garden. Board approved both, with the suggestion that we recruit help from the Credit Union and State Offices in the area similar to the gardens at the State Capital.
3. **Terra Madre 2016** will take place is October with nominations for delegates due in late spring. We need considerable fundraising work to pay travel costs for a delegate(s). Christine Ciancetta is interested in being considered for a delegate position.
4. **Slow Fish** event in June in New Orleans: John Adams is interested in attending, so we need to consider if we can raise funds to support his travel costs.
5. Other Event/Activity Ideas to be explored further:
   1. Dinner using ‘Food Waste’ from Farms (ie the ‘ugly food’ that never goes to market) [Ben/Tara]
   2. Whole Animal meal – possibly with chicken [Ben/Tara]
   3. Veggie Demo’s – ie: how to use your CSA or Alternative ways to use your garden over abundance [Ben/Tara]
   4. Tie in more with food bank – host/sponsor classes or work parties [Moira]
   5. Event with the Olympia Coffee Roasters [Emily] or Encore Chocolate & Teas [Loretta] to look at where our coffees and chocolates come from.

**Upcoming Meetings**

* Annual Meeting - Sunday Jan 10th 11 to 1:30 pm at Eastside Urban Farm and Garden
* Tentative 2016 Board meeting dates- Feb 10,  April 20 , June 15, September 21, December 7