

## **Wilson Food Council Meeting Notes** **January 30, 2018 11:30am-12:30pm**

### **Welcome:**

Abbey Piner from Community Food Strategies facilitated the meeting and created a great energy in the room.

### **Food Council Development Phase:**

Wilson Food Council is in its Seed Phase; Abbey reviewed the phases of council development and shared examples of what food councils in NC are accomplishing. She discussed why food councils are important and who should be involved.

### **Outcomes of the meeting:**

- A shared understanding of what Food Councils are and their history
- A shared desire to keep the momentum going
- Opportunity for monthly facilitation supported by Community Food Strategies
- Rodger brought up that he would like to know how Food Councils work with other groups already working on food issues and how they support economic development and sustainability.
- Julia added that the Master Gardeners offer a lot of resources and would like to see what other groups have to offer.
- John mentioned that food councils are a forum for disparate groups to come together and they provide structure and stability for advocating for food policy.
- Ron pointed out that Wilson County has great agricultural land and land access is a topic of concern in the county. He also shared topics Just Foods talked about when that group was starting out.

### **Parking Lot:**

Keep in mind that all food councils are organized differently. Think about how a food council in Wilson might be organized. Coalition with a fiscal sponsor? County/City sanctioned committee? 501(c)3 nonprofit? Create our own?

### **Desired outcomes for next meeting:**

- A shared understanding of a general timeline for council development
- An agreement on how the task force will make decisions
- A shared understanding of the food council purpose
- A list of 4-6 people to help plan meetings

### **Attending:**

Liz Niclaus, Paul Dunham, Ron Townley, Virginia Bane, Paula Benson, Jessica Williams, Meshka Robinson, Linda Walling, Julia Newton, Candice Rountree, Michelle Brown, Susan Kellum, Kimberly Van Dyk, Rodger Lentz, John Morck

\*If you have Dropbox I can share the audio recording of the meeting with you to review.