



Multnomah County Food Services Advisory Committee

08/07/2023

9:30-10:30 AM

Virtual - Google Meet: ID

meet.google.com/sbk-soqy-kxp

Phone Numbers

(US)+1 405-646-0307

PIN: 976 042 335#

Or in Person Option:

Lloyd Corp Plaza - Suite 350B

Conference Room B

—

Attendees: Margey Vattiat (OHSU), Daniel Huerta (Churros locos), Rachel Clark (Goose Hollow Inn)

Absent: Greg Astley (Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association), Ginger Rapport (Joe's Burgers)

Guest: Makenzie Marineau (Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association)

Staff Present: Fernanda Robles, Brenda Garcia, Debbie Flinchbaugh, Jeff Martin

Agenda

Program Update

- Program Update
- FSAC Bylaws
- Fees for calendar year 2024

Minutes:

Program Update

Andrea Hamburg has recently been tapped to fill in as the Interim Public Health Director for Multnomah county. With this, Jeff has been asked to also step into a new role as the Interim Director of Environmental Health for the next couple of months.

Food service advisory committee bylaws

Building off the previous meeting, we once again reviewed the food service advisory bylaws that were presented at the last meeting. Jeff provided a recap of the changes as well as answered some technical questions on why things were changed. Most of the major changes are regarding bringing our bylaws in compliance with county policies regarding committee work. This section outlines a code of conduct of committee members that are in line with county policies.

After reviewing the updated bylaws committee members requested that they be sent the county policies so they can ensure they are following the policies for the committee. They also requested how to implement a recruitment to ensure we have a diverse panel on the committee not just focusing on one or two positions in the food service industry. Specifically, they want to make sure that the committee is not just owners of facilities. They also requested that we emphasize People that live in Multnomah County as well as operate a business within Multnomah county. Another request was ensuring our bylaws do not become outdated and ensuring there is a revision schedule. The suggestion of at least 8-10 years was provided as well as a statement as needed. Jeff reported that he would try to get those answers to them by the end of the week.

Overall, the bylaws were appreciated as it made things more clear and provided a structure to make it flow better.

Fee increase for 2024

The history of the fees that we have been charging our operators was provided starting back in 2015 and 2016 with analysis of what was needed to conduct the health inspection program based on feedback from the food, service industry and health inspectors. With that, it was determined that a fee increase was needed to make a correction for the program to provide the services requested by the food service industry. With that large correction of almost 25% over two years,, the food service advisory committee requested that we continue a yearly fee increase so a large fee increase in the future was not imposed on them. They requested to keep the fee increase around 5% so they can budget year after year.

For the last three years, the county has supplemented the inspection program with general funds to ensure that the restrictions and the economic stresses from the pandemic limit the burden onto the food service industry, so it can rebound as quickly as possible.

For the calendar year of 2024, the program is anticipating a fee increase of around 6% to ensure the program can operate with minimum need of general funds. The first document presented to the committee was of our fee history over the last 10 years, showing the fee increase year after year on some of the largest facility counts. These facilities will see an increase of around \$40-\$65 for the calendar year 2024.

Even with this 6% fee increase, the county will still need to supplement the inspections program budget with general funds.

The next document provided was a comparison of those fees to counties in our region, as well as Seattle king county in Washington state. Though most of our fees are in line or below those comparator counties, some of the fees are over, mainly those for mobile units.

The committee, even though they do not like to see a fee increase, understands the need for it. They supported the fee increase, but wanted to ensure some of their concerns were mentioned, which included:

- The ongoing burden of operating in the downtown core with it and unstable environment.
- The lack of businesses that are coming back downtown, which means fewer customers in the area.
- Higher costs regarding supplies in minimum wages
- With fewer people coming, downtown, business hours are shrinking, which translates into less profit
- Vandalism of property specifically to mobile units still occurs and has become a daily expense.

