



Multnomah County Food Service Advisory Committee Notes - December 2, 2024

📅 Multnomah County Food Service Advisory Committee

Members Present: Rachel Clark, Ginger Rapport, Greg Astley, Daniel Huerta, Margey Vattiat

Staff Attendees: Jeff Martin, Debbie Flinchbaugh, Fernanda Robles, Shannon Fost

Review and Approve October 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- October 7, 2024 meeting minutes approved

Budget Update FY25

- As a reminder that the fees have not changed since 2020 as the Board has chosen to keep fees low and supplement the program with general funds to ensure the program stays at current levels.
- For the calendar year of 2026 we will have to re-evaluate this practice and look at a fee increase as the County is projecting a general fund shortfall.
- Our office is currently in the middle of renewals for all of the restaurant, mobile units, pools/spas, and tourist accommodations. At this point people are really taking advantage of paying online with almost 50% of payments happening through the website.
- Two new inspectors will be starting within the next month with only two more vacancies to fill after that.

Recruitment of Members Update

- A mass email will be sent as part of the recruitment process for the Food service advisory committee.

Unlicensed Vendors Update

- Unlicensed food vendors are an ongoing issue in downtown Portland as well as throughout the west coast. These vendors are working randomly throughout the region and usually tied to an event on the weekends or late at night. Multnomah County's Environmental Health Services (EHS), responsible for food safety and inspections, does not currently have a unit dedicated to addressing unlicensed vendors operating during evening hours. EHS is collaborating with the City of Portland to develop preventive solutions to this issue.

Inspections Data Update

- See attached presentation

Round Table Update



- Greg - There is a state bill for no taxes on tips. There is another potential bill stating everyone has to have a licensed kitchen or commissary if they have any class of mobile unit. Currently, not all food carts are required to have a commissary depending on the food/drinks they serve.
- Rachel - Providence park is continuing to have concerts. Downtown is becoming an event area and has helped the neighborhood businesses. Weekday events are not as busy also partly due to weather.
- Daniel - Some businesses are closing for the winter due to lack of weddings and events in the winter, which peak in the summer. Otherwise business seems to be steady.
- Margey - Huge expansion within the hospital is still continuing. Unsure what the kitchen/food service portion will look like.
- Ginger- Farmers Market is challenging with food still being sold but vendors that sell goods are being impacted with fewer sales. The public is not spending money on secondary items such as chocolates, hygiene items, etc. Farmers are now paying overtime and this is impacting the prices of food. Farmers Market coordinators are now being mindful of what types of businesses they allow in future markets because they don't want to set vendors up for failure. Businesses with low overhead will be considered over those who have a high overhead for producing goods.

Next meeting is February 3rd, 2025 9:30-10:30