



## Feb 5, 2024 | [Multnomah County Food Service Advisory Committee](#)

Members Present - Ginger Rapport, Margey Vattiat, Greg Astley, Rachel Clark

Staff Present - [Debbie Flinchbaugh](#) [Fernanda Robles](#) [Brenda Garcia](#) Jeffrey Martin, Shannon Fost

Notes:

Approval of December 2023 Meeting Minutes

### Recruitment of members - review update to process, forms and website

The [food service advisory committee website](#) is up to date. The website now shows the meeting schedule for the committee. Individuals that want to attend must request the meeting link or come into the office to attend the meeting. Meeting minutes as well as the membership bylaws are posted for the public to see what is approved.

A request to add outbreaks separately, not just in the meetings agenda and minutes to the website. Jeff will get back to see what we can put up on the website.

Bylaws are up to date with more descriptive information on how to be a member. An application is being drafted with more information as to what time commitment is for the Food Service Advisory Committee. The Office of Community Involvement will be used to help recruit committee members. Hoping to send a draft by the next meeting.

### Elect New Chair

We do not currently have a chair for the committee. Formal elections to be held in the near future for new chair once new members have been added. Margey Vattiat is Vice Chair and can be contacted in the meantime.

### Renewals update

For the 2024 renewal season, almost 1,900 people paid online. This was the first year

the online payment system was completely active and it seemed to work well. Some issues did occur when clients would refresh the online portal screen, which caused a double payment.

As of Feb 1st, late fees are being applied to all facilities that have not paid. The late fee will still be \$100 and we can waive if facilities have not been late within the last 5 years. The committee was supportive of the business friendly approach to this work as well as allowing payment plans when needed.

Next year we may change our process for external communication; sending the public more reminders for renewal season.

Question was asked- can the online portal send business owners a PDF version of the permit? The answer is no. Due to current laws and regulations, electronic copies of permits are not valid and are used only for personal records. All facilities need a physical permit.

### Facility counts in Multnomah County

2023 Recap of new facilities (Mobile Units & Restaurants) and places going out of business Graph shows: 74 mobile units and 79 restaurants closed or are placed under surveillance. 76 mobile units and 190 restaurant Change of ownerships. 118 mobile units and 118 restaurant new construction.

Greg mentioned that Oregon has the 3rd highest number of businesses opening (behind Hawaii and CA). Greg might have new statistics he can provide at the next committee meeting. Wanting a discussion on why businesses are closing/opening.

### Round Table Update

Greg- Legislative session is happening and currently focused on housing and mental health. Nothing immediately affecting the food industry however, a policy that could affect the industry indirectly is a pilot project in the Downtown Portland area with permission of surrounding neighbors to open food carts on the streets.

Margey - Hospital dining facilities are being reopened. They were previously closed due to Covid. Currently working on a better plan for emergency feeding (freeze dried packets of food) for disaster emergency situations.

Rachel - There were more cases of Covid for employees and they had to close during

January's ice storm. Also experienced attempted break ins, one with fentanyl left in the restaurant. Had a large event with a great turn out. Had a good couple of weeks due to the improved weather. Outdoor Concerts in the Providence field being approved in August and later in the year in the Goose Hollow neighborhood that might bring in more business. Parking is an issue in the Goose Hollow neighborhood-encouraging alternate modes of transportation and not parking near housing, good Samaritan Hospital will also open their parking for games.

Ginger - Great Farmer's Market Opening!

Next meeting April 1st, 2024. Feel free to come in person.  
Will discuss complaints of food borne illnesses.

#### Action items

- Will have more data to share on mobile unit and restaurant closures/opening.
- Prosper Portland has a program for businesses experiencing vandalism, not sure if it is still being offered. Jeff to provide link. Up to \$25,000. - <https://prosperportland.us/portfolio-items/restore-grant/>