



Multnomah County Food Service Advisory Committee Meeting Notes – October 7, 2024

Attendees

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

Absent: Greg Astley

Staff Attendees: Jeff Martin, Brenda Garcia, Fernanda Robles

Guests: Erica Van Ess

Introductions as Erica Van Ess from Oregon Health Authority has joined today's meeting.

Approval of June 3rd, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from the June 3rd meeting reviewed and approved.

Updates

Budget Update FY25

- Multnomah County's fiscal year started July 1st and ends June 30th.
- Fees for the health inspections program will not increase for the calendar year of 2024 as the Board of County Commissioners supplemented with about \$1.1 million dollars of general funds due to not raising fees the past 4 years. The cost of operation for the health inspection program has continued to increase.
- For FY26 fiscal year, a fee increase has not been determined though it is likely as the strain on the general funds continues. Any potential fee increase will be presented to FSAC as well as industry to provide input to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.
- As a reminder, all money collected from fees is only allowed to be spent on the program and can't be used for other programs.

Recruitment of members

Recruitment for the Multnomah County Food Service Advisory Committee will be opening this winter. Recruitment information will be sent to current members to forward to their networks as



well as sent to community groups and the food service operators.

Unlicensed Vendors Update

There has been an increase in unlicensed carts who set up outside of events such as concerts and sporting events. Some of the issues created by these vendors include:

- Blocking exits and sidewalks
- Lack of food safety equipment and permits from the Health Department
- The origin of the food is unknown
- Food is cooked improperly and not adequately refrigerated
- Carts are selling beer and liquor
- Carts used are not up to code
- Propane tanks without permits from the Fire Marshal
- Dumping of grease and wastewater into storm drains
- Physical altercation with vendors, and local businesses.

Multnomah County employees have shut down unlicensed carts at a few events, though we are not staffed to continue to perform this work. Multnomah County is working with other agencies to enforce unlicensed vendors.

A variety of west coast cities are using different enforcement techniques; some include seizing carts until the operators can bring them up to code. Multnomah County does not currently have this practice. The State of Oregon is working on this issue, and is looking at Multnomah County as they are leading the way in working with other agencies, recognizing that the main issue with these unlicensed vendors goes much further than food safety. To report unlicensed vendors, email information to foodsafety@multco.us.

The committee members discussed how they've heard reports from other areas throughout the nation and how this is a growing trend. The committee was in support of trying to find a solution and preventing this type of activity from growing, since it has a direct impact on the local food scene and public safety.

Inspections Data Update

- The health inspections program update covered
- Number of plan reviews
- Number of permits placed on surveillance in a calendar year
- Number of complaints and food borne illness
- Number of inspections completed
- Number of violations seen
- Number of temporary food events

Round Table

Per Rachel, Prosper Portland recently hired someone for their small business program. Rachel



will ask for numbers of new businesses opening from Prosper Portland.

Per committee members, they are not noticing any new trends in their industry other than inflation continuing to affect their businesses.