



78th Street Heritage Farm Advisory Team Meeting Minutes



Thursday, July 20, 2023, 4:00pm to 5:30 PM
Luke Jensen Sports Park in the LJSP Bud Van Cleve Community Meeting Room
4000 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, WA. 98665, and
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Advisory Team: Bill Zimmerman*, Gary Garth*, Kathleen Perillo*, Kirk & Peggy Gresham*, Robert Freed*, Sandy Brown.

Clark County: Matthew Baum, Rocky Houston, Amy Arnold, Zane Karver, Catching, Lynde Wallick

Farm Programs, Neighbors, Public Members: Kristine Perry, Emily Straw, Heather Tischbein, Monica Zazueta

* Not Present

4:01 PM Called to Order

Rocky and Matthew called the meeting to order.

4:02 PM Introductions – Roll Call

Everyone in-person and online attending via Microsoft Teams introduced themselves. Rocky asked people to indicate whether they were on the Heritage Farm committee or not.

4:03 PM Approval of Minutes

There is no quorum so the Minutes cannot be adopted.

Minutes Adoption:

Time	Action Item
4:03 PM	MOTION BY: SECOND BY:
	MOTION: Motion to adopt these Minutes, as submitted: March 16, 2023 Minutes May 18, 2023 Minutes
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: OPPOSED: ABSTAINED:

4:05 PM Sustainability Plan Update – Lynde Wallick

Lynde discussed that she has not yet finished the sustainability plan but anticipates completing it soon. Rocky, Lynde, and Sandy discussed its timeline before it's ready for the final recommendations to Council. Heather discussed the importance of transparency during this process and Lynde indicated she would provide an update to the stakeholders list. Heather and Lynde also discussed whether the Historic Preservation Commission would review the

sustainability plan. Lynde indicated that she shared updates with the Historic Preservation Commission at their meeting on May 3, 2023 and will share a copy of that with the Heritage Farm members as well. Information regarding that meeting can also be found here: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/historic-preservation-commission>.

Lynde also provided an update regarding the Hazel Dell Community Park Master Plan indicating that PBS Engineering and Environmental Inc. are the consultant, that the county is tentatively planning an Open House that will occur on October 11, 2023, that a community survey will be shared, and that there will be a stakeholders list for this as well. If you are interested in this or would like to be on the stakeholders list, please contact Lynde Wallick for more information.

4:16 PM Farm Advisory Committee Report – Sandy Brown

Sandy discussed events that have occurred at the farm, including various pruning workshops, that regular farms tours have been conducted by the Master Gardeners Foundation, that both the Chrysanthemum Group and the Master Gardeners Foundation have had plant sales, and that the Clark County Food Bank had a youth tour. Sandy also discussed some upcoming events which include the Wells and Septic Workshop that starts tonight sponsored by the small farms team, and that the Master Gardeners have a Starry Night event scheduled for August to talk about nighttime animals on the farm. Sandy reminded folks to turn in event reports to make sure that the event is recorded on the farm's calendar.

Sandy also shared the 2022 summary report noting that this is the fourth year she has produced it. The report has bulleted highlights of what has occurred on the farm which include the value of volunteer hours, the value of produce grown, and the value of the cash or grants the farm has received. The funding received from the cash or grants is outside of the county's funding and helps to continue each project. Heather and Sandy discussed how this report compares to the last four years and Sandy discussed the various benefits the summary report provides to the farm and the community.

Sandy also discussed the research that Justin does noting that this year it's around the shitake mushroom project. She said that eleven farmers have adopted his practices and are starting to grow them, which helps to diversify the local farmer's available crops to sell. Kristine also said that Justin was asked to go to Japan regarding his research on these shitake mushrooms. Sandy discussed that research has been conducted on spelt grain and varieties of pests as well.

4:25 PM Friends of the Farm Foundation Report – Sandy Brown

Sandy shared this information since Blair is not present. Sandy discussed the possibility of having signage at the farm listing information about where each project is located. She said this would be helpful for the various tours at the farm. Rocky and Sandy discussed the types of signs to have on the farm, and Kristine said they have signs already that say where certain items are located and have a bit of trivia on them as well. Sandy discussed the placement for these signs and Kristine discussed the option of investing in sturdier versions of the signs that are more weather and/or future proof.

Sandy also discussed that Blair and Kirk have been working on the cost of equipment and the repairs to the equipment, which include focus in the next year on fundraising especially where equipment is utilized. The Foundation is also focusing on bringing more youth tours to the farm and on researching grants to aid in various purchases. Sandy also said the Foundation is creating a quarterly newsletter that will be sent to its members to update them about activities on the farm.

Rocky and Sandy discussed when the Foundation's meetings occur, and Sandy said they are on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m.; she said she will make sure that Blair invites the Clark County Parks and Lands Division to attend them.

4:33 PM Farm Operations Report – Zane Karver

Zane listed various updates about the farm which include that greenhouse number seven is mostly taken apart, that most of the soil has been sold or distributed, that the creek is being mowed and the reeds of canary grass are being removed, that water has been distributed to both orchards, that coyotes chewed up some of the water lines, and that everyone is having good growth this season. Sandy, Matthew and Rocky also discussed whether greenhouse number seven will be replaced.

Rocky provided additional updates including that the farm leases are being reviewed internally and then will proceed to the County Manager and/or Council to approve, that the Wetland project is almost ready to submit to environmental permitting noting some of its changes, that the county is working on its Capital Improvement Plan and there will be a public meeting in August for this, and that the county is in the process of acquiring ten acres of property adjacent to the farm which would consist of natural areas to aid in creating a buffer to the farm. Sandy, Rocky and Heather discussed the location of the ten acres and the county's plans for the site.

Kristine discussed that the building at Heritage Farm went through a green business certification through the County and passed, which means the building is now considered a green business. This certification evaluated the building's office space, its water consumption, and the programs at the farm, which resulted in some things to work on programmatically. Kristine and Matthew discussed the idea of purchasing a dishwasher for the building to aid in reducing a lot of the single use plastic consumption.

4:44 PM Public Comments – Matthew Baum

Rocky and Matthew indicated that none have been received.

4:45 PM Open Forum – Questions and Answers

Heather and Rocky discussed the status of the Advisory Team being reconfigured and Rocky indicated it's with the County Manager's office for review. He said the county will continue to follow-up and provide updates to the advisory team's members. Sandy also indicated that the sub-committee has continued to do its work.

Heather said that the Heritage Farm Steering Committee's website is not currently present on the Heritage Farm website and Rocky said the county will work to make sure it has been updated.

Kristine and Rocky discussed the status updates about having a calendar of events on the Heritage Farm's website. Kristine noted that currently there are no instructions on the website for how to submit an event request and Rocky indicated that the county would investigate this. Kristine, Matthew, Rocky, Sandy and Heather discussed the website's formatting as well.

4:52 PM Close Out Remarks – Matthew Baum

Monica introduced herself and thanked everyone for everything they do.

Kristine, Rocky and Monica shared a few jokes.

4:54 PM Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Amy Arnold, Secretary

All meetings are scheduled from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

2022 Heritage Farm Impact Summary

The Heritage Farm has 14 projects that grow produce to feed Clark County Families, demonstrating various gardening and growing methods to assist local gardeners and farmers, provide ongoing research for local farmers on increasing production, and introducing new crops.

Below are specific impacts and outcomes that these projects have had on the Clark County Community.

Over the past 4 years outside funding total: \$3,420,197.54

- **\$1,113,726** of funding outside county funding helped operate projects at the Heritage Farm.
- The Value of produce grown at Heritage Farm over the past 3 years is **\$691,861**.
- The Value of the volunteer labor to produce food for residents in Clark County is **\$1,614,610**.

In 2022:

- 1339 volunteers worked 17,832 hours at a value of **\$533,636**
- Other funding that come to Heritage Farm Projects was **\$442,774**
- 98,686 pounds of produce was grown at Heritage Farm at a value of **\$179,662** (\$1.82/lb)
- Total of **\$1,156,044** of funding outside county funding to support the projects. These funds were donations via cash, equipment or seeds, grants, in-kind time, value of produce grown.
- Over 200,000 people in Clark County benefited from produce grown at Heritage Farm.
- **98,686+ pounds of food were produced** that increased access to locally grown fresh produce for food insecure families in Clark County resulting in a healthier Clark County overall.
- Hunger was alleviated through produce grown at Heritage Farm distributed to limited resource families.
- Families were able to have healthy locally grown produce that helps increase people to be healthier through the local foods they receive.
- 4 Native American Families learned about growing native produce for their families and other native Americans producing 200# of produce.
- 14 youth through the Restorative Community Service Program worked with the Native American Families to plant, grow and distribute produce to food insecure families.
- 84 Community Garden families grew an average of 100# of their own food that made it possible for them to eat healthier foods. They donated 554 # of excess food to Share the Bounty food distribution center.
- 5 youth in partnership with PIC staff learning about basic farm and food production. This program was a job readiness program for these teens who faced some sort of barrier to gaining traditional jobs.
- Teens visited the farm to learn about where their food comes from and how it grows. Most of them had only consumed processed foods and were surprised how tasty fresh produce was.
- Volunteers 4 Veggies allowed 44 families to harvest produce and received a 15-pound bag of produce.
- Bees on the farm are local pollinators on the HF. Beekeepers at the farm are also creating local genetic queens.
- 30 high school students participated in queen bee genetic and animal husbandry projects.
- Fruit growers in Clark County come to Heritage Farm to understand proper installation and maintenance techniques of growing fruit and minimize pests and disease which lead to financial costs related to loss of crops.
- 3 composting sites serve as a community hub to learn how compost reduces food waste in the landfills and enhances the soil in our community.
- Ten local berry growers saved up to \$1250/acre in adopting a model to controlling rose step girdler that can cost a farmer over \$9000/yr. in crop losses. The model was developed by WSU Extension research at Heritage Farm.
- 11 Clark County growers have established shiitake mushroom production systems demonstrated at Heritage Farm. This diversified their farms bringing in several thousand dollars per year to each farm.
- 900# of spelt was harvested and donated to local farms to develop a plan to produce and develop marketing plans, and potential craft brewing markets. This again increases diversity potential for local farmers.
- Master Gardener Foundation is supportive of all programs at Heritage Farm by fundraising and providing grants, plant starts and support to growing food for the community.
- 5 volunteers volunteered 400+ hours to coordinate and track programs, events and needs of HF projects.

Data was summarized by Heritage Farm Advisory Committee (sub-committee of the Heritage Farm Technical Advisory Committee) through annual reports provided by each project work at Heritage Farm.

Organization	2019 Value of Volunteer hours \$25.43	2020 Value of volunteer hours \$28.99	2021 Value of Volunteer hours \$28.99	2022 Value of Volunteer hours	2019 Value of produce @\$1.75/lb	2020 Value of produce @1.75/lb	2021 Value of Produce @\$1.82/lb	2022 Value of Produce	2019 outside funding	2020 outside funding	2021 outside funding	2022 outside funding	NOTES	
Master Composter Recyclers	\$ 16,758.37	\$ 10,146.50	\$ 10,146.50	\$ 9,421.75	\$ -	\$ 437.50	\$ 455.00	\$ 910.00	\$ 4,300.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	receives county funding	
Bee Club	\$ -	\$ 10,146.50	\$ 6,377.80	\$ 6,888.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 275.00	no report 2019	
MG Small fruit demo sites (blueberries, grapes, kiwi, strawberry	\$ -	\$ 8,117.20	\$ 28,990.00	\$ 8,985.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54.60	\$ 54.60	\$ -	\$ 950.00	\$ 1,130.00	\$ 1,130.00	no report 2019	
MG Bluebird Nesting Boxes	\$ -	\$ 1,159.60	\$ -	\$ 898.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175.00	no report 2019	
MG Sundial	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		a display project only	
4-H Restorative Community Service Garden	\$ 1,525.80	\$ -	\$ 7,247.50	\$ 7,487.50	\$ 1,050.00	\$ -	\$ 364.00	\$ 364.00	\$ 18,285.00	\$ 980.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,750.00	no program2020 due to COVID	
Community Gardens	\$ 6,713.52	\$ 4,348.50	\$ 1,449.50	\$ 5,391.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,484.00	\$ 6,406.00	\$ 2,115.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,610.00	\$ 3,025.00		
PIC Roots to Road	\$ 45,744.00	\$ 17,394.00	\$ 11,596.00	\$ 3,174.70	\$ -	\$ 12,250.00	\$ 7,280.00	\$ 2,912.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,800.00	\$ 18,600.00		
MG Foundation	\$ 127,150.00	\$ 144,950.00	\$ 144,950.00	\$ 299,500.00	\$ 12,250.00	\$ 13,475.00	\$ 14,014.00	\$ 14,014.00	\$ 63,500.00	\$ 40,355.00	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 44,000.00		
CC Food Bank	\$ 126,336.00	\$ 153,313.46	\$ 162,141.00	\$ 170,925.00	\$ 134,670.00	\$ 202,805.70	\$ 103,405.00	\$ 152,636.00	\$ 42,022.00	\$ 15,651.00	\$ 72,971.00	\$ 137,169.00		
WSU Farm to Fork	\$ 3,382.19	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,100.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 8,190.00	\$ 23,000.00		
WSU AG Research	\$ 6,103.20	\$ 1,884.35	\$ 5,508.10	\$ -	\$ 5,404.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,366.00	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 92,450.00	\$ 118,000.00	\$ 204,000.00		
MUM club			\$ 17,394.00	\$ 8,985.00		\$ -		\$ -			\$ 1,324.00	\$ 150.00	no reports 2019 or 2020	
WSU Weather Station						\$ -					\$ 10,000.00			
HF Advisory				\$ 11,980.00										
TOTALS	\$ 333,713.08	\$ 351,460.11	\$ 395,800.40	\$ 533,636.95	\$ 154,774.00	\$ 230,368.20	\$ 127,056.60	\$ 179,662.60	\$ 231,391.00	\$ 152,586.00	\$ 286,975.00	\$ 442,774.00	\$ 3,420,197.94	Value of Farm projects over past 4 years