**Corvallis Sustainability Coalition**

**ECONOMIC VITALITY ACTION TEAM**

**Meeting Notes for April 12, 2022**

Present: Jerry Sorte, Mike Beilstein, Ruby Moon, Sean McGuire, Kirk Rensmeyer, Kate Hickok-Feldman, Annette Mills

1. **Check-in Question** – Name a local business that has implemented one or more sustainable practices. What is one of their practices you appreciate? (Most weren’t aware of which businesses would fit in this category. We need to ask Jeanette to do a presentation on Saving Green!)
2. **Updates** (What has been accomplished since March meeting?)

Arts Hub/ Step 1: Create an Arts Directory (Kate)

* Gave example of Vancouver, BC, directory
* Goal is to create an online listing of all the artists and people who serve the arts
* Kate has started a list of all the categories of arts and art-related services
* Looked back at the study done by the City’s Arts Commission – will send it to the group
* Will convene a group to work on the directory

Place-making/Step 1: Develop a toolkit for outdoor public events

* Ruby – Gathered permits required by Parks & Recreation Dept. for doing an outdoor event; spoke with staff at C3 (Corvallis Community Center), who want to see more people using that facility and the adjacent park (Chintimini)
* Jerry – Is compiling list of people who can talk about pitfalls/challenges involved with doing street events Downtown; goal is to keep people Downtown and patronizing businesses

Resilient Food & Agriculture System/Step 1: Gather information/input (Sean)

* Had a follow-up with two more small groups to break down local ag system to see what’s working/not working
* Plans to go out to a larger audience to get feedback
* Will put together a framework that shows the components that were identified
* It’s been exciting to coordinate with Aliza Tuttle (Food Action Team) and Kathryn Duvall (Economic Development Office)
* Mike asked if there’s much turnover in farmers and whether there are institutional barriers to making local farms more successful. Sean: There’s currently no data.

Local Currency (Mike)

* Met with board of HOUR Exchange; it’s a weak board with not many experienced people, although they understand the barriers/challenges of getting local businesses to use HOURS
* Vision for some is non-business people bartering with each other for goods and services
* There are no solid ideas about how to get businesses to accept/use HOURS
* Mike wants to see how well attended the quarterly fairs are, now that they’re being reinstituted
* Ruby: a lot of small businesses are already doing trades
* Mike: Inter-business trading happens at Farmers’ Market, especially restaurants (e.g., Bodhi Bakery exchanging credit for produce from Riverland Farms)

Making Contacts for New Projects (Kirk)

* Investigated some models of what Michael Shuman in his book *The Local Economy Solution* called "Pollinator Enterprises"; sent links to EVAT members and asked for feedback
* Kirk: Support Land emphasizes the value of “loyalty cards (customers are rewarded for patronizing businesses; e.g., “Get your 10th purchase at a discount”)
1. **Action Commitments** – Members committed to do the following prior to May meeting:
* Kate – Make a list of people to invite to be part of the Arts Directory project, schedule a meeting and develop an agenda
* Ruby – Join with those working on Corvallis Arts Walk/Farm to Table/Buy Local initiative
* Jerry – Set up another meeting with Kathryn and Annette to explore next steps
* Sean – Compile ideas gathered from key players re. what a resilient local food system would look like and what is needed to foster its creation
* Mike – Attend HOUR Exchange Spring event
* Kirk – Contact Michael Shuman
* Annette – Contact Cindee Lolik about convening a Buy Local First Committee meeting
1. **Next meeting** – Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 4:15 pm