**Corvallis Sustainability Coalition**

**ECONOMIC VITALITY ACTION TEAM**

**Meeting Notes for March 8, 2022**

Present: Adrienne Fritze, Jeanette Hardison, Kathryn Duvall, Mike Beilstein, Ruby Moon, Sean McGuire, Kirk Rensmeyer, Kate Hickok-Feldman, Annette Mills

1. **Check-in Question** – What’s your favorite thrift store or consignment shop in Corvallis?
2. **Recap of EVAT members’ individual interests** (from February meeting)

* Adrienne – Buy Local First, creating a resource hub
* Annette – Buy Local First, new project(s) selected by the team
* Jeanette – Helping develop new projects
* Kate – Creating an arts hub, bringing creative thinking to new projects
* Kathryn – Place-making, City processes/policies
* Kirk – Helping with organizing/making contacts for new projects
* Mike – Local currency, reuse/repair mall, local food industry, fair employer/employee relations
* Ruby – Collaborative events/activities
* Sean – Innovative/non-consumptive growth, a “green” economy (What does it look like?)

1. **Updates** (Action since last meeting)

* Arts hub, Art/Science focus – Kate, Adrienne, and Annette met to discuss what it would take to have Corvallis identified as “daVinci Town”. Short-term and long-term ideas that came up were a directory of local people involved in the arts and a STEAM Museum (aspirational goal). The Courthouse could become a STEAM Museum, similar to the Gilbert House in Salem. The arts are required to communicate science; OSU celebrates that connection.
* Easing the process for activating public spaces (local art/food/street fairs & other events) – Jerry, Kathryn, and Annette met to discuss this idea. It can be a complicated process, and creating a toolkit for individuals and organizations would be helpful.
* Resilient Food & Agriculture system – Sean has been meeting with key players in the food/ag sector; group to explore support for labor, opportunities, emergency response related to food. We need to look into the future, make our food/ag system more sustainable.

1. **Exploration (open discussion)**

* Look into food forests for food resilience; Parks & Rec has a lot of property that could be used.
* Combine Corvallis Arts Walk (CAW) with Farm to Table and Buy Local First on 3rd Thursday of every month. EVAT could facilitate a meeting between CAW, Food Action Team, and the Chamber’s Independent Business Committee to explore this possibility.
* EVAT needs to do a survey of people in the arts community, organize a convening of people who might be interested in a museum or maker space. Louise-Annette Burgess is new Exec Dir of Maxtivity and may be interested in a satellite site in Corvallis. The Coalition’s next Town Hall needs to focus on Arts & Culture; needs to be a table discussion topic.
* Local currency (Corvallis HOURS) is morbid, their quarterly trading fairs are defunct due to COVID. We need a major player in the local economy (First Alternative Co-op?) to distribute HOURS to their employees. Mike wrote up a proposal for this, proposed it to HOUR Exchange, but no one was willing to work on it.

1. **Action Commitments** – Members committed to do the following between now and April meeting:

* Ruby – Ask Parks & Recreation for sample permits required for events, to add to our new Public Events Toolkit.
* Kathryn – Reach out to people who have put on events that involved street closures, to gather information.
* Adrienne – Ask CAW (Corvallis Arts Walk) board about idea of bringing CAW together with Downtown restaurants and stores for combined Farm to Table and Buy Local events. Also, talk to Simon Date (Chamber) about empowering the Chamber’s Independent Business Committee to work with us on this idea.
* Kate – Review ideas from the Corvallis Arts Council Report.
* Mike – Contact current HOURS board to see how EVAT might help move local currency forward.
* Kirk – Send list of organizations from Michael Shuman’s book to EVAT Google group.
* Sean – Continue to meet with key players to explore what a resilient local food system would look like and what is needed to foster its creation.
* Annette – Ask Aliza (Food Action Team) to send list of restaurants to Adrienne, and send Serena Kapuler’s contact info to Kathryn. Also, contact Cindee Lolik about convening a Buy Local First Committee meeting.

1. **Next meeting** – Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 4:15 pm