

# Ayden-Grifton Food Council Public Forum Meeting Minutes 2/2/17

Welcome – Doris Connell

Introduction – Robin Tant

Presentation – Joni Torres

## Roll Call

### Community:

Jennifer Smith (community)  
Brack Craven (community)  
Pam Riggs (community)  
Darlene Harrell (Mount Olive College Agriculture Student)  
Jonathan Riggs (Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience)  
Billy Tarlton (Grifton Mission Ministries)  
Mike Skinner (farmer – Strawberries on 903)  
Steve Farnau (community)  
Ruth Hough (community)  
Angela DeCuzzi (farmer, Locavore Market)  
Nancy Bray (Grifton Museum)  
Rich Hutchinson (Ayden-Grifton High School)  
Mary Gaskins (Vidant)  
Stefanie Keen (Vidant)  
Rachel Whitehurst (farmer- Briley's Farm Market)  
Sarah Jacobson (American Heart Association)  
Gerri Ashe (community, Koinonia Christian Center)  
Kay Craven (ECU)  
Sandy Cutler (Pitt County Schools)  
Jason Currie (First Baptist Church, Grifton)

Lucas Simmons (Times-Leader Newspaper)  
Ginger Livingston (Daily Reflector)

### Task Force:

Alice Keene (Pitt County Planning)  
Kahla Hall (Vidant Health Foundation)

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Robin Tant (Pitt County Health Department)

Maxine White (The Coalition for Healthier Eating)

Marie Welch (AHA, community)

Leigh Guth (Pitt County Cooperative Extension)

Eric Derstine (Pitt County Cooperative Extension)

Doris Connell (PCFFC Coordinator)

Each Black bullet point was a sticky note

Indented white bullet points are discussion highlights from black bullet points

- Get food to poor
  - Average 400 food boxes, 200 plus hot plates. Only hot meal they get until they take the food box home. Make box 2-3 days worth, if can...
  - People stuck in a room, don't realize it
  - Lack of grocery stores
- Health and nutrition
  - Obesity problem, all the health related issues with both hunger and eating wrong foods.
  - When people don't have access, they resort to fast food, highly processed, etc.
- Piggly Wiggly – Bags boys used to take grocery home for physically inept
- Unhealthy foods are the cheapest
- Cost of healthy vs. Fast food
- Maybe a “Policy” tab
  - Subsidies, Unhealthy foods are cheapest, investing money for grocery store (Piggly Wiggly wasn't concerned about flood, it was the rebuild costs and competition to Dollar General)
- Lack of grocery store
  - Piggly Wiggly
- Grocery store weekly cart rental
- Can we put the squeeze on Dollar General?
- Child hunger – 25.3%
- Grifton didn't have summer feeding programs – why?
  - They usually moved around the town
- Accessibility to obtain healthy foods
  - Stores from patients that lack access ability to get to food bank or food source
- Coordinate with church buses

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- Liability
- People don't know how to use food they were given, just tossed
- Awareness of locally grown food and where to get it
  - All different socioeconomic levels know of it and where to get it
- Cultural Norms lead to unhealthy food methods/decisions
  - Convince and quickness is winning away
- Nutritional education with churches, food pantries, etc
  - Program to link food bank and send people home with food they learned to cook with healthy recipes at a class
- Fast healthy food restaurants
- Land is worth more as real estate than farmland (Policy)
  - Once converted it doesn't go back
  - Makes it more difficult for young farmers to get into farming
  - Intensive growing
- Access to fresh veggies and meats
  - Loss of Piggly Wiggly
- School meals and food education
  - Not just teaching about healthy foods, but actually growing food in classroom. Its about a school culture. (Cooking, growing, processing, integrated into classes)
- Food security – access
- Education about benefits of fresh, local produces and foods
  - i.e. – strawberries aren't in season in July
- Access to locally grown food at all socioeconomic levels
  - Growth may only be for people who can afford it
- Cost of growing off season stuff isn't always feasible
  - i.e. – Growing strawberries in high tunnels
- Labor intensive, very perishable – don't want 3 day old strawberries
  - Restaurants just beat them down with price, Asking for:
    - Strawberries @ \$1 lbs
    - Squash @ \$0.50 lb
- Strawberry plants - \$15K per acre
  - Why can't there be grants or funds
    - Insurance not good for specialty crops
  - A few people noted this was great perspective and insight from someone directly in the business to understand his struggles in local foods
- Accountability for our own food security
- Encourage others to eat fresh
- Education on food and nutrition
- Local grocery chains purchasing from local growers
  - Beat you down on the price
  - We're growing 30 different items
- Poor nutrition and what kids choose
- Funding – CSA

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- Mike has a 12 week program May through July
    - Access to healthy food
- Communication about available resources

Closing – Alice Keene

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**Thanks to Eric Derstine for taking notes**