

Chatham Food Council

Task Force

Charter

[Chatham Food Council Charter](#)

FINAL

May 8, 2014

Mission

The Chatham Community Food Council (CCFC) serves as a bridge across various organizations, agencies, and groups whose work supports vibrant farms and food producers, healthy people, strong communities, thriving local economies, and resilient ecosystems through a common aim: strengthening Chatham County's local food system. Specifically, this council is charged with:

- Developing an evidence-based policy agenda that encourages development of a robust local food system and a healthier population
- Advocating for specific food systems issues
- Sharing information, including events, services, and programs relevant to Chatham County
- Exchanging information with other local food councils

The CCFC will identify and strengthen the connections among all members of the community food system, including farmers and producers, distributors, vendors, food retailers, educators, policymakers, local organizations and agencies, and consumers.

In doing so, the CCFC will work to ensure a thriving, equitable, inclusive, and environmentally and economically sustainable community food system in Chatham County. This is in support of the overarching goal of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners: "Achieve a prosperous, thriving community."

About Community Food Systems

A food system refers to all aspects of producing, buying, selling, and eating food. This includes production, processing and aggregation, distribution, marketing, consumption, and food waste recovery. A **community food system** encompasses all of these components, but is place-specific and built upon a network of interconnected

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relationships. A strong community food system maximizes the potential of its local food resources to enhance community health and wealth.

Chatham County's Community Food System

Chatham County has a long history of maintaining supportive networks that have fostered a strong community food system, elevating all players, from producer to consumer. However, a better organized, more collaborative food system in Chatham County has the potential to have an even greater impact on the County and its residents. A successful community food system promotes *vibrant farms* and *healthy people*, as well as *strong communities*, *healthy ecosystems*, and *thriving economies*.

Charge of the Council

The CCFC is charged with **sharing information, developing strategies, and making policy recommendations** that encourage the development of a robust community food system and a healthier population.

Furthermore, it serves to bridge sometimes disparate committees, commissions, boards, and other community groups who work to strengthen the community food system and the health of the Chatham County community.

The council will build upon and leverage existing networks to unite efforts and strengthen the already substantial human infrastructure around Chatham's food system.

Membership

The CCFC will include 12-15 members that represent perspectives from a cross-section of the community, which may include: farming, nutrition, education, emergency food systems, food services, manufacturing, distributing, waste management, research, land use planning, food retail, business and economic development, human services, and concerned citizens. Two members will be appointed by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners (BOC). The town boards of Pittsboro, Siler City, and Goldston may also appoint someone at their option.

The total CCFC membership will include up to five appointed members (two BOC-appointed members, as well as one member appointed by each of the town boards of Pittsboro, Siler City, and Goldston), and seven to ten members selected through an application process. Members shall live and/or work in Chatham County and shall serve without compensation.

Initially, CCFC members are appointed for one or two-year terms so that not all positions expire at one time. Members may be reappointed for an additional two-year term with rotations that ensure continuity with new

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members joining experienced members. The membership shall strive to achieve racial, socioeconomic, ethnic, and geographic diversity.

Additional Local Government Linkages

Besides appointing representatives to the Chatham Community Food Council as noted above, additional linkages between the CCFC and Chatham County and the towns include:

1. Chatham County will support the involvement of relevant county departmental staff in the CCFC and its networks.
2. Chatham County will provide meeting space as needed for the CCFC and related groups, as long a space is available.
3. The CCFC will make an annual report to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and to any town boards that have opted to have representation on the Council. This report may include policy recommendations to strengthen Chatham's community food system.

Tasks and Meetings

The CCFC is given broad latitude in its charge. However, specific tasks must be performed:

1. Elect from among its members by a simple majority vote a chairperson and a vice-chairperson
2. Develop a mission and values statement for the CCFC
3. Develop and adopt bylaws
4. Form standing committees and/or issues committees to perform the work of the CCFC and to include additional stakeholders
5. Develop a plan with goals for achieving the charge
6. Oversee assessment of Chatham County's community food system
7. Meet at least quarterly
8. Report findings and recommendations to local government at least annually
9. Communicate and coordinate with neighboring and state food councils

The CCFC shall hold regularly scheduled meetings that are publicly announced in advance. All regularly scheduled meetings will include a reasonable allotment of time for community input.

Special meetings may be called by the chairperson. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated and proper notice given. Support for meeting organization, logistics, and minute taking will be provided voluntarily by designated members of the council.



CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Walter Petty, Chairman
Brian Bock, Vice Chairman
Mike Cross
Jim Elza
Pam Stewart

COUNTY MANAGER

Charlie Horne

Res #2014-14

P. O. Box 1809, Pittsboro, NC 27312-1809 • Phone: (919) 542-8200

Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

SUPPORTING THE FORMATION OF A CHATHAM COMMUNITY FOOD COUNCIL

WHEREAS, several county departments, nonprofits, farm-related representatives and others interested in strengthening the community's food system have been working as a task force for several months to explore the benefits of forming a Chatham Community Food Council as a community-based entity; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of a Chatham Community Food Council is to identify and strengthen the connections among all members of the food system, including farmers, producers, distributors, vendors, educators, policymakers, community organizations, agencies and consumers; and

WHEREAS, a strong community food system maximizes the potential of its local food resources to enhance community wealth and health, which supports the priority goal of the Board of Commissioners to "achieve a prosperous, thriving community"; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham Community Food Council will be a community-based organization rather than a county entity, with 12 to 15 members representing a cross-section of the community and major stakeholders in the local food system; and

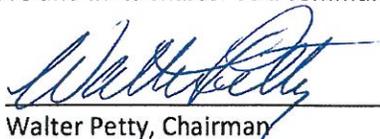
WHEREAS, the Chatham Community Food Council will need in-kind support from Chatham County Government, including:

- involvement of staff from key departments, with the required approval of department heads
- the use of county facilities for meeting space, when space is available
- two appointments by the Board of Commissioners to the Food Council to help guide its direction; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham Community Food Council seeks the opportunity to present an annual report to the Board of Commissioners that will include a status report and possible policy recommendations for consideration by the Board of Commissioners.

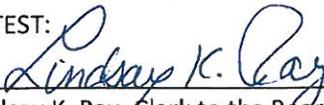
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners supports the formation of a Chatham Community Food Council as described above and in its charter as a community-based entity.

Adopted the 19th Day of May of 2014.



Walter Petty, Chairman
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Lindsay K. Ray, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners