**Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes**

Date & Location: November 16, 2022, United Way of Greater Knoxville

Type of Meeting: Voting

Recorder: Bailey Foster

| Attending Appointed  (Voting) Members | Adam Caraco,  Blake Weiss, UT, Big Orange Pantry  Nicole Gross, AHA,  Lauren Woods  Beth Brown  Ross Jones  Laura Deubler  Kimberly Pettigrew  Maia Rodgriguez-Choi  Layla, Rooted East Collective  Caesar Stair |
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| Attending Associated (Non-voting) Members |  |
| Other Attendees |  |

| 1. | **Welcome: Jen Russomanno** |
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| 3. | **By-Laws Committee Recommendations: Beth Brown from By-Laws Committee presented Amendments to the By-Laws.**  Pettigrew motion to approve, Caraco second, Approved, no opposition or abstention |
| 4. | **Nominations Committee Recommendations: Presented by Brett Foster**  **Review of proposed Appointments and Associate members per 2023 Proposed Roster, Attached**  Motion by Bailey Foster, Second by Brown, Approved, no opposition or abstention |
| 5. | **Executive Committee Recommendations: Presented by Brett Foster**  **Bailey Foster nominated as Chair**  **Jen Russomanno nominated as Vice Chair**  **Brett Foster nominated as Secretary**  Motion by Crabtree, Second by Caraco, Approved, no opposition or abstention |
| 6. | **2023 Meeting Schedule: Jen Russomanno**  **Meeting schedule to remain 3rd Thursday of the month at the United Way of Greater Knoxville** |
| 7. | **Organizational Updates and Announcements:s:**  **4H** - Job posting for Knox County 4H. Not enough qualified candidates so far. Bachelor’s degree is required. School-based position, working with youth (4th-12th gr), comfortable going into schools, establishing programming. Position is to rebuild urban programming. Posting is on UT Job Board.  **Knoxville City** - Received notification of USDA grant to expand composting program. $90K grant, matched by UT Extension. Former Waste Management Manager, Patience Melnik, wrote grant and will be doing freelance grant writing going forward.  **Beardsley** - Food distribution tomorrow with second harvest. Distributing to food pantries. Working with RGK on holiday meal. Beardsley is restructuring and some job openings will be available.  **CAC** - Adam Caraco will be joining CAC Nutrition to be Food Distribution Manager. will help expand distribution services. Just finished commodities distribution, ran out of food. Judith will send out January dates. Need to be prepared for upswing of food need. Have food, just need to get it out successfully. Mobile Meals is staying consistent. 700 clients will be served on Thanksgiving Day. Holiday gifts being collected for clients (on website, knoxseniors.org) – gift bags of daily items. Drop-off locations around town.. Empty Stocking Fund is in full swing. Needs help distributing baskets on 12/16 (agency pickup) & 12/17 (regular pickup).  **Catholic Charities** - Gift baskets going to Western Heights on 11/16 & 11/17.  **AHA** - Hosting serve day at Western Heights Community Center on 12/8. Exclusive event for residents. Will receive fresh produce. Also doing blood pressure checks and community mindfulness. Part of community bystander CPR Training program which is part of sponsorship by Pilot. Month of Feb and First Week of June, additional trainings occurring.  **Second Harvest** - Turkey Distributions this week: Blount County, Tabernacle Baptist Church  **UT Dept of Nutrition** - Food donation to Second Harvest. Part of initiative from White House Conference on Housing, Nutrition and Hunger. Beginning in January, working in 37915 and 37754, low access and low income areas, to do field mapping. Community- based, participatory action research. Looking for people from 37754 to participate. Paid position with some grocery stipend.  Dr. Marsha Spence teaching policy class in Spring 2023. Students speak with state legislators. If there are policy topics or briefs, speech or podcasts that you need assistance with, reach out to her.  **KCHD** - Working with KGIS to create maps of food access and resources, as well as updated health data as it relates to food access. Plans to be released next year.  **KCS** - Down 17% at lunch compared to last year when students were being fed at no cost. Participation is better than expected with loss of no-cost meals. Not hopeful that free lunch will be brought back – Brett Foster attends policy council every March. Will continue to advocate for free lunch with Congressman Burchett and Senator Blackburn. Also looking at ways to expand community eligibility. Not much traction at State level for funding. Other States have passed it via State Referendum. Fiona McAnally recommends partnering with other organizations to advocate and build support. $27-$28M program. USDA funding is only funding for meals, along with student funds - no State funds. $4 reimbursement rates for meals. All students fed whether they can pay or not. Running very high negative balance on student payments this year. SNAP numbers down, which is key to community eligibility.  Serving Thanksgiving Meal tomorrow. Always looking for staffing help. Pay is hourly and low to start. Benefits are good, but positions are not year-round. Need to get stabilized in regular operations at schools.  **UT Public Health** - Need placements for 17 students this summer. 8wk/40 hours per week. Any projects suitable for MPH students would be welcome. Looking for placements for epidemiology students. Data-focused. Graduate students expressing high need for basic needs, including food. Affects performance in classroom. Establishing small food pantry department. Seems directly related to increase in housing costs because grad students don’t live on campus.  **RGK & RGK Foundation** - Partnering with Beardsley Farm for annual community meal service on 12/11. Hope to distribute 500 meals. Anyone interested in volunteering should reach out to Bailey Foster.  **Dream Center** - Increased attendance at mobile food sites. Have mobile food pantry site at UT on Wednesdays from 12-3. At Christ Chapel in Fort Sanders. Seeing about 30 students last year. Last Wed, they saw 90 students. Avg is about 70. At South Knox Elementary with dream eats program. 600 meals distributed last quarter. Started online surplus store, open to Knox County social workers. Right now just for elementary schools - opening to high schools next semester. Food rescue programs also contribute supplies. Can request needed supplies online. About to kick off Polar Express book mobile season.  Updates from Kimberly Pettigrew on behalf of organizations:  **Knox Pride** - Experiencing surge in college-age students needing meals. Partnership with SouthPress.  **Pellissippi** - having surge in needs – having canned food drive.  **TCAT** - experiencing high need in food  **TANF** money and mentoring available. Get in touch with Kimberly.  **United Way** - Grant open for community healing fund. For black-led nonprofits. Applications close at beginning of December.  **Community Food Security Assessment** - UWGK working on assessment. Using UT College of Social Work students to conduct survey. Also doing in-person. Multiple versions of survey to meet needs. First meeting of assessment group is First Monday in December. |
| 9. | **Meeting adjourned.** |