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

Date & Location: Wednesday, March 26, 2025; United Way of Greater Knoxville

Type of Meeting: Educational

Recorder: Sara Keel

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attending Appointed  (Voting) Members  **Bolded names in attendance** | Bruce Crabtree  Femeika Elliott  Bailey Foster  **Brett Foster**  Laura Deubler  **Sara Keel**  **Marisa Moazen**  **Rylan Thompson**  Lauren Woods  Donna Wright  **Sarah Dewitt** |
| Attending Associated (Non-voting) Members  **Bolded names in attendance** | Trace Bateman  John Camp  Nicole Gross  Julia Stewart  Judith Pelot  **Adam Caraco**  **Travis Henderson**  Marsha Spence  Marissa McKeague  **Charlotte Rodina**  Hailey Lewis  **Caesar Stair**  Sandra Wairimu  **Becky Hooper**  Jen Russamano  Jasmine Bryant  Jen Durant |
| Staff Support  **Bolded names in attendance** | Arien Allen—United Way Greater Knoxville  Kimberly Pettigrew—United Way Greater Knoxville  Madelyn Howe—Knox County Health Department  Jessie Hillman—Knoxville-Knox County Planning  **Kara Finger—City of Knoxville** |
| Other Attendees (all names listed were in attendance) | **Other Attendees:**  Parker Owens – KCDC AmeriCorps  Cade Mullins – Real Good Kitchen Foundation AmeriCorps  Jake Beaumier – Knox Planning  Allison Stoker – Second Harvest  Lauren Woods – UT Extension  Sophie Spangler – Second Harvest  Julia Smart – UTK Baker School  Barbara Price – Beardsley Farm  Makenzie Read – City of Knoxville Waste & Resources Office  Maclean Bell – CAC Mobile Meals Kitchen  Chia Mowry – Carex Design Group Mary Clay Kline – Second Harvest  Hailey Lewis  Torrie Boggs – Real Good Kitchen Foundation  Aaron Browning – City Parks and Recreation  Kandice Baker – KAMF/KAPA Kitchen  Khann Chov – UWGK Community Schools  Laura Deubler – Second Harvest  Kevin Murphy – Farm Bureau |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | **Welcome and Introductions – Marisa Moazen** |
| 2. | **Organizational & Committee Updates**   * **Ariel Allen, United Way –** Changes to format of FPC meetings. Will be conducting quarterly working sessions to * **City of Knoxville** – Parks and Recreation Master Plan playknoxvilletn.com project info, meetings, share ideas, interactive map, survey, funding activity * **Second Harvest** – impacted by federal funding cuts – $1.7 million cut. 20 different products cancelled. Some pantries will be completely left without food. * **TSU Extension** – doing a study geared towards growers. Planning to visit farms and conduct assessment, will receive one on one feedback and educational materials. * **Knox County School Nutrition** – New bill proposed would allow schools to be reimbursed for unpaid meal fees. * **American Heart Association** – National walking day first Wed of April. “Move More Month”. Passing out chalk to promote * **KCDC –** many resourced fairs left to share information with residents about your program. Dollar General space at Five Points considering offers for sale (with community in mind). * **Knoxville Botanical Garden -** Preschool Story Time starting in April int he Every Child Outdoors Garden. * **Second Harvest Allergy Pantry –** informal community needs assessment, posting survey soon for people with dietary restrictions. Working with a student from the Baker Center. |
| 3. | **Food Waste Recovery**   * **Mackenzie Read | City of Knoxville Solid Waste**   + The Knoxville Compost Project – backyard composting model   + Started with a pilot in 2019 – then covid happened   + Set up first drop off in 2022, received a USDA grant in 2023 and additional funding from UTK CURCI program. Now have five drop off locations – one at each recycling drop off (except Cedar Bluff).   + New drop off coming to Ijams   + All scraps were going to Battlefield – now going to other farms as well (Beardsley and Pastor Richard S. Brown Jr. Community Garden).   + Added smaller composters at five community gardens (SEEED, South Doyle Middle, Burwell Gardens, Fulton High, Real Good Kitchen) Looking for two more spots – application available on their website. Looking to add those soon.   + Offered free backyard compost workshops – extremely successful   + Trying to apply for state grant. Have not been reimbursed since before November.   + #1 priority – get food waste out of landfills   + Biggest needs and limitations – Educating the public on the connection of their food to the environment. Need people to get the word out.   + Call to action – eliminate food waste, compost what you can’t eat   + No requirements to become a drop off sits, City will provide everything, provide pickup. * **Ruth Ivey | Second Harvest**   + Food Rescue Program – prevents waste by rescuing food items and clothing, diapers, furniture, and other donated goods. Approx. 200 pickups per week. Donations go to those who experience food insecurity.   + Regular, reoccurring routes. 5-6 drivers. 8,000 square miles.   + Reach out if you are offered large donations you can’t use – will accept anything!   + Use a program called Meal Connect that tracks food donations, acknowledges and provides donation receipts   + Second Harvest originally started with just food rescue, success allowed for further expansion of the organization. Now accounts for half of the pounds that Second Harvest distributes.   + “Feast or Famine” – donations are variable depending on time of year   + Food rescue served over 372,000 individuals in Knox County   + Welcome anyone who wants to ride along and learn more about Food Rescue |
| 4. | **Meeting Adjourned** |

Upcoming Meetings:

* March 25, 2025 – Food Distribution Working Group, 2:00-3:30pm, Knox Pride Center
* April 15, 2025 – Food Policy Council Meeting, 8:30-10:00am, United Way of Greater Knoxville
* April 25, 2025 – HFFI Community Advisory Board, 9:00-11:00am, The Point