**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

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| Attending Appointed (Voting) Members **Bolded names in attendance** | Bruce CrabtreeFemeika ElliottBailey Foster**Brett Foster**Laura Deubler **Sara Keel****Marisa Moazen****Rylan Thompson**Lauren WoodsDonna Wright**Sarah Dewitt** |
| Attending Associated (Non-voting) Members**Bolded names in attendance**  | Trace BatemanJohn CampNicole GrossJulia StewartJudith Pelot**Adam Caraco****Travis Henderson**Marsha SpenceMarissa McKeague**Charlotte Rodina**Hailey Lewis**Caesar Stair**Sandra Wairimu**Becky Hooper**Jen RussamanoJasmine BryantJen Durant |
| Staff Support **Bolded names in attendance** | Arien Allen—United Way Greater KnoxvilleKimberly Pettigrew—United Way Greater KnoxvilleMadelyn Howe—Knox County Health DepartmentJessie Hillman—Knoxville-Knox County Planning**Kara Finger—City of Knoxville** |
| Other Attendees (all names listed were in attendance) | **Other Attendees:**Parker Owens – KCDC AmeriCorpsCade Mullins – Real Good Kitchen Foundation AmeriCorpsJake Beaumier – Knox PlanningAllison Stoker – Second HarvestLauren Woods – UT ExtensionSophie Spangler – Second HarvestJulia Smart – UTK Baker SchoolBarbara Price – Beardsley FarmMakenzie Read – City of Knoxville Waste & Resources OfficeMaclean Bell – CAC Mobile Meals KitchenChia Mowry – Carex Design GroupMary Clay Kline – Second HarvestHailey LewisTorrie Boggs – Real Good Kitchen FoundationAaron Browning – City Parks and RecreationKandice Baker – KAMF/KAPA KitchenKhann Chov – UWGK Community SchoolsLaura Deubler – Second HarvestKevin Murphy – Farm Bureau |

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| 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.
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| 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
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| 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