Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes
Date & Location: Wednesday, June 18, 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: Jim Wright, Fish Pantry Emma Cosigua, Fish Pantry Laila Malik, Rooted East Denarius Ross, Wesley House Joy Wilson, BGCTNV

Liliana Burbano, UTMC Shenaiah Thomas, BGCTNV Mike Smith, Concord UMC Amanda Spangler, UT PLSC Leigh Check, Bearden UMC CG Cheryl Steele, KCC Torrie Boggs, RGKF Donna Wright, Salvation Army Jeanne Jenkins, UTK College of Nursing Tom D'Angelo, KCD Mary Ann Davis, KCC Anna Elyse Kahane Ashlee Mays Penny Taylor, UTK College of Nursing Kevin Murphy, Farm Bureau Dr. Tran, TSU Rhea Joshi, UTK Susan Troop, KCDC

### 1. Welcome and Introductions – Marisa Moazen

# 2. Organizational & Committee Updates

- Approval of the Minutes
- FPC Wins and Council Updates | Ariel Allen
  - Montgomery Village Cookout coming up, also starting training, counseling, classes to support mental health
  - TSU July 15 agribusineess training
  - Botanical Garden program for 5-7 year olds Flora Friends led by Ashlee Mays, info on website
  - Rooted East transitioning away from garden classes to cooking classes. All classes are free and open to the public. Info on social media.
  - KCDC has a project manager position posted will work directly with Marisa Moazen
  - AHA emphasizing the importance of having a cardiac emergency plan, can work directly with your organization to build and support plan.
- Working Groups | Kimberly Pettrigrew
  - Received a grant from the R. Wood Foundation to focus on data for our various working groups, establishing "Data ambassadors"
- Establishing Bylaws and Nominations Committees

#### 3. **Meeting**

- FPC Branding Feedback Session | Ashlee Mays
  - Ashlee provided three logo concepts, council voted on options and received feedback for further logo development
- FISH Pantry | Jim Wright & Emma Cosigua
  - Over 300 volunteers
  - o 6,000 families per month over 4 locations, called "guests"
  - o Provide bus tickets
  - o Guests select their own foods across vast options
  - o No limitations on frequency of visits, the concept of people overusing the pantry is a myth
  - Three guiding values: No one gets through life without help, suspend judgement, leaves room for compassion
  - The way guests are treated is as important and impactful as the food resources
  - o "I teach you, you teach me", language learning exchange
  - Myth food pantry as a "band-aid". Trying to create an alternative model that treats people respectfully.
  - Refuse to take food from a source that requires income qualifications

# 4. Meeting Adjourned

## **Upcoming Meetings:**

- June 24th, 2025, Distribution Working Group Meeting, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM, Knox Pride
- June 26th, 2025, Walter Hardy Park Community Share Out, 5:00-6:30 PM, Phyllis Wheatley Center
- July 16th, 2025, Food Policy Council Mtg, 8:30-10:00 AM, United Way of Greater Knoxville