

Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Date & Location: Wednesday, Sept 17, 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)	<u>Other Attendees:</u> Travis Henderson, Center at Montgomery Village Leigh Cheek, Bearden UMC Chloe Mowry, Carex Design Group Donna Wright, Salvation Army Sarah Wharton, Little Chefs Big Change

	<p>Enid Ludavic, Centro Hispano Chris Battle, Battlefield Farm, Alliance Liliana Burbano Torrie Boggs, RGK Laila Malik, Rooted East Santosh Kafle, TSU Parker Owens, KCDC Doc Lap Tran, TSU Rhea Joshi, UTK Amie Perez, Second Harvest Malynda Wollert, Planning Jake Beaumier, Planning</p>
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1.	Welcome and Introductions – Sarah Dewitt, Vice Chair
2.	<p>Organizational & Committee Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wins/Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Women with Vision – a part of the Robert Wood Johnson foundation. Looking to work with new partners to distribute food. Invited to go the TJC Gala. Want to host a winter bash to help support parents in the winter. Seeking donations for self-care bags. ○ Western Heights received grant to assist with the food pantry ○ Knox County – Unified Development Ordinance, several community meetings being held. Tied to the Advance Knox initiative. ○ Wesley House received certification from Leah’s Food Pantry, providing awareness around food and nutrition ○ AHA giving window clings to organizations that feature food and nutrition awareness ○ Second Harvest, Centro Hispano, UW partnership ○ Knox Pride – shower truck, providing clothing, access to the pantry. ○ Western Heights carving out space for fresh food pantry opening in 2027. Seeking a group to manage the pantry. ○ Rooted East looking for three interns for the upcoming year. ○ Western Heights Phase I will open in October/November. First true mixed-income community. “The Overlook at Beaumont” seeking renters. First Creek at Austin Phase III opening soon. ○ Health Department released an app with direct links to all the document requests, restaurant health scores, other programming resources. ○ RGKF hosting fundraiser “Real Good Gathering” • Robert Wood Johnson Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hired 5 data ambassadors, creating their own data projects. Will start launching with Three Cubed. Nov 7 will host a policy training. ○ Will develop a toolkit for data collection for the working groups to use.

3.	<p>Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversation with Mayor Indya Kincannon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FPC Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Led overview of updates, wins, KPIs regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Production • Food Processing • Food Distribution • Food Consumption • Food Waste and Recovery • Kincannon Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sales Tax Referendum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current sales tax is 9.25% - 7% goes to state of TN, rest goes to local. ▪ Proposal is .05 increase, estimated to raise \$47 million in one year. Will be invested in sidewalks, parks, greenways, facilities, road paving, traffic calming and safety, and housing. ▪ Already adopted by many surrounding counties. ▪ Groceries will be exempt from this increase, as well as rent, utilities, healthcare visits, bus fare, prescriptions, childcare, and gas. ▪ Will have an online tracker showing the progress of projects funded by this increase. ▪ Not for stadium, not for pedestrian bridge, not for tourism. All will be invested in neighborhood improvements. ▪ New housing projects funded through this initiative will focus on affordability. ▪ Investment plan by district can be found online.
4.	<p>Meeting Adjourned</p>

Upcoming Meetings:

- September 23rd 2:00-3:30pm – Distribution Working Group, Knox Pride
- October 15th 9:00am-1:00pm – Food Policy Council Retreat