**Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes**
Date & Location: Wednesday, Jan 21, 2026; United Way of Greater Knoxville
Type of Meeting: Educational
Recorder: Sara Keel

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| Attending Appointed (Voting) Members<br>**Bolded names in attendance** | Bruce Crabtree<br>**Femeika Elliott**<br>**Bailey Foster**<br>Brett Foster<br>Laura Deubler<br>**Sara Keel**<br>**Marisa Moazen**<br>**Rylan Thompson**<br>**Lauren Woods**<br>Donna Wright<br>**Sarah Dewitt** |
| Attending Associated (Non-voting) Members<br>**Bolded names in attendance** | Trace Bateman<br>John Camp<br>**Nicole Gross**<br>Julia Stewart<br>Judith Pelot<br>Adam Caraco<br>**Travis Henderson**<br>Marsha Spence<br>Marissa McKeague<br>Charlotte Rodina<br>Hailey Lewis<br>Caesar Stair<br>Sandra Wairimu<br>Becky Hooper<br>Jen Russamano<br>**Jasmine Bryant**<br>Jen Durant |
| Staff Support<br>**Bolded names in attendance** | **Ariel Allen—United Way Greater Knoxville**<br>**Kimberly Pettigrew—United Way Greater Knoxville**<br>**Madelyn Howe—Knox County Health Department**<br>**Jessie Hillman—Knoxville-Knox County Planning**<br>Kara Finger—City of Knoxville |
| Other Attendees (all names listed were in attendance) | **<u>Other Attendees:</u>**<br>Noah McBrayer Jones, Bridge Refugee Services<br>Jenna Bailey, KCDC<br>Denarius Ross, Wesley House<br>Liliana Burbano, UTMC<br>Choe Mowry, Carex Design Group |

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| | Rhea Joshi, UTK Public Health<br>Jodie Johnson, KCDC AmeriCorps |

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| 1. | **Reflection and Introductions – Sarah Dewitt** |
| 3. | **Meeting**<br>• **Reflection – Ariel**<br>• **Highlights and Wins**<br>  o Ariel listed wins of Food Policy Council members from 2025, aligned with the goals of the council.<br>• **Business Updates – Sarah Dewitt**<br>  o Minutes Approval<br>  o Nominations Update - Official nomination recommendations have been made and submitted to the mayors for approval<br>  o Emergency Weather – United Way will be activated given the upcoming ice and snow.<br>  o Updates:<br>  ▪ Beardsley Farm: Snow Day on 30th from 6-9 at the Mill and Mine<br>  ▪ KCDC: Hosting Partner Appreciation Breakfast Feb 13, sharing new needs assessment. Spring community resource fair, dates will be decided soon.<br>  ▪ United Way: Community Investments Grant Application will be released mid-Feb.<br>  ▪ Second Harvest: Committing to farm partnerships moving forward. Farm to school related Farm to Futures Coalition, monthly meetings. See Mary Clay Kline for information.<br>  ▪ American Heart Association: FPC Aligns with Community Health Plan for Diabetes. Looking to expand relationships with farmers to increase access to healthy foods. Kids Cook with Heart launching at the Clark Family Club. Hoping to utilize volunteers to build produce stands. Cold Storage working with Garden Alliance, Bridge Refugees, Clark Family Club, Cedar Brook Outreach.<br>  ▪ UTK: Looking for feedback on Community Garden Class after the meeting today.<br>  ▪ Real Good Kitchen Foundation: Looking for producers for farmers markets, two workshops in February. Food Business Incubator Program, applications due in April.<br>  ▪ Knoxville Botanical Garden: Has spaces for staff retreat, carriage house (99 people). Email Sarah@knoxgarden.org to reserve the space. |

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| | ▪ Boys and Girls Clubs: Lost storage space, no pantry for families. Thanks to Second Harvest and AHA, 210 food boxes were distributed to families before Thanksgiving. Opened a club in Campbell County. 100 families received boxes before Christmas at the Vestal food pantry.<br>▪ AARP micro grants available<br>• **Policy Update and Opportunities – Kimberly Pettigrew**<br>o Timeline and Context<br>▪ Policy trainings and workshops took place Oct-Nov 2025.<br>▪ Jan – Policy agenda draft, establish policy subcommittee<br>▪ Feb – Branded policy agenda one-pager, data ambassador share out, begin KPI journey<br>▪ Mar – Policy agenda communication training and power mapping session. Data Ambassador community share out<br>o Current Opportunities<br>▪ County: Unified Development Ordinances Comment<br>• Public Meeting via Zoom: 12pm on Jan 27<br>▪ City: Knoxville Comprehensive Plan<br>o Policy Agenda<br>o Kimberly listed the 2026 policy agenda green lights.<br>o FPC will discuss Advance Knox definitions recently released.<br>o Seeking to establish policy committee to focus on "yellow light" projects<br>o Current Projects:<br>▪ 2025 Key Performance Indicators and Report<br>▪ New FPC Website<br>▪ Emergency Activation Plan<br>▪ Policy and Qualitative data Toolkits<br>▪ Establish Policy Subcommittee<br>▪ Nominations and Bylaws committee get to work<br>▪ Policy Communication plan<br>▪ Food Systems Database and Resource Library<br>• **Council/Organizational Updates – Marisa Moazen** |
| 4. | **Meeting Adjourned** |

<u>Upcoming Meetings:</u>

- Knox County Unified
- Food Policy Council Meeting – Feb 18, 2026 from 8:30am-10am at United Way of Greater Knoxville