



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Food Council

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

6:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the Lyman
Anderson building 5201 Fen Oak Dr; Meeting
Room Moraine (C); attend virtually via Zoom

A. Call To Order

Chair **WARNER** called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

Present 5 - Chair BILL WARNER, Vice Chair SHIRLEY NENNIG, ERICA JANISCH,
SEBASTIAN HASSELL, and ADDI FAERBER

Excused 4 - CARL CHENOWETH, DANIEL CORNELIUS, KERRY MARREN, and RICHELLE
ANDRAE

Attended by Zoom: NENNIG, JANISCH, HASSELL, FAERBER

Others Present: Diya Chilukuri, Naomi Olsen, Jess Guffey Calkins

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-435](#)

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2025, FOOD COUNCIL MEETING

Attachments: [2025 MIN-435](#)

A motion was made by JANISCH, seconded by FAERBER, to approve the minutes.
All in favor, motion carries (5-0).

C. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

Naomi Olsen: Undergrad director with Open Seat Pantry at UW-Madison.

D. Reports to Committee

Regular Business Reports

- Dane County Food Action Plan - WARNER, Guffey Calkins

Project team is developing overall plan goals and specific recommendations under the goals. The team will set a time to share draft goals and recommendations with the food councils in the spring.

- Wisconsin Food Systems, Inc - CORNELIUS

No report

- Regional Agriculture & Food Sovereignty; Community Gardens - Nicholas Leete via Guffey Calkins

The City of Madison's Economic Development Division put out a Request for Expressions of Interest, due Dec 22; looking for ideas from groups and individuals for how to use land owned by the City of Madison for food production. Link here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WRX5V5N> <https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WRX5V5N;!!KVV9bpTLRIQ!!aTbuRFzTaB8PmxarNB5MMcERldGoOc9r0BWFzOlNy2HdwZYktqjkCU4vfSfSwBqXLIC7QqsTjegABBuHly9tZHkqDqy_BUS>. Anyone with ideas is encouraged to respond to the survey. It will be part of a broader discussion among the community about how public land is used, and what resources and ideas our community has. This discussion will continue, including at next year's community garden summit, Feb 21, which will also include a discussion on new community gardens.

Regional Ag & Food Sovereignty group: We discussed details of processes and timelines for the brownfields resolution for the Madison Food Policy Council meeting. To be discussed in January: Dane County environmental/ecological credits, restarting community composting policy development, and continuing the conversation from the City of Madison's request for expressions of interest.

- Food Access; Double Dollars Program - Guffey Calkins

Funding for SNAP, WIC, & other USDA nutrition programs has been restored through the end of the fiscal year (Sept 30, 2026).

- Public Health Madison & Dane County; City of Madison Business Development - Nick Heckman via Guffey Calkins

No report

- Extension/Dane County - Guffey Calkins

Upcoming educational events are listed on the UW-Madison Extension Dane County website: <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/>.

DCFC Action Plan reports

- Policy - CHENOWETH

There are no updates yet on the county land and facility workgroup.

The City of Madison's Request for expressions of interest is relevant to this group and this will be discussed under Council Discussion.

A discussion was held on looking into developing local policies around reducing food retailer food waste. This built off of a discussion on this at a recent Dane County Food Collective meeting.

- Food Access and Equity (PIE) - JANISCH, NENNIG

The PIE team is updating the 2026 PIE application.

- Community Engagement - WARNER

No report

- Organizational Capacity

No report

- Food System Resource Recommendations

No report

Council Discussion

- City of Madison Request for Expressions of Interest: market and community gardening

A discussion was held about the City of Madison's request for expressions of Interest for market and community gardening, which is due December 22. This info is from the communications sent out about this:

The City of Madison is seeking to gauge interest in utilizing city-owned land for market and community garden spaces. This week the Economic Development Division launched a request for expressions of interest via a short survey intended for individuals, small businesses, and organizations involved in community or market gardening and interested in expanding food access and assisting Madison families with food affordability needs.

The City is trying to understand if growers and community food systems organizations have interest in and capacity for expanding market gardens and community gardens in Madison.

"We are calling on community gardeners, farmers, urban ag enthusiasts, and anyone interested in local food production to help us collect ideas and input," said Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway.

"The City of Madison is very interested in using City-owned land to make our local food systems more sustainable and robust. Please help us with this first step of exploring how the City can partner with the farming and gardening community to increase local food production."

Take the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/WRX5V5N

[<https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WRX5V5N;!!KVv9bpTLRIQ!LN1oiflFCXqqMUby_9PXX1p44elqBZL55P7nFnUCq0A7tw1nbtIT0JHYGihtyHu8vui6jtrxY8GJsmZOehtha0KyTW4zVXnNMCpKiA\\$>](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WRX5V5N;!!KVv9bpTLRIQ!LN1oiflFCXqqMUby_9PXX1p44elqBZL55P7nFnUCq0A7tw1nbtIT0JHYGihtyHu8vui6jtrxY8GJsmZOehtha0KyTW4zVXnNMCpKiA$>)

This Request for expressions of interest is the first step before the solicitation of formal proposals from qualified individuals and organizations.

E. Announcements

-FAERBER: Suggested adding a Foodshed Partnership Project report to Regular updates (this will be shared by FAERBER). Another future possible addition would be Madison Public Market reports.

-FAERBER: Primrose Valley Farm tomorrow: tour, community meeting. 12-2pm.

-NENNIG: Shared a resource from the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia:

<https://rabunchamber.com/food-bank-of-northeast-georgia/>. This is an innovative and successful strategy to harness more local food, provide it to consumers out of season, and provide a revenue source for local growers.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

2026 DCFC Meeting Dates

Primarily on 3rd Wednesdays, except for *February, *May, *December

All start at 6pm unless otherwise noted.

- January 21, 2026
- *February 25, 2026
- March 18, 2026
- April 15, 2026
- *May 13, 2026
- June 17, 2026
- July 15, 2026
- August 19, 2026
- September 16, 2026
- October 21, 2026
- November 18, 2026
- *December 2, 2026

G. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None

H. Adjourn

A motion was made by HASSELL, seconded by NENNIG, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor, motion carries (5-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jess Guffey Calkins, pending council approval.