



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, October 23, 2019

6:00 PM

5201 Fen Oak Drive Madison WI 53718

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A. Call To Order

Present 5 - BILL WARNER, Supervisor CARL CHENOWETH, CHRISTINE AMEIGH, SHEENA TESCH, and DONALE RICHARDS

Excused 3 - KAREN VON HUENE, Supervisor MICHELE RITT, and CARMELLA GLENN

Others Present: Jess Guffey Calkins, Claire Mance, Nick Heckman, Kyle Richmond, John Steines

B. Consideration of Minutes

A motion was made by CHENOWETH, seconded by AMEIGH, that the 09.25.2019 minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

[2019](#)
[MIN-249](#)

FOOD COUNCIL MINUTES 25.SEPTEMBER.2019

Attachments: [2019 MIN-249](#)

C. Presentations

Silverwood Park updates - Friends of Silverwood Park President Kyle Richmond and John Steines from Friends of Silverwood Park presented the history and background of Silverwood Park projects, as well as future project plans. Silverwood Park is collaborating with the Savanna Institute, and the future projects include a focus on education, agroforestry, and heirloom growing. Supervisor Chawla is submitting a budget amendment through EANR for \$35,850 for the future project plans.

D. Action Items

No action item was needed regarding the Silverwood Park plan and budget amendment.

E. Reports to Committee

—Council Discussion

-Strategic planning next steps discussion. The council discussed how to organize the work teams, and identified who will participate on and lead the work teams. Work teams will continue the strategic planning process at the team level, and share updates at the December 11 food council meeting.

— Work team reports

1. Food Waste & Recovery – No meeting since the last Food Council meeting.
2. Equity and Access – This team is currently on hold.
3. Urban Ag – CHENOWETH reported. The work team has continued to focus on water & equity issues. Martin Bailkey is stepping down as chair. The team wants to increase their members – especially to include more growers, and wants to have a greater county impact.

— Madison Food Policy Council -George Reistad

-George Reistad is working with Community Groundworks staff and Jess to plan the Feb 2020 Garden Summit. He's also continuing to convene the Integrated Pest Management Policy Review Task Force – which is looking at making draft revisions to city policy, and exploring best strategies on public engagement and input. As part of the food terminal market feasibility study, ACDS, LLC held focus groups and one on one interviews/meetings with producers, food access organizations, and businesses on interest in a grocery locker pilot program. George presented with Devon Hamilton at the YWCA Racial Justice Summit on Community Driven Solutions and Non-performative Allyship, and used City SEED Grants application revamp process as a case study of Community Driven Solutions.

-Daniel Zhou is a UW Urban Planning Grad Student working as an intern with George and Madison Food Policy Council. He's engaged with:

- Conducting food scraps collection program surveys with ~10 municipalities across the country/world – which will provide guidance and recommendations on a Madison/Dane County program.
- Collaborating with Streets, Engineering and Dane County on biodigester feasibility study RFP (\$39,000 EPA Grant to the City).
- Working with Center for a Livable Future – Food Policy Networks (Johns Hopkins) to research Madison Food Policy Council governance model and begin the process of drafting a strategic plan framework for the Council. Daniel is exploring governance rules/standards for the food policy council.

—Public Health Madison/Dane County – Nick Heckman

-An injunction has been issued to temporarily halt the federal “public charge” rule change which was set to go into effect on October 15. To recap, this rule would disqualify certain categories of adult non-citizens and immigrants from becoming legal permanent residents if they are using certain federal assistance programs (such as SNAP, Medicaid, and housing assistance). More information on the rule and the status of current legal challenges can be found at www.nilc.org.

-The public comment period for the USDA’s elimination of Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (or “Cat-El”) in SNAP, which originally closed in September, was re-opened through November 1. Public comments can be made at the Federal Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/07/24/2019-15670/revision-of-categorical-eligibility-in-the-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

-A new USDA proposed rule will alter the calculation of the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) for SNAP. The SUA takes households’ utility costs into account in determining the amount of SNAP benefits for which they qualify. This rule is related to the “heat and eat” method of boosting benefit allotments for SNAP participants that some states have experimented with. Wisconsin was one of those states, but eliminated this provision during the Walker administration. This new rule would see Wisconsin’s limitations on benefits into effect nationwide. Public comments can be made at (open through Dec 2): <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/10/03/2019-21287/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-standardization-of-state-heating-and-cooling-standard>

—Extension Dane County – Jess Guffey Calkins

-Registration is open for the 2020 Organic Vegetable Production Conference – Jan 31-Feb 1, 2020, at Alliant Energy Center (coordinated by Claire Strader, Organic Vegetable Educator at Extension Dane County). Early bird pricing is available. Also, Registration Scholarships are available for immigrant growers and growers from historically underrepresented communities (Native American, Black, Latinx, Hmong, etc.) on a first come, first serve basis. Interpretation is available. Lodging Scholarships are also available for growers traveling from over 50 miles outside of Madison. Conference website: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/danecountyag/2020-organic-vegetable-production-conference/>

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting - December 11, 6-7:30pm, Fen Oak (No November meeting)

G. Announcements

Chair WARNER reported that BEVERLY HUTCHERSON and KAREN VON HUENE are both resigning from the Food Council.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law-none

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by CHENOWETH, seconded by RICHARDS, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

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