



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Draft MADISON FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?
Who does not have a voice at the table?
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

5:30 PM

Virtual

The City of Madison is holding the Madison Food Policy Council meeting in virtual format.

Written Comments: You can send comments on agenda items to mfpc@cityofmadison.com

Register for Public Comment:

- Register to speak at the meeting
- Register to answer questions
- Register in support or opposition of an agenda item (without speaking)

If you want to speak at this meeting you must register. You can register at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/MeetingRegistration>. When you register to speak, you will be sent an email with the information you will need to join the virtual meeting.

Watch the Meeting: If you would like to join the meeting as an observer, please visit <https://www.cityofmadison.com/watchmeetings>.

Listen by Phone: (877) 853-5257 (Toll Free) Webinar ID: 868 0063 5494

Interpretation and Accessibility

Call to Order/Roll Call

Others Present: Nicholas Heckman, George Reistad, Nina Comiskey, Christy McKenzie, Justin Markofski, Ayesha Raheem

Madison Food Policy Council Meeting called to order at by Chair Leete at 5:32PM.

Present: 14 - Bill Tishler; Tag Evers; Nicholas S. Leete; Logan C. Morrow; Rebecca Kemble; Hedi L. Rudd; Josh Perkins; Noah R. Bloedorn; Christopher G. Brockel; Cassandra H. Vetter; Kelsey Abad; Walter H. Strange; David D. Leeper and Nan Fey

Excused: 2 - Devika J. Suri and Katie L. Strader

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from January made by Fey. Second by Abad. Fey identifies that item #6 should change “recount” to “discuss.”

Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Public Comment

[91979](#) Public Comment: MFPC 2/28/26

One public comment was shared with committed members via email.

Disclosures and Recusals

Bloedorn recuses from the Healthy Retail Access Program funding recommendation for Pasture & Plenty due to his role with REAP Food Group. REAP is collaborating with Pasture & Plenty on the FoodShed Partnership Project.

Perkins recuses from the Healthy Retail Access Program funding recommendation for Pasture & Plenty and FEED Kitchens due to organizational partnerships with the Madison Metropolitan School District.

Brockel recuses from the Healthy Retail Access Program funding recommendation for FEED Kitchens due to his role with the organization.

Leete and Rudd disclose a relationship with Rooted, Inc., which manages the city’s existing community gardens master lease.

New Business

Action Items

1. [91980](#) Healthy Retail Access Program funding recommendation: Pasture & Plenty

Attachments: [2026 HRAP Application PP-Foodworks FINAL.pdf](#)
[HRAP WG - PP Foodworks Funding Recs Memo 021226 FINAL.pdf](#)

Reistad presented from the funding recommendation memo. HRAP review team recommended funding for this proposal. McKenzie presented from the attached slides.

Motion made to approve the funding recommendation made by Evers. Second by Vetter. Motion passed with unanimous approval. (Bloedorn and Perkins recused.)

Fey requested to take the agenda out of order, moving item #3 ahead of item #2.

3. [91152](#) Documenting Policies for Food Production on City-Owned Land

Attachments: [Reso 91152_v1_Food_Production_on_City_Land_120525.pdf](#)
[Public_Requests_for_CGs_on_City_Land_Memo_DRAFT_012326.pdf](#)
[SMC_Public_Comments_on_Legistar_91125_January_2026.pdf](#)
[012326-012726_CC_public_comments.pdf](#)
[Food_Production_Policy_Public_Submittal-BPC.pdf](#)
[Food_on_City_Land_Public_Submittal.pdf](#)

Adopt Substitute

Heckman and Reistad provide context for the referral. Evers provides further information about documentation of existing policy.

Tishler discloses that he is a board member for the University Alliance, which was mentioned by Reistad as a platform for UW-Madison student engagement around this topic.

Fey moves to amend the referral to include the attached changes. Second by Kemble. Motion passes with unanimous approval.

Fey moves to approve the referral. Second by Kemble. Motion passes with unanimous approval.

2. [91981](#) Healthy Retail Access Program funding recommendation: FEED Kitchens

Attachments: [HRAP_Application_FINAL_NPC_FEED_012726.pdf](#)
[HRAP_WG_NPC-FEED_Kitchens_Funding_Recs_Memo_021226_FINA](#)

Reistad presented from the funding recommendation. The HRAP review committee has recommended to fund this project. Brockel presented from the attached slides.

Motion made to approve the funding recommendation made by Rudd. Second by Fey.

Bloedorn mentions appreciation for the HRAP proposals which reached the Food Policy Council this evening.

Motion passed with unanimous approval. (Brockel and Perkins recused.)

Update from Chair

4. [72741](#) Madison Food Policy Council Chair

Leete demonstrates how to find items in Legistar.

Regular Business Reports

5. [72192](#) Regional Food System Planning

No report.

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6. [72193](#) Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty
- What was originally entitled the “Gardening on Brownfields” resolution to the Common Council (discussed by MFPC in December 2025) was renamed after input from the Economic Development Division to “Documenting Policies for Food Production on City-Owned Land” as a first step to developing a city-wide policy for growing food on any city-owned land. Legislative File ID # 91152.**
- The current Resolution has been approved by the Sustainable Madison Committee, the Board of Public Works, Water Utility Board and Parks Commission. Input from these BCCs will be considered by the Madison Food Policy Council on 2/18 whose final recommendation will be sent to the Common Council for consideration on 2/24.**
- The work of drafting a city-wide policy for gardening on public lands will begin in March, with RAFS taking the lead. Marcia Caton-Campbell, Rebecca Kemble and Nicholas Leete will be working with Nick Heckman from Public Health. Fey will be available to review drafts as they are developed, and guide the policy through the final approval process.**
7. [77772](#) Dane Food Access Network
- Wisconsin’s SNAP program, FoodShare, is now implementing expanded work requirements as required by the 2025 One Big Beautiful Bill Act. This bill also shifted an additional 25% of administrative costs from the federal government to states (from 50% to 75%). This will increase costs for Wisconsin. Governor Evers and the Legislature have been in negotiations around plans to address this shortfall among other priorities.**
8. [75103](#) Farmland Preservation Task Force
- No report.**
9. [72198](#) Madison Metropolitan School District
- No report.**
10. [72199](#) Double Dollars Program
- Double Dollars moves forward with 2026 planning cycle in advance of the 2026 market season. Work continues to collaborate with statewide partners.**
11. [72197](#) Community Gardens
- No report.**
12. [77773](#) Food System Assessment
- No report.**

Staff Reports

13. [72194](#) Business Development Specialist

No report.

14. [72195](#) Public Health Madison & Dane County

Dane County has now had two Measles-related events in February: first, a confirmed case of measles in the Madison area. Second, a traveler from out of state who later tested positive for measles but had resided in Dane County during their infectious period. This has disrupted normal work as staff are called in to support the response in various forms. For more information, visit <https://publichealthmdc.com/your-health/measles>

15. [72196](#) Extension Dane County, UW-Madison

No report.

Announcements

- **Community Gardens Summit**
- **FEED Kitchens Taste the Future Event will be on Friday, March 20 from 4:30 -7:30PM at Warner Park Community Center. Tickets available online at: <https://feedkitchens.org/taste-the-future/>**

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the MFPC made by Bloedorn. Second by Abad. Motion approved by unanimous approval at 7:07 PM.