



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved 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, March 20, 2024

5:30 PM

VIRTUAL

The City of Madison is holding the Madison Food Policy Council meeting virtually to help protect our community from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

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

2. **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.

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

4. **Listen by Phone:**

(877) 853-5257 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 858 3860 8394

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Others Present: Nicholas Heckman, George Reistad

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

Present: 15 - Juliana R. Bennett; Regina M. Vidaver; Tag Evers; Nicholas S. Leete; Rebecca Kemble; Hedi L. Rudd; Angelina Mico; Dustin K. Lundt; Noah R. Bloedorn; Christopher G. Brockel; Devika J. Suri; Lindsey Day Farnsworth; Sarah M. Larson; Katie L. Strader and Ndemazea F. Fonkem

Absent: 3 - Jamie R. Bugel; Dadit G. Hidayat and Teal M. Evans

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from February made by Rudd. Second by Day Farnsworth.

Motion passed with unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

[82504](#) Public Comment: MFPC 3/20/24

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Leete and discloses that he wrote a letter of support for one of the applications that did not receive funding. Leete and Rudd disclosed that their organization, Rooted, would be a potential vendor for several of the pantry and food access projects on this project, as well as being a contractor for the Leopold and Bayview project that was recommended for funding. Brockel discloses that his organization was involved as a fiscal agent for a project that was not recommended for funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Action Items

1. [82511](#) Approving 2024 SEED Grant Funding Recommendations

Attachments: [2024 SEED Grants MFPC Pres_032024.pdf](#)
[2024 FUNDING RECS MEMO_SEED Grants 031124.pdf](#)
[2024 SEED Grants_All Apps.pdf](#)

Reistad presented from the attached slides.

Motion to approve the funding recommendations made by Vidaver. Second by Evers.

Brockel notes that the applications in 2024 reflect significant need and strong community and neighborhood impact of these funds.

Kemble notes that some applications came in from outside the City of Madison. Reistad explains that applications that serve significant numbers of Madison residents can be considered, but will be evaluated individually to determine if appropriate for further consideration. Some applicants may be directed to Dane County funding opportunities.

Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Report from the Chair

2. [72741](#) Madison Food Policy Council Chair

June 26 – Dane County Food Council is going to host a panel by our members who were involved in the Johns Hopkins Community of Learning & Practice effort.

Madison Food Policy Council ordinance amendment was introduced at Common Council on 3/19, with potential to be approved on 4/16. This will reduce the size of the body from 23 to 17 members.

Regular Business Reports

3. [72192](#) Regional Food System Planning

Partners are working on a plan for community engagement to begin in summer 2024. If anyone is interested, they can reach Noah at noahb@reapfoodgroup.com

4. [72193](#) Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

The memo regarding Olbrich North Parcel planning for a community garden, approved by the MFPC on 2/21/24 (Agenda Item 5 in the Minutes), was forwarded to the Board of Park Commissioners on March 8th. At its next meeting, scheduled for April 3rd, Parks staff will make an informational presentation on this Park Development Plan; public input is welcome at this hybrid meeting (zoom and Lakeside Street conference room), but no decision will be made until May 8th at a Zoom-only meeting.

5. [77772](#) Dane Food Access Network

90% of Second Harvest pantries have seen increased numbers of guests. Second Harvest will be purchasing leftover produce from farmers at Dane County Farmers Market and other locations

CAC has voted to end the gleaner program, which has been in operation in Madison since the early 1990s. Healthy Food For All has taken on that program. Partnering with Second Harvest to think about new ways to identify donors.

New opportunities may be on the horizon from the Wisconsin DNR, will be working on food waste reduction and recovery this year.

6. [75103](#) Farmland Preservation Task Force
- Both landbanking definition and modifications of agricultural leases passed unanimously at the March 5th Common Council meeting.**
7. [72198](#) Madison Metropolitan School District
- No update.**
8. [72199](#) Double Dollars Program
- Benefit issuance at the Willy Street Co-op will go through the end of March.**
- The Wisconsin Legislature has passed a statewide nutrition incentive bill, modeled in part after programs like Double Dollars in Madison and Dane County. This will generate new resources available for nutrition incentive programs across the state.**
9. [72197](#) Community Gardens
- Rooted's community gardens team, along with staff from Marbleseed, Groundswell Conservancy, and Fairshare CSA coalition, are partnering with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Dane County Land Conservation District, and UW Extension in Dane County, Wisconsin to host a group visit to the USDA Service Center in Madison on April 9th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at 5201 Fen Oak Drive, Madison, WI 53718. This visit will provide an introduction to farm loans, grants, conservation and financial assistance programs, and insurance and disaster assistance specifically for new and minority farmers, and specialty crop farmers. Land ownership is not a requirement to participate in these programs. Refreshments will be served. Interpretation services will be available in HMoob and Spanish. Other language interpretation is available upon request at registration. Additional information and registration will be available soon at gofarmconnect.org under Events. The event will be facilitated by Go Farm Connect contractors, including Nicholas Leete and KO Thao. These Connectors and USDA staff will be available during the event to help answer questions, and will follow up with attendees afterward.**
10. [77773](#) Food System Assessment
- Extension has a draft with of the SEED grant review process which will be presented to MFPC in April.**
- HRAP evaluations are underway with Gooch Groceries and Bombay Bazaar this month, with results to be presented to MFPC in the near future.**
- Wisconsin Food Systems, Inc has submitted an application to the USDA Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure grant to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. The proposal is to develop a digital platform for food recovery.**
- 225 applications were submitted for over \$15 million in funding.**

Staff Reports

11. [72194](#) Business Development Specialist
- SEED Grant evaluation work continues to move forward.
- Healthy Retail Access Program (HRAP) will see new applications, one of which may reach MFPC in April or May.
- HRAP Enterprise Assistance & Training initiative is working with the Food Finance Institute to gauge interest in technical assistance to past HRAP grantees.
- Madison Public Market construction continues and is on schedule for completion in 2025.
12. [72195](#) Public Health Madison & Dane County
- Working with Second Harvest on an update of the Food Insecurity in Dane County report.
- The recent partial budget bill passed by Congress and signed by President Biden provided full funding to the WIC program. Prior to this, it was unclear if WIC would be funded at a flat or reduced rate, which would have caused the program challenges in serving all eligible families.
13. [72196](#) Extension Dane County, UW-Madison
- Join for one or all of the Food Entrepreneurship Ecosystems Development Initiative (FEED) Webinars! These are organized by the UW-Madison Extension Community Food Systems Program. The FEED webinars are no-cost virtual workshops for small-scale food and farming business start-ups during Mondays in April: from April 1st to April 29th, 2-3pm. More information is on the FEED Webinars webpage:
<https://foodsystems.extension.wisc.edu/2024-webinar-series/>

Announcements

FEED Kitchens will be hosting Taste the Future at Warner Park Community Center on April 5 4:30-7:30PM. Ten chefs will provide samples of their cuisine. No cost to participate. Tickets available on Event Brite.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the MFPC made by Vidaver. Second by Brockel. Motion approved by unanimous approval at 6:27PM.