



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, January 21, 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, Jennifer Behnke, Lourdes Shanjani

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

Present: 13 - Bill Tishler; Nicholas S. Leete; Logan C. Morrow; Rebecca Kemble; Josh Perkins; Christopher G. Brockel; Devika J. Suri; Lindsey Day Farnsworth; Cassandra H. Vetter; Kelsey Abad; Walter H. Strange; David D. Leeper and Nan Fey

Excused: 5 - Tag Evers; Hedi L. Rudd; Mathew N. Salbego; Noah R. Bloedorn and Katie L. Strader

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from December made by Brockel. Second by Rudd.
Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Public Comment

[91549](#) Public Comment: MFPC 1/21/26

None

Disclosures and Recusals

None

Special Presentation

1. [91554](#) Emergency Preparedness and Food Security

Attachments: [COAD CRH intro presentation MFPC 1-21-26.pdf](#)

Jennifer Behnke presented from the attached slides.

Fey: How will transportation to Community Resilience Hubs work?

A: Ideally hubs will be accessible by foot, but could use Metro to develop pickups for specific areas.

Leeper: Schools seem spaced well around community to serve in these spaces.

A: Priority of this project is City of Madison but will share information with other municipalities and school districts. New buildings being designed in MMSD will allow for features that could be useful for CRH models.

Leeper: Has there been any success in improving home resilience.

A: Looking at different models to localize for different size units from single units to multi-family housing. People will see benefits of prevention.

Update From Chair

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

Reminding members to fill out statements of interest.

Council is continuing to recruit for new members.

Expressing gratitude to member Lindsey Day Farnsworth for her years of commitment to the MFPC. January will be her final meeting.

Farmers and technical assistance providers are invited to the foodshed partnership's open house February 4th. The Foodshed Partnership is a new food hub in Madison, with a goal of supporting Wisconsin farmers in reaching new markets, increasing capacity and running sustainable businesses — all while feeding communities across the Midwest.

Regular Business Reports

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

Food Plan efforts continue with development of goals and recommendations for circulation to key stakeholders.
4. [72193](#) Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

Heard from Badgerland Biodiversity Corridor team. They are trying to combine different ecological benefits on agricultural land.

43 Responses to City's food production Request for Expressions of Interest. In process of analyzing data.
5. [77772](#) Dane Food Access Network

Discussion of previous government shutdown and impending possible shutdown at the end of January. If a shutdown occurs, USDA would therefore, unlike the October/November shutdown, SNAP and WIC benefits will not be impacted.
6. [75103](#) Farmland Preservation Task Force

Recounting process for development of food production policies as directed by Common Council. Anticipate resolution to be reviewed by MFPC in February. When resolution is approved, MFPC will have a role in developing the policy.
7. [72198](#) Madison Metropolitan School District

No report.
8. [72199](#) Double Dollars Program

Local partners are exploring partnerships with the state pilot for Double Up Food Bucks Wisconsin, which may present new opportunities to expand benefits or access to new markets in Dane County.
9. [72197](#) Community Gardens

Community Gardens summit. Gardens are planning 2026. Individuals interested in gardening can learn more and find contacts for each garden at danegardens.net.
10. [77773](#) Food System Assessment

No report.

Staff Reports

11. [72194](#) Business Development Specialist

- City: 2026 SEED Grants opened Mon 1/19 (announced Tues 1/20); closes Fri 2/20
- Public Market announces first cohort of merchant leases signed:
https://www.wkow.com/news/madison-public-market-announces-eight-vendors-ahead-of-opening/article_11ae9cfe-311d-4039-807d-9a41d417b8a0.html

12. [72195](#)

Public Health Madison & Dane County

PHMDC has prepared cold weather safety tips for upcoming period of extreme cold. Notes that flu virus remains elevated.

13. [72196](#)

Extension Dane County, UW-Madison

2026 Dane County PI Community Food Project Grants: The Tamara D. Grigsby Dane County Civil Rights Department, in partnership with the Dane County Food Council, is pleased to announce the annual Partners in Community (PI Community) Food Project Grant (formerly PIE Food Project Grants). This grant program was created in 2018 to encourage the development of projects that advance equity and access in local food systems across Dane County. Projects may request up to \$4,000 in funding. For the 2026 PI Community Food Project Grants cycle, a total of \$35,200 is available. Go to <https://equity.danecounty.gov/grants/PIE-food> for all the details; applications are due February 27, 2026.

2026 Organic Vegetable Production Conference: January 22-23 (online) and January 30-31 (Alliant Energy Center). Connect with experienced vegetable growers from throughout the Midwest and beyond at this producer-initiated event grounded in farmer-to-farmer skill sharing. Join your peers for online sessions, in-person sessions, or both! This conference serves advanced vegetable growers, and content is tailored to this audience. More info and registration options are at <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/dane-county-agriculture/organic-vegetable-production-conference/>. The Organic Vegetable Production Conference is hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension Dane County, in partnership with FairShare CSA Coalition, Iowa State University Extension & Outreach, and the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the MFPC made by Day Farnsworth. Second by Vetter.
Motion approved by unanimous approval at 6:30 PM.