



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, September 17, 2025

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: 894 9014 4979

Call to Order/Roll Call

Others Present: Nicholas Heckman, George Reistad, Walter Strange, Heidi Radlinger, Jenny Frese

Madison Food Policy Council Meeting called to order at by Chair Leete at 5:34PM.

Present: 12 - Bill Tishler; Tag Evers; Nicholas S. Leete; Logan C. Morrow; Rebecca Kemble; Hedi L. Rudd; Josh Perkins; Christopher G. Brockel; Cassandra H. Vetter; Kelsey Abad; David D. Leeper and Nan Fey

Absent: 3 - Dadit G. Hidayat; Lindsey Day Farnsworth and Katie L. Strader

Excused: 3 - Mathew N. Salbego; Noah R. Bloedorn and Devika J. Suri

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from June made by Fey. Second by Rudd. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Public Comment

1. [89943](#) Public Comment: MFPC 9/17/25

None

Disclosures and Recusals**New Business****Action Item**

2. [89698](#) Authorizing the use of a Farmland Lease Master Template for those City-owned lands being rented for farming, the administrative approval of City staff to negotiate lease terms, and the execution of lease documents by the City's Director of the Department of Planning, Community and Economic Development, or assigns. (Citywide)

Attachments: [Fey Comments to Common Council 10-7-25.pdf](#)
[City of Madison Master Farm Lease Template 2026.pdf](#)
[Fey Comments to BPC 9-10-25.pdf](#)
[Public Comment Fey Comments to BPW 9-3-25.pdf](#)
[File 89698 -- Public Comment, FC 09.08.2025.pdf](#)
[Fey Comments to Sustainable Madison 9-15-25.pdf](#)
[100625_CC_public_comment.pdf](#)

Fey Introduced attached materials and provided background on the process for the new templates to be developed.

Motion to approve the resolution made by Fey. Second by Tishler.

Frese mentions that the master template will allow

Leeper: How many acres of farmland does the City oversee?

Radlinger: "Approximately 300 acres, mostly owned by Parks"

Brockel: How will pesticide exemptions be made

Fey: The revised template prohibits two additional pesticides not named in previous leases and allows for discussion of others. We're hoping that when there are technical questions like this in the negotiation of leases, City staff will bring in County staff who have the expertise to have these conversations with farmers

Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Regular Business

3. [72194](#) Business Development Specialist

Reistad presented from the attached slides.

Question: How are members for the review committees chosen?

Reistad: Interest from current/past MFPC, staff, and alders. New members welcome for HRAP and SEED review teams.

Update from Chair

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

Continuing to recruit new members. Welcomes new member Casey Vetter.

Regular Business Reports

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

We are at a critical juncture in the development of the Dane County Food Action Plan. After months of engaging with the community to gather insights, we are now preparing to transition from the community engagement phase of the food plan to the collection, analysis, and writing of the final food plan document.

In September the Food Plan Team held a Food and Faith Summit at Mt. Zion Church. This convened stakeholders from faith institutions to discuss needs in our community, map out work that is being done by these institutions, and discuss what opportunities there are for collaboration and coordination to meet the needs of our community. Moving forward we are assessing the possibility of hosting more of these events and expanding our outreach and connections for those meetings.

Upcoming Events:

Racial Justice Summit: Mutual Aid & Solidarity in Building a Resilient Food System

Join us for a dynamic session facilitated by Abha Thakkar, Noah Bloedorn, and Jess Guffy Calkins on September 26 during the YWCA Racial Justice Summit at the Monona Terrace. This is an open invitation for everyone to explore how we can lessen our dependence on the market economy and build a food system grounded in mutual aid and solidarity. The session will focus on developing grassroots recommendations for the food plan, centered on how we can feed each other in ways that celebrate our distinct humanity, enhance our health, and build community.

Harvest Gathering at Yowela Farms

We are also looking forward to the 4th annual Harvest Gathering on September 27 from 2-7 PM at Yowela Farms in Stoughton. Hosted by REAP Food Group and Yowela Farms, this event will celebrate Indigenous knowledge, local food, and seasonal abundance. The Food Action Plan team will be there to share our emerging themes and collect final input from attendees through a town hall discussion. We will also have the honor of MCing the dinner, providing a platform for chefs and workshop leaders to share their perspectives on food policy and the issues they care about.

6. [72193](#) Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

Attachments: [Growing Food on City-Owned Brownfields MFPC 101525.pdf](#)

Meeting for draft recommendations for gardening on brownfields.

7. [77772](#) Dane Food Access Network

Invites individuals to join DFAN conversations alongside others in food distribution and access, including food banks, food pantries, senior nutrition, school nutrition, and other organizations and individuals working on this subject.

8. [75103](#) Farmland Preservation Task Force

No report

9. [72198](#) Madison Metropolitan School District

No report

10. [72199](#) Double Dollars Program

Funding was tentatively removed by Dane County Human Services in its budget for its contribution to Double Dollars Program. Executive budget will be released on October 1, and final budget will be adopted in November after Board of Supervisors deliberation.

11. [72197](#) Community Gardens

No report

12. [77773](#) Food System Assessment

No report

Staff Reports

13. [72195](#) Public Health Madison & Dane County

No report

14. [72196](#) Extension Dane County, UW-Madison

No report

Announcements

Alder Tishler will be moderating a book club beginning September 28 regarding the week without driving.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the MFPC made by Fey. Second by Brockel. Motion approved by unanimous approval at 6:57 PM.