



Washtenaw County Food Policy Council (WFPC)
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2024; 9:00 – 11:00 AM
Via Zoom

ATTENDEES

Council Members:

Present

1. Andrew Paniagua
2. Anna Taylor-McCants
3. Noelle Blasch
4. Chrissy Taylor
5. Mary Balog
6. Lauren Marquardt
7. Jae Gerhart
8. Julius Buzzard

Absent

1. Ann Hubbard
2. Thomas Hutchinson
3. Justin Hodge (Commissioner)
4. June Hollie
5. Keesa V. Johnson
6. Ava HaberkornHalm
7. Nicholas Pomante

WFPC Support Staff:

1. Ariane Donnelly – Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD)

Other Attendees:

1. Ki-Jana Malone (Aetna Better Health of Michigan Plan)
2. Mitchell Seymour (Pollinators Policy Action Team Chair)
3. Barbara Niess-May (Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels (YMOW))
4. Kat MacPhee (MSW student; intern with FedUp Ministries)
5. Wendy Flanigan (community member; with People's Food Co-op)
6. Azella Markgraf (City of Ann Arbor)
7. Will Garcia (City of Ann Arbor)
8. Jenny Petoskey (City of Ann Arbor)
9. Mallory Lawson (City of Ann Arbor)
10. Sandy Pernecky (former WFPC member)
11. Bradley Libtow-Farmer (former City of Ann Arbor employee)
12. Hagan Capnerhurst (Michigan Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS))
13. Guy Williams (City of Ann Arbor)
14. May Tsupros (MSU Center for Regional Food Systems)
15. Genevieve Rattray (City of Ann Arbor)
16. DeAndre' J. Calvert
17. Sarah Chatterley
18. Amanda Brezzell
19. 12484951538

MEETING NOTES

1. Opening/Introductions

9:03-9:12 am

a) Welcome

b) Council members share name, affiliation, seat, Policy Action Team (PAT)/Committee, area of interest, and location of remote attendance (municipality, county, state).

Attendees shared their name, affiliation, seat, PAT/Committee, and area of interest. Council members also shared from where they are attending remotely (municipality, county, state). Council members in remote attendance:

- Andrew Paniagua attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Anna Taylor-McCants attending remotely from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Chrissy Taylor attending remotely from Canton, Wayne County, Michigan
- Jae Gerhart attending remotely from Superior Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Julius Buzzard attending remotely from Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Lauren Marquardt attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Mary Balog attending remotely from Wyandotte, Wayne County, Michigan
- Noelle Blasch attending remotely from Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan

c) Icebreaker - Share a moment in your life when you felt the spark to do this work or share a recent food justice story that inspired you or tell us about some recent action you have taken since being on the WFPC

Some Council members shared a moment in their life when they felt the spark to do this work or a recent food justice story that inspired them or some recent action they have taken since being on the WFPC.

- From chat:
 - o Ki-Jana: Hi Jae! Good Morning everyone :)
 - o Anna: I am the policy liaison on the Executive Committee. Forgot to add that in my intro!
 - o Lauren: I love these stories of people being fed and excited about food!

2. Agenda, Minutes Additions/Deletions/Approval - Jae

9:12-9:13 am

a) Previous Meeting Minutes (July)

I. Motion: To approve July 10, 2024 meeting minutes

1. Motion: Jae, Seconded: Julius

2. Approved: Yes-8, No-0 (8 council members present at time of vote)

b) Meeting Agenda (September)

I. Motion: To approve September 11, 2024 meeting agenda

1. Motion: Jae, Seconded: Julius

2. Approved: Yes-8, No-0 (8 council members present at time of vote)

3. Public Comment

9:13-9:23 am

- Mitch Seymour: Part of the Food Access & Nutrition (FAN) Policy Action Team (PAT) and chair of the Pollinators PAT. Reaching out to community gardens resources and looking to reduce the number of individuals who are eligible for SNAP but are not receiving it.
 - o Ariane will arrange for Mitch's name and email address to be added to the WFPC website for the Pollinators PAT.
- Ariane: Reminder that anything added to the meeting chat will go in the meeting minutes.
- Barbara Niess-May: CEO and President of Ypsilanti Meals on Wheel, appointed about 6 months ago. Think we can do better with culturally specific food and food that is better on our older neighbors' bellies. There is a senior services millage on the ballot in November; let me know if you want a sign. Feel strongly about how policy lands for our older neighbors. YMOW vans were vandalized (which presents an immediate cost, and there will be an extra cost to build a garage); YMOW is staying true to giving neighbors nutritious food and socialization. Email: Barbara@ymow.org
 - o Jae would love to talk with Barbara.
- Azella Markgraf: With the City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations
 - o The [Local Food Festival](#) (which includes free produce tasting) will be on Thurs, 9/26 from 5-8pm.
 - o The Ann Arbor Area [Sustainable Food Business Coalition](#) has about 40 businesses participating and is focusing on city-scale take away containers. The next meeting is 10/7 from 2-3:30pm at Zingerman's

- Kat MacPhee: MSW student and intern at FedUp Ministries. Here to listen and learn.
- From chat:
 - Barabara: Barbara@ymow.org
 - Julius: coffee emoji
 - Lauren: coffee emoji
 - Julius: Glad your here and can take a sign.
 - Barbara: hearted this message
 - Azella: Local Food Festival: <https://a2gov.org/localfoodfest>
 - Ki-Jana: Ki-Jana Malone, SDoH Community Strategist at Aetna Better Health of Michigan (malonek3@aetna.com) Currently in Detroit, and work in regions 8-10 :)
 - Anna: Thanks for being here!
 - Ki-Jana: hearted this message

9:23-9:53 am

- We track our work throughout the year so that we can more easily write our annual report and know what the WFPC has done. You can add items yourself onto the electronic form (see link). Council members and PAT members can fill out the form.
 - I. [Tracking Our Work](#)
 - o Please use this form to track your work with the WFPC (ex: anytime you talk with representatives, participate in anything policy-related, anything you do as a representative of the WFPC, etc.). This tracking form allows us to keep track of everything the WFPC does throughout the year and is utilized to create the annual report.
 - o From chat:
 - o Jae: [2024 Washtenaw County Food Policy Council Tracking Form \(google.com\)](#)

0 Anna will lead the next, in-person working meeting. The meeting will be focused on reviewing the policy agenda items. There will be a meeting invitation going out to the WFPC, and the meeting will be posted publicly (Ariane will arrange for the posting of the public notice).

- o Meeting time has been 9-11am. Should this time continue or should a new time (like 4-5:30pm or evenings)

be selected to allow for participation for those not able to meet during the typical workday?

- o Some council members shared that evenings would be difficult.
- o Concern about excluding people by meeting during the typical workday (justice issue).
- o Discussion about having half of the meetings at one time and half at a different time.
 - Ariane: The bylaws include grounds for removal from the WFPC (for example, missing 3 of the 6 meetings in a year). If half of the meetings are at a time when someone cannot attend, then they would meet the grounds for removal (if using the current bylaws as a guide).
- o Suggestion: If meeting more frequently, meetings could be shorter (like 1.5 hours instead of 2 hours).
- o Virtual or in-person:
 - o Potentially have every other month completely virtual, every other month in person/hybrid.
 - Ariane: It is possible that all meetings would need to be in person. I check quarterly to confirm if meetings can be virtual. So far, all meetings have been able to be virtual, but that could change.

- Next steps:

- o EC: Will create a survey and send to current Council members about preferred meeting times/format.
- o Ariane: Will adjust the draft posting language for the meeting time to be ambiguous (in case the Clerk's Office needs to be posted before meeting frequency/time/format is decided). Will send adjusted draft language to the EC and WFPC. Please let Ariane know if you want any changes to the public posting language.

f) Increasing Budget Request to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) - Keesa/Jae

- Want to get a staff person to help work with the WFPC.
- Ongoing conversations about increasing full-time equivalent (FTE) and meeting stipend (so can have more than 6 meetings per year).
- Anna: looking to see if the WFPC should still be housed within WCHD. Have job description for a staff person drafted. Want to make sure using lens of food security and equity.
 - o The Board of Commissioners likely need to increase the allocation to WCHD regardless (because of WCHD staff time).
- For questions: email Anna, Jae, and Keesa.
- From chat:
 - o Anna [agenda item from policy agenda]: Advocate that food system infrastructure that promotes equity, accessibility, nutrition and sustainability be prioritized in countywide economic development.

5. Designing with the Community an Intro to A2 Circular Economy Project

9:53-10:42 am

Presented by A2 Office of Sustainability and Innovations - Will Garcia and Jenny Petoskey

- Will Garcia (City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations) and Jenny Petoskey (City of Ann Arbor Public Works Solid Waste) gave a [presentation](#) entitled "How to Identify and Ground the Circular Economy Locally".
- Discussion:
 - o Noelle: Thank you for the presentation! Can we get access to your presentation?
 - Jenny: Yes!
 - o Jae: Is there an end goal?
 - Will: A2Zero goal: for the entire Ann Arbor community to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
 - Circular economy is part of the A2Zero plan. There will be an upcoming electronics take back program, swap days, etc.
 - o Jae: Can you speak on the consumer status culture, and what you are doing about it?
 - Jenny: Encouraging people to spend more time in community and in nature (as opposed to buying things).
 - Will: Reusing (which has been counter cultural) has been a strength of this community.
 - o Jae: Have you worked with businesses/organizations about reducing waste; do you have tips for organizations?
 - Jenny: Reach out to Will and me.
 - Azella: We have encountered a lot in the development of the Ann Arbor Area Sustainable Food Business Coalition. The City of Ann Arbor is not an expert for how businesses work but is excited to

be a support and help create a space for businesses to come together to share ideas.

- Jae: Every business operates differently.
- o Jae: What is your plan for telling the stories about your successes?
 - Jenny: www.a2morelife.com
 - Food Gatherers and Jewish Family Services are highlighted in the videos.
 - Will: Social media platforms
 - Strong data collection is helpful. Ex: for swap days, creating tally sheets about how many books were reused, clothes reused, etc.
- From chat:
 - o Ki-Jana: Mic issues sorry!
 - o May: Can you please put the link in the chat from the previous slide?
 - Will: <https://nar.headwaterseconomics.org/2600003000/explore/map>
 - May: Perfection. Thank you!
 - o Sandy: Thanks so much for this presentation!
 - o Jenny: More Life, Less Stuff: www.a2morelife.com
 - o May: Thanks for sharing. Have a great day all.
 - o Andrew: Thanks Jenny and Will, and to your team for this important work!
 - o Jenny: jpetoskey@a2gov.org
 - o Will: wgarcia@a2gov.org
 - o Lauren: Thank you so much for this presentation! I think this is all super helpful content for the council members and community to know, and I think we can learn a lot about the processes that you've used as we all learn how to navigate different issues with local government. So grateful that you are doing this work and for sharing it with us!

6. PAT Updates

10:42-10:56 am

a) **Food Access & Nutrition (FAN) PAT - Mary**

- Adding food pantry sites to the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) guide.
 - o Andrew: Hoping to get added to paper guide in January.
- Next meeting is 9/23 in case anyone wants to join.
 - I.) Michigan School Meals - Mary**
 - o Still have not met, but Argus Farm Stop made their first delivery to Ann Arbor Public Schools. Hope this will continue on a regular basis.
 - a. Jae: Is this a direct result from policy?
 - a. Mary: My understanding is that some chefs are really interested in cooking from scratch and using local produce, but I will ask.
 - o Interactive map of where community gardens are in the area. Hope this will be a county-wide project (at least a listing).
 - a. Mitch: Looking into what sites are doing to support pollinators and increase yield, and finding out about what pollinators resources are at different gardens.
- From chat:
 - o Mary: <https://news.a2schools.org/aaps-chartwells-partners-with-argus-farms-our-newest-vendor-of-local-fresh-produce/>
 - Lauren: hearted this

b) **Food Waste & Packaging - Noelle**

- Meet monthly.
- Everyone is assigned an area to research.
 - o Noelle and Heather met with: Angela Wright and Abby Morris (both from Washtenaw County).
 - o Noelle plans to meet with Commissioner Hodge.
 - o Trying to understand what current policies are in place in Washtenaw County, so can best understand what to do to fill in the gaps.

- o Keith from UM participates in this PAT and spoke about reusable containers and the Ann Arbor Area Sustainable Food Business Coalition.
- o Bigbelly compost containers.
- o What is happening at churches.
- o K-12 schools (Ann Arbor's sustainability framework).
- o Also looking at what the state is saying.
- Next meeting: 9/18 from 10-11am.
- c) **Inclusive Food Justice - Ava**
- Not discussed.
- d) **Pollinators PAT - Mitch Seymour**
- Currently this PAT has one item on the policy agenda (#17). One of the things discussed is adding another one. Not sure how difficult it is to add one (about community garden effort; could relate to #17, because some gardens are on County property).
 - o Jae: Not hard to change. Will be a point of discussion at the October working meeting. Email the addition to Anna or myself.
 - o Anna: Mitch, the draft you sent will go in there. Think should go under a category that will be created.
 - a. Want the WFPC to vote on the policy agenda (which has been reworked plus new ideas) by the end of the year.
- Putting together resources for Pollinators PAT, including a dashboard, and checking in on interest for meeting frequency.
- Commissioner Rabhi had expressed interest in a dashboard relating to activity. I support this idea and would be willing to help with this effort.
 - o Jae: Thank you for elevating this! This showcases how we do need more FTE support, because this would be a great thing for an analyst to do. Can add to working job description.
- From chat:
 - o Anna: Yes! We need a staff person!!!
- e) **Planning & Zoning PAT - PAT not currently active; looking for new Chair**
- Not currently active.
- f) **Farmers PAT - PAT not currently active; looking for new Chair**
- Not currently active.

7. Call to Action for Council Members

10:56-11:02 am

- a) **Council Members share about one thing they are going to do between now and the next meeting to stay engaged with the work – Anna**
- Combined with #8 (see #8).
- b) **Who do you want to hear from or what questions do you have that we could answer by inviting speakers – Keesa**
- Combined with #8 (see #8).

8. Open Comment (Council Members and Public)

10:56-11:02 am

- Combined with #7
- Chrissy: ILOS is coming to a head. This could mean a big difference to organizations doing food security work. Keep an eye on that space.
- Mitch: I have had some issues with emails I am sending going to spam. Is this a current problem?
 - o Anna: My invoices have gotten lost when sent to the County. I am happy to help bridge the gap. Just let me know if you need me to reach out to someone to make sure they see your email.
- Barbara: Thank you for your hard work; looking forward to attending more meetings.
- Mary: Learned about the Western Wayne County Food Policy Council. Will be setting up a meeting with one of the coordinators to learn about what they are working on.
- Lauren will attend the Local Food Festival. The WFPC will have a table.

Currently in Detroit, and work in regions 8-10 :)

09:23:20 From Anna Taylor-McCants to Everyone:

Replying to "Ki-Jana Malone, SDoH..."

Thanks for being here!

09:23:26 From Ki-Jana Malone, Aetna Better Health of Michigan to Everyone:

Reacted to "Thanks for being her..." with ♥

09:23:50 From Jae Gerhart, Trinity Health to Everyone:

2024 Washtenaw County Food Policy Council Tracking Form (google.com)

09:52:08 From Anna Taylor-McCants to Everyone:

Advocate that food system infrastructure that promotes equity, accessibility, nutrition and sustainability be prioritized in countywide economic development.

09:58:13 From Ki-Jana Malone, Aetna Better Health of Michigan to Everyone:

Mic issues sorry!

10:18:19 From May Tsupros (they/them) MSU-CRFS to Everyone:

Can you please put the link in the chat from the previous slide?

10:18:48 From Will Garcia (he/him) | City of Ann Arbor OSI to Everyone:

<https://nar.headwaterseconomics.org/2600003000/explore/map>

10:19:07 From May Tsupros (they/them) MSU-CRFS to Everyone:

Replying to "https://nar.headwate..."

Perfection. Thank you!

10:33:41 From Sandy Pernecky to Everyone:

Thanks so much for this presentation!

10:35:24 From Jenny Petoskey (she/her), City of Ann Arbor to Everyone:

More Life, Less Stuff: www.a2morelife.com

10:35:35 From May Tsupros (they/them) MSU-CRFS to Everyone:

Thanks for sharing. Have a great day all.

10:37:26 From Noelle Blasch to Everyone:

Reacted to "More Life, Less Stuf..." with 👍

10:41:56 From Andrew Paniagua, Food Gatherers to Everyone:

Thanks Jenny and Will, and to your team for this important work!

10:42:07 From Jenny Petoskey (she/her), City of Ann Arbor to Everyone:

jpetoskey@a2gov.org

10:42:09 From Will Garcia (he/him) | City of Ann Arbor OSI to Everyone:

wgarcia@a2gov.org

10:42:11 From Lauren Marquardt | MIFFS to Everyone:

Thank you so much for this presentation! I think this is all super helpful content for the council members and community to know, and I think we can learn a lot about the processes that you've used as we all learn how to navigate different issues with local government. So grateful that you are doing this work and for sharing it with us!

10:43:17 From Mary Balog, RDN to Everyone:

<https://news.a2schools.org/aaps-chartwells-partners-with-argus-farms-our-newest-vendor-of-local-fresh-produce/>

10:43:41 From Lauren Marquardt | MIFFS to Everyone:

Reacted to "https://news.a2schoo..." with ♥

10:55:44 From Anna Taylor-McCants to Everyone:

Yes! We need a staff person!!!

11:00:10 From Ki-Jana Malone, Aetna Better Health of Michigan to Everyone:

I sit on the Western Wayne Policy Council. :)

11:00:28 From Mary Balog, RDN to Everyone:

My email is Mary@marybalogrdn.com

11:01:37 From Mary Balog, RDN to Everyone:

Replying to "I sit on the Western..."

Would love to re-connect! I think I recall we met at the detroit food summit one year!

11:02:06 From Azella Markgraf | City of Ann Arbor OSI to Everyone:

Thank you everyone! If you'd like to get in touch, feel free to reach out via email, amarkgraf@a2gov.org!

11:02:10 From Barbara Niess-May, YMOW, she/her to Everyone:

Reacted to "Glad your here and c..." with 