



FOOD POLICY
COUNCIL
of Buffalo & Erie County

Food Policy Council of Buffalo and Erie County

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

July 30, 2025 | 4:00pm

Rath Building, Room 1004 | 95 Franklin Street | Buffalo, NY 14202

Councilmembers in Attendance: Sarah Gatti, Danielle Rovillo, Karine Amato, Jessica Schuster, Mallory Hohl, Marla Guarino, Thomas Baines, Krishna Antoine, Eric Tower, Michelle Roberts, Laura Corrin

Councilmembers Excused: Rob Free, Betsy Andersen, Kelly Ann Kowalski, Kathleen Grait, Mayda Pozantides

Guests: Deputy County Executive Lisa Chimera, Malaquia Nieves, Hayley Davis

1. Welcome

2. Consideration of the May 2025 Meeting Minutes

Danielle Rovillo made a motion to **APPROVE** the May 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Eric Tower, and carried by all voting members.

3. Treasurer Update

Sarah Gatti shared there is a balance of \$5,046.04 remaining.

4. Erie County Updates

- 1) Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan: The public comment period has concluded, and the Plan is being updated to reflect comments received. The Plan will then be shared with the County Legislature and is expected to be approved this year.
- 2) Erie County Farm to Families: The program is scheduled to sunset next month and resources to help ease the transition are being provided to participants.
- 3) Find Fresh Erie: The program is moving forward and should begin this summer or fall.

5. Partner Organization Updates

Summer meal utilization has been at an all-time high. The 716 CSA program is also busy this season. The Food as Medicine Coalition is hosting a meeting in August, details will be shared with the FPC.

6. Committee and Working Group Updates

- 1) Governance: A new City of Buffalo representative, Krishna Antoine, has been appointed and was present at the meeting.



- 2) Action Planning: The APC recommends that the Erie County Food Systems Assessment primarily focus on Erie County as a whole and that all recommendations should be grounded in the legal and jurisdictional authorities of counties within New York State. Municipalities should be considered to a lesser extent, with the City of Buffalo receiving more in-depth analysis. Marla Guarino made a motion to **APPROVE** the recommendation, seconded by Mallory Hohl, and carried by all voting members.
- 3) Emergency Food: Kathy Graim is now Chair and is working to reestablish membership and direction.
- 4) Procurement: The group has struggled with participation. In light of this, the procurement guide has been shifted to an informational webpage which will be a high-level guide for those interested in local procurement. Another goal of the group is a meet and greet event between farmers and procurers. It was suggested that farmers and other food-related businesses be provided assistance with MWBE certification.
- 5) Youth: Adults participating in the group need a background check. The group will, hopefully, begin in September and continue through the school year. There will be a curriculum and a capstone project with a presentation to the FPC.

7. Other Business

- 1) Overdose Awareness Event: The FPC will be purchasing \$1,000 in produce bags for this event. The bags will be given out free of charge.
- 2) Slow Roll Harvest Roll: The FPC will be tabling at this event and FPC members are encouraged to attend.
- 3) Summit: The FPC is sponsoring a local government training on agriculture and food systems on September 16, 2025 at the Elma Senior Center. Those interested in event planning can attend a logistics meeting on July 31 at 10:30am.
- 4) Summer Social: The FPC summer social event will be held at Duende on August 27 at 4pm.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:11pm.