



**Food Policy Council of Buffalo and Erie County**  
**Regular Meeting DRAFT Minutes | September 24, 2025 | 4:00 PM**  
**Rath Building, Room 1004, 95 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY 14202**

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**Councilmembers in Attendance:** Krishna Antoine, Betsy Andersen, Thomas Baines, Laura Corrin, Rob Free, Sarah Gatti, Kathy Graim, Mallory Hohl, Kelly Ann Kowalski, Mayda Pozantides, Michelle Roberts, Danielle Rovillo, Jessica Schuster, Eric Tower

**Councilmembers Excused:** Marla Guarino

**Councilmembers Absent:** Karine Amato

**Guests:** Dan Castle, Gerald George

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1. **Welcome** 4:00 – 4:05 PM
2. **Consideration of the July 2025 Meeting Minutes** 4:00 – 4:05 PM  
Voting on the draft minutes was tabled until the November meeting.
3. **Treasurer Update** 4:00 – 4:05 PM  
The balance is \$4,046.04.
4. **Erie County Updates** 4:10 – 4:20 PM
  - 1) Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan: The final draft of the Plan is done and will be delivered to the Legislature for approval this year. The FPC will be looped in on relevant implementation actions.
  - 2) Erie County Farm to Families: The program wrapped up in late August, with final claims and reporting now underway. Facilities received boxes of informational pamphlets, and one additional mailing, with winter preparedness materials, is planned.
  - 3) Find Fresh Erie: The USDA-funded Find Fresh Erie County program is launching an ad campaign on buses and bus stops to promote a text service that connects residents to fresh food resources by zip code. Data from Erie Grown and existing grocery stores has already been shared with 211, with corner store data coming soon. The farmers market coupon

component is delayed until spring 2026 to better align with the growing season.

**5. Partner Organization Updates**

4:20 – 4:30 PM

Live Well Erie is hosting a senior retreat on October 18, 2025 at the Orchard Park Senior Center, offering sessions on elder law, nutrition, safety, and financial responsibility, with lunch provided by FeedMore. Community organizations can also share resources and brochures at the event.

The WNY Food as Medicine Symposium will run October 23–25, 2025, featuring farm tours, panels on functional medicine and food-focused businesses, nutrition talks, and guest speakers including a public health influencer. Registration details will be shared with attendees.

The Buffalo Bills Foundation’s Huddle for Hunger event is on September 30, featuring a food drive festival with 18 hunger-fighting charities, mobile markets, garden demos, and family activities. Attendees can enjoy food samples, meet players, and receive giveaways, with donations benefiting FeedMore.

Over the summer, Buffalo Place hosted farmers market pop-ups where local chefs created samples from fresh market ingredients. If Buffalo Place hosts a similar program next year, there may be an opportunity to showcase the Emergency Eats Cookbook.

**6. Committee and Working Group Updates**

4:30 – 4:45 PM

Marla Garino is terming off the FPC in December, leaving the Procurement Working Group in need of a new leader.

The Youth Working Group is finalizing its program proposal which will be shared with the Council once finished. Erie County can conduct background checks for adult members.

**7. Old Business**

4:45 – 4:50 PM

Approximately 45 people attended the September 16, 2025 land use training. The event received positive feedback for providing clear action steps on farm-friendly zoning and Agricultural District enforcement.

About 50 food boxes were distributed at the Overdose Awareness Event.

**8. Other Business**

4:50 – 4:55 PM

Public comment was permitted to allow Gerald George, a small dairy farmer, to address the Council. Mr. George, raised concerns about local purchasing, farm consolidation, and how both impact the community. He asked what support might be available. Council members clarified their advisory role with limited authority but offered to share resources and connections (if any). Mr. George was encouraged to stay engaged with lawmakers who hold more power to act.

**8. Adjournment**

4:55 – 5:00 PM

The meeting adjourned at 4:38pm.

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