



Food Policy Council of Buffalo and Erie County

University at Buffalo (South Campus), 3435 Main Street, Buffalo, 14214
April 29, 2026 · 4:00-5:00pm

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Members Attending: Danielle Rovillo, Sarah Gatti, Laura Corrin, Michelle Roberts, Rob Free, Eric Tower, Jessica Schuster, Mallory Hohl, Karine Amato, Zaque Evans, Mayda Pozantides, Betsy Anderson

Members Absent: Krishna Antoine, Kelly Ann Kowalski, Kathleen Graim

Staff Attending: Dimitri Malliaris, Madison Marquardt

1. Welcome

2. Consideration of the January 2026 Meeting Minutes

Jessica Schuster made a motion to **APPROVE** the January 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Danielle Rovillo, and carried by all voting members.

3. Treasurer Update

Mr. Free stated there is a balance of \$1,633.15 remaining of the United Way grant.

4. Erie County Updates

a. Find Fresh Erie County

Ms. Rovillo provided an update on the Find Fresh Erie program. The marketing campaign will begin in June. Ms. Schuster announced that the Village of Springville is starting a new farmers market this season. Ms. Schuster will lead introductions to Chairperson Sarah Gatti to get them set up on Erie Grown and the annual farmers market map.

b. Food Systems Assessment

Chairperson Sarah Gatti informed the Council that following to conclusion of this meeting, the University at Buffalo (UB) studio would be holding a community outreach workshop in Crosby Hall. FPC members were encouraged to participate. On May 11 from 4:30-5:30pm, the UB studio will present their semester long assessment. Additional details will be sent out to FPC members and members were again encouraged to attend if possible.

5. Partner Organization Updates



Ms. Amato has started a new position with the UB Veggie Van and will be tabling for the Eat Local campaign throughout the summer. FPC members are welcome to share resources on eating local to be included with the tabling materials. Mallory Hohl shared that a soil testing event will be held at the Massachusetts Avenue Project and registration is currently at capacity. Michelle Roberts announced the Buffalo Bills Foundation will be sponsoring the June 1st Slow Roll that starts at MAP. Chairperson Gatti will provide FPC materials to Ms. Roberts for the event. The Foundation will be tabling at the Juneteenth Festival and invited the FPC to provide materials and/or to attend that event. Eric Tower reported that between 3,000 - 4,500 will lose their SNAP benefits as recertification begins. Some will be recertified within six months, but additional stress on food pantries and soup kitchens is expected.

6. New Business

a. Allergen Concern

A resident concern regarding food allergens at events was shared with the Council. Erie County Sanitary Codes do not require allergens to be disclosed. The FPC does not believe food allergens are within its role. All members agreed to refer the concern to the Erie County Board of Health.

b. NYS Food Policy Council Group

Ms. Hohl spoke on the NYS Community Food Collaborative indicating she was no longer able to participate and a new FPC representative was needed. Ms. Corrin and Mayda Pozantides are both interested in representing the Food Policy Council.

c. Good Food Buffalo Coalition Rep

- d. Chairperson Gatti noted the Council needed consistent representation on the Good Food Buffalo Coalition group. Ms. Pozantides and Ms. Amato both attend and agreed to represent the FPC and report back at Council meetings.

7. Other Business

Ms. Rovillo noted that the County Executive announced a \$1 farm to family's program during the State of the County address.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Schuster made a motioned to **ADJOURN** at 5pm, seconded by Zaque Evans and carried by all voting members.