

Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Date & Location: Wednesday, August 16, 2023; United Way of Greater Knoxville

Type of Meeting: Educational

Recorder: Brett Foster

<p>Attending Appointed (Voting) Members Bolded names in attendance</p>	<p>Bruce Crabtree Bailey Foster Brett Foster Laura Deubler Ross Jones Sara Keel Marisa Moazen Jen Russomanno Rylan Thompson Lauren Woods Donna Wright</p>
<p>Attending Associated (Non-voting) Members Bolded names in attendance</p>	<p>Beth Brown Adam Caraco Kara Finger Nicole Gross Lisa Healy Travis Henderson Marissa McKeague Judith Pelot Charlotte Rodina Wade Seifert Marsha Spence Caesar Stair Erin Sweeney Vivian Williams</p>
<p>Other Attendees (all names listed were in attendance)</p>	<p>Jessie Hillman—Knoxville-Knox County Planning Madelyn Howe—Knox County Health Department Fiona McAnally—City of Knoxville Kimberly Pettigrew—United Way Greater Knoxville</p> <p>Ashlynn Anderson—United Way Greater Knoxville Clare Branhall—Karen Karp & Partners Liliana Burbano-UTMC Sarah DeWitt—Knox Botanical Garden Emily Jackson—Knox TPO Brandon Ledford—Centro Hispano Hailey Lewis—UT Student Porschia Prickett—Wesley House Kinsey Simmerman—Knox County Health Department Lillie Sutton—KCDC AmeriCorps</p>

	Charlotte Tolley—Nourish Knoxville Sarah Wharton—Little Chefs, Big Change
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1.	Welcome and Introductions: Bailey Foster
2.	<p>Presentation: Brandon Ledford (Centro Hispano), Ashlyn Anderson (UWGK Intern)</p> <p><u>Centro Hispano</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading resource for East TN’s Latino community and for East TN regarding the Latino community • Goal is for every Latino/Latina in East TN to thrive culturally, educationally, and economically • TN has one of the fastest growing Latino populations in the US • Holistic viewpoint—community resources (health, legal, and civic participation); youth and family engagement (afterschool programs—homework help, bilingual tutoring, post-secondary access, parenting classes); workforce development (meet people where they are—ESL, digital education, parent computer class, financial education, medical interpreter training) • Grandes Sueños en Pequeñas Empresas (GSPE)—Spanish entrepreneur support initiative to guide in development, implementation, and evaluation of business models. Started with research at Haslam College of Business with capstone project. GSPE III Celebration will be held at Knoxville Chamber on August 22nd at 5:00 PM <p><u>Latina Food Business CBO Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal is to foster collaborative networks to strengthen small business development in Latina community • Project rooted in community (Real Good Kitchen, Centro Hispano, Three3) • 3 groups for focus groups (beginning, middle, advanced)—2 hour long sessions; 9 different countries represented • Data collection—mixed methods (dialogue, sticky notes, written feedback) • Understanding small business model (focused on questions about food procurement and food production) • Skills/knowledge focus points—education/training; legal permissions and certifications; knowledge of product, market analysis and familiarity of costs; soft skills (relationships w/clients and community, building trust) • Primary barriers identified—handling finances, perceived competition, not securing licensing/permission, lack of family and community support • Primary facilitators to make it easier to operate a food business—adaptability to change, clear understanding of rules and regulations, feeling well-trained and educated, having sufficient finances, adequate kitchen space • Visualization of future—ultimate goal for many was a brick and mortar restaurant and continuing growth of business

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learned: creating a bilingual safe space that centers Latina voices, offering food and building trust at focus groups, interactive components and mixed methodology • Action items: created and distribute a list of community gardens in Spanish, generate list of food business contacts and resources in Spanish, assess reality of “comedor popular” idea in Knoxville and at Real Good Kitchen • Path forward: grow financial stability for women and family unit; network weaving to equip and resource Latinas with bilingual resources; increase Latina ownership within food system through sustainable food businesses; and build inclusive, diverse, culturally rich, food landscape in Knoxville
3.	<p>Organizational Updates and Announcements: <u>Knoxville-Knox County Planning</u>— two bilingual front desk planners (can answer land use, zoning questions)</p>
4.	<p>Meeting Adjourned.</p>

Upcoming Meetings:

September 20, 2023—Annual Retreat, UWGK

October 18, 2023—Volunteer East TN, location/final details in planning