



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Food Council

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Wednesday, December 18, 2024  
4:15 PM

Regular

Department of Public  
Health and Human  
Services  
Training Room 1  
1005 W. Worley St.  
Columbia, MO 65203

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

**Present:** 6 - Katie Molitor, Tish Johnson, Shannon Stokes, Kyra Barnard, Corrina Smith and Johnna Martin

**Excused:** 3 - Gabriela Weir Vera, Adam Saunders and Anna Meyer

#### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was distributed in advance of the meeting. Johnson requested that attendees review the document and suggest any amendments. A motion to approve the agenda was proposed by Smith, seconded by Barnard, and unanimously approved.

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft Minutes for November 20th, 2024

•Discussion of Edits to Food Assessment Document

Johnson referred to the food system assessment document and highlighted an edit in the third paragraph where the word "monitor" had been crossed out. Smith sought clarification on whether this change appeared in their copy, which was resolved after it was determined that they had been referencing an outdated version of the document. Smith also raised concerns about unclear language under "Business B" regarding family and outreach efforts. Molitor suggested refining the phrasing to enhance clarity, and Shikles and Oliver offered to assist with revisions.

•Motion to Approve Document with Corrections

Johnson called for a motion to approve the food system assessment document with the noted corrections. The motion to approve, with corrections, was proposed by Barnard, seconded by Molitor, and passed unanimously.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

•A. Proposal to Table Discussion on Items A and B

Shikles proposed tabling the discussion on items A and B to prioritize other pressing topics.

**o Discussion on Food Rescue and Waste Management:**

Stokes provided an update on food rescue efforts, highlighting partnerships with Into Action and Starbucks. Johnson inquired about key contacts and local waste management practices. Challenges in rescuing food from restaurants, including packaging and portion sizes, were discussed. Additional community initiatives, such as food donations to Loaves and Fishes and Comac, were mentioned. Johnson shared a personal story and raised questions about donation restrictions. Barnard and others suggested exploring catered food donations from commercial kitchens.

**o Discussion on Business License Fees for Small Vendors:**

Smith expressed concern over the disproportionate impact of city business license fees on small vendors, proposing a lower revenue category for small businesses. Johnson supported this idea and recommended further research on fee structures. Molitor emphasized the equity concern of lowering barriers for new businesses. Attendees discussed challenges with duplicative fees for vendors operating across multiple counties. Smith offered to research business license structures in other cities and proposed adding this topic to the next meeting's agenda.

**o Discussion on Water Rates for Small Producers:**

Molitor raised concerns about the impact of water rate increases on small producers and home gardeners. Molitor referenced previous surveys and reports. Johnson noted a 4% rate hike in October, with plans for further increases. Attendees acknowledged the complexity of water rate policies and expressed interest in reviewing past reports to understand their impact. Schley suggested adding this issue to future discussions.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

**• A. Community Food Ambassador Program Update**

Nothing to update

**• B. Survey Distribution Update:**

Schley provided an update on the assessment phase, noting that 800 responses had been completed in the community survey, but no significant new data was available for presentation. Johnson elaborated on the survey's extensive distribution through Constant Contact, ensuring broad outreach.

Schley clarified that 850 surveys had been completed, exceeding initial expectations. They emphasized ongoing efforts to encourage further participation and reminded the group of the retailer and producer surveys, which are integral components of the broader assessment.

- **C. Retailer and Producer Survey Distribution Working Session**

Schley suggested a brainstorming activity in which participants would break into two groups to generate ideas on improving engagement with producers and retailers. Sticky notes would be color-coded for the two categories. Johnson inquired about the meeting duration, and Shikles confirmed sufficient time for the session.

Shikles proposed prioritizing categorization if time became constrained, deferring further discussion to the next meeting. Schley agreed and proposed emailing the updated distribution plan for review before the next meeting.

- o **Brainstorming Clarifications:**

Molitor sought clarification on whether participants should focus on one category (producers or retailers) or both. Schley encouraged ideas for both, even if time was limited, and requested all ideas be recorded for later categorization.

- o **Brainstorming Activity Assignment:**

Johnson suggested completing the brainstorming activity as homework, allowing participants additional time to refine their ideas. An unidentified speaker agreed with this approach, ensuring participants had ample time to contribute thoughtful input.

- o **Discussion on Time Constraints and Topics:**

Johnson acknowledged the limited time available but noted several topics for discussion. An unidentified speaker apologized for the oversight on time. Shikles reassured the group that the meeting had been productive, with no issues arising due to time constraints. Oliver confirmed that the discussion adhered to the meeting's policy.

- o **Updates on Business Licensing and Retailers:**

Molitor expressed satisfaction with the progress regarding business licensing for food retailers, noting that businesses like produce delivery services fall under different regulations. Molitor highlighted that businesses combining retail and restaurant models should be considered for inclusion in the discussions.

- o **Discussion on Local Mexican Restaurant and Distribution of Specialty Products:**

Stokes provided an update on La Churrasa, a Mexican restaurant that also distributes specialty products to local restaurants. There was a brief inquiry into whether La Churrasa sources its produce locally, with Stokes uncertain of the supply chain. Stokes suggested adding the business to retail rescue initiatives due to its broader distribution reach.

- o **Updates on Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Schley asked for final thoughts as the meeting was scheduled to conclude at 5:30 PM. The group discussed upcoming meetings, including membership meetings on January 21st and February 18th. Stokes suggested using paper forms to distribute information at these events, as many recipients do not engage with

emails regularly.

**VI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF**

No additional comments.

**VII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15th, 2025

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

**USB DRIVES PROHIBITED:** Due to cybersecurity concerns, flash drives and other media devices are no longer permitted for delivering files or presentation materials. A speaker who desires to display a presentation must upload the presentation, in advance, to the city network using an upload portal. To upload your files and learn more, visit [CoMo.gov/upload](http://CoMo.gov/upload). (Effective Jan. 1, 2023)