



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes - Final

Food Council

Wednesday, September 17, 2025
4:15 PM

Regular

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Saunders called the meeting to order at 4:17 p.m.

Present: 7 - Anna Meyer, Katie Molitor, Tish Johnson, Adam Saunders, Shannon Daily, Corrina Smith and Johnna Martin

Excused: 2 - Gabriela Weir Vera and Kyra Barnard

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Meyer moved to approve the agenda, with Martin seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Daily moved to approve the August 20th meeting minutes, with Meyer noting the edit on page 3 and seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachments: [Draft Meeting Minutes August 20, 2025](#)

IV. OLD BUSINESS

• OFBC update

The Boone County Food Policy project is currently in the analysis phase. Paper and online surveys are being compiled, and qualitative data review is underway. Six focus groups have been completed, and while turnout was sometimes limited, discussions revealed consistent themes, including food waste as a major concern, strong appreciation for the Food Bank and the farmers market, and community interest in improving accessibility and waste reduction systems. Moving forward, the team will pursue additional informal information-gathering through existing community meetings and pre-formed groups. Although the formal focus group events with incentives have ended, leftover incentives will still be used in smaller engagements.

Future plans include hosting symposiums, as defined in the grant contract, to gather public input. These may take the form of community food events, such as a “food fest” style gathering, with pre- and post-surveys to measure learning and impact. Symposia are budgeted to occur annually through the grant, with flexibility in timing, and a spring 2026 event is under consideration. Preliminary data releases, such as data walks and community events, may also occur before the final report. Draft reports will be shared for public feedback, then revised and presented to the commission, with the final report expected in summer or fall 2026.

The report will summarize community input and data findings, while the five-year food plan will outline actionable recommendations for City Council and the County Commission. The report is also intended to serve as a tool for external organizations, such as the health department, MU Extension, and local nonprofits, to leverage for funding applications and program development. Data sources will combine qualitative stories from community members with quantitative data from partners such as CARES, MU faculty, and economic researchers.

The commission's role will be to review drafts, identify key themes, and develop clear, prioritized recommendations for City Council and the County Commission. Commissioners emphasized the importance of distilling findings into concise action items rather than lengthy reports, while also recognizing that their role is advisory-focused on recommendations, stakeholder connections, and facilitating collaboration rather than direct service delivery. Ideas under discussion include hosting a Food Fest-style event to showcase community food resources, creating a Food Forum or “hackathon” gathering to promote collaboration on food system challenges, and exploring how supporting systems such as insurance, healthcare, and employers intersect with the food system and can be engaged in solutions.

• County representation update

During the discussion on county representation, it was noted that there are currently no updates. Shikles will be reaching out to the County Commission to see if they can provide an appointee, but no information has been received yet. Members acknowledged that this will continue to stay on the group's radar. It was suggested that survey and focus group results may help highlight community needs and gaps, which could shape objectives and activities moving forward-such as hosting a Food Forum or Food Fest, if members are interested.

• **Statement on events**

The group also reviewed upcoming priorities. While grant-related events have already been identified, members emphasized the importance of focusing future meetings on mission, vision, and values activities, as well as brainstorming for upcoming events.

Johnson and another member will meet in advance to prepare, so that the next meeting can dedicate more time to this work. Timing of the symposium was briefly discussed, with the note that spring can be a busy season. The group agreed to prioritize the mission/vision/values discussion at the next meeting and also include Meyer's training epinephrine injector on the agenda.

V. NEW BUSINESS

• **Statement on CHIP involvement**

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a strategic, forward-looking plan that identifies community health goals and actionable strategies, building upon the five-year Community Health Assessment conducted by the Health Department. The Food Council is specifically referenced in the CHIP, particularly within the Health Behaviors priority group, in recognition of its expertise and pre-existing initiatives in the community.

The Food Council's role within the CHIP is to serve as a mobilizing body to support initiatives related to food education, including food safety, growing, storage, and cooking. This involvement provides an opportunity for the Council to influence policy, share data, and collaborate with other agencies. While there may be some overlap between the CHIP and the Council's five-year plan, the intent is to leverage existing structures and initiatives to advance community health objectives.

Being referenced in the CHIP underscores the Council's contributions and positions it as a key stakeholder in implementing strategies aimed at improving healthy behaviors in the community.

• Vision, mission, and goal statements

The group reviewed the development of vision, mission, and goal statements for the Food Council. Members acknowledged that while branding, naming, and identity work had been established, formal adoption of mission, vision, and values had not yet occurred. Previous examples and worksheets from comparable food councils were shared to support the discussion and provide guidance.

It was noted that earlier efforts, including work from 2021 and pre-pandemic, had attempted to define mission and vision statements, though some language—such as references to equity and sustainability—may require review for compliance with current city guidance. The group discussed balancing aspirational goals with legally permissible language, emphasizing advisory roles over advocacy in policy matters. Members agreed that concise language focusing on resilience, adaptability, nutrition, environmental health, and support for local producers would be prioritized.

The discussion also addressed economic considerations, including leveraging local food procurement to support Boone County farmers and create a positive fiscal impact. The importance of defining “local” in relation to the grant parameters and practical food system boundaries was highlighted. Members agreed that developing mission and vision statements would be an ongoing, multi-meeting process, with the intent to eventually incorporate them into public reports for the City Council.

Next steps include refining language for clarity, confirming compliant terminology, and continuing the process in future meetings to produce concise, actionable statements.

• Current events/relevant food policy updates

None

VI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

None

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

October 15, 2025

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Molitor moved to end the meeting at 5:33 pm, with Meyer seconding the motion. It passed unanimously.**