



**Washtenaw County Food Policy Council (WFPC)
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2023; 9:00 – 11:00 AM
Via Zoom**

ATTENDEES

Council Members:

Present

1. Alex Canepa
2. Ann Hubbard
3. Anna Taylor-McCants
4. Aubrey Lopatin
5. Ava HaberkornHalm
6. Jae Gerhart
7. Julius Buzzard
8. Keesa V. Johnson
9. Laura Wonch
10. Lauren Marquardt
11. Marissa Prizgint
12. Markell Miller
13. Mary Balog
14. Maya Grant
15. Sandy Pernecky

Absent

1. Caroline Sanders (Commissioner)
2. Damian Rivera
3. Larrea Young

WFPC Support Staff:

1. Ariane Donnelly – Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD)

Other Attendees:

1. Jim Mogensen: Community activist and Food Access & Nutrition Policy Action Team (PAT) member
2. Cynthia Price: Co-Chair of the Planning & Zoning PAT

MEETING NOTES

1. Opening/Introductions

9:03-9:23, 9:51-9:52 am

a) Welcome new members!

b) Council members share name, affiliation, seat, PAT/Committee, area of interest, and location of remote attendance.

Attendees shared their name, affiliation, seat, PAT/Committee, and area of interest. Council members also shared from where they are attending remotely (municipality, county, state). Council members in remote attendance:

- Alex Canepa attending remotely from Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan
- Ann Hubbard attending remotely from Ann Arbor Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Anna Taylor-McCants attending remotely from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Aubrey Lopatin attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Ava HaberkornHalm attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Jae Gerhart attending remotely from Pontiac, Oakland County, Michigan

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- Julius Buzzard attending remotely from Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Keesa V. Johnson attending remotely from Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Laura Wonch attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Lauren Marquardt attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Marissa Prizgint attending remotely from Northfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Markell Miller attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Mary Balog attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Maya Grant attending remotely from Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Sandy Pernecky attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan

2. Agenda, Minutes Additions/Deletions/Approval

9:23-9:26 am

a) Previous Meeting Minutes (September and November)

I. Motion: To approve September 14, 2022 and November 9, 2022 meeting minutes

1. **Motion: Marissa, Seconded: Ann**

2. **Approved: Yes-14, No-0** (14 council members present at time of vote)

b) Meeting Agenda (November and January)

I. Motion: To approve November 9, 2022 and January 11, 2023 meeting agendas

1. **Motion: Marissa, Seconded: Ann**

2. **Approved: Yes-14, No-0** (14 council members present at time of vote)

3. Public Comment

9:26-9:28 am

- Jim: will give an update later in the meeting regarding the Food Access & Nutrition (FAN) PAT. There is a slight chance may need to step away during today's meeting.
- Cynthia: Co-Chair of the Planning & Zoning PAT. I have done a lot of work state-wide and in other parts of the state. I do a lot of work with people experiencing homelessness (working with Pastor Anna). There is a movement beginning to start a community land trust (not the same as a land bank), which is coming from the homeless community.
 - Keesa is interested in learning more about the community land trust and will contact Cynthia.

4. Executive Committee (EC) Report

9:28-9:47 am

a) Mentorship Program - *Ann*

- Started a pilot mentorship/onboarding support program in 2022. Paired new council members with existing council members to be a contact point to help new council members integrate into the WFPC. Decided to continue this program in 2023, and new council members have already been paired with existing council members. New council members need varying levels of support (ex: some want a more formal relationship; some may already be connected to the WFPC's work/food systems work and need less support). Goals of the program: facilitate engagement of new council members, increase knowledge of the work of the WFPC and its organizational systems, increase knowledge of the wider food policy ecosystem in the state, encourage connections between council members, and improve retention rates of council members. Expectations of mentors: make contact, offer welcome and support for integrating into the WFPC, serve as point of contact for questions, and check in to see if the new member has made a connection to a PAT or workgroup (which is one of the requirements of council members).
- Something we did not do last year but considering doing this year: building on to what is presented at the new council member orientation. Going to explore this with other folks who might volunteer to work with me on developing this program. Perhaps sending monthly emails about the documents in our google drive that might need more explaining/highlighting them. Goals: figure out if this mentorship program should be permanent; figure out how to operationalize it, who is responsible for it, where on the work chart it should go, and if it is sustainable; and survey participants on what they need, what worked, and what did not. Ann is creating an ad hoc workgroup to talk about the organization of this program and feedback from those participating. Ann anticipates two, 1-hour meetings over the next few months. Then will report to the EC. Marissa, Lauren, and Markell will join this ad hoc workgroup.

b) PAT or Other Engagement Requirement for WFPC Members – *Keesa*

- One way for us to actively participate in community engagement on the WFPC is through the PATs. PATs regularly

meet throughout the year, work on priority issues, were started so we can take actions on projects and dive deeper into work that needs to be done, and help move our policy agenda items forward. This year we are going to collectively come to an agreement about which policy action items to participate in/prioritize. The PATs help us do that. PATs are created from the ground up/from community members (not necessarily from council members). Community members (like Jim and Cynthia who are not council members) help increase engagement and outreach. We have several PATs.

- Want to get the Farmers PAT started again. The Farmers PAT should be made up of farmers and non-farmers alike, and this PAT is able to create a voice for the growers to help influence policy, reduce barriers, and increase educational opportunities.
 - The Food Access & Nutrition PAT is ongoing and helps to influence policy change and engage stakeholders so everyone in Washtenaw County has access to food for a healthy way of life.
 - The Food Waste & Packaging PAT is just getting re-started. There is a lot of energy around this PAT, and this PAT is to help minimize food waste without compromising our safety, as well as ways to develop policy around this.
 - The Planning & Zoning PAT examines land use and issues across the food system as it relates to planning and zoning ordinances.
 - The Pollinators PAT is not currently active, but it would convene to recommend and support institutions in Washtenaw County to take measures to preserve our essential pollinators populations.
 - Other ways you can get involved:
 - Join the Michigan Local Food Council Network (MLFCN), which is a large network of food organizations and advocates that come together around issues in the state. You can join their listserv and sign up to receive their newsletter: https://www.canr.msu.edu/local_food_council_network/
 - Get out in the community and do some work. Figure out what problems there are/who we need to be advocates for.
 - Attend city/township meetings. We have a list ([WFPC Liaison Assignments .xlsx - Google Sheets](#)) that we will send out for people to sign up to be points of contact to actually attend these meetings and report back. Please sign up for them if you are interested. We need this information, and we need the WFPC to be part of these conversations.
 - Marissa: Additionally, there are ad hoc projects that come up throughout the year (like Ann's mentorship program workgroup). Volunteering for these is a great way to get involved and to get started. When I was new, I jumped in on some workgroups. It was a great way to establish relationships with others in the WFPC and to dive in and start on something. They are small, quick projects.
 - Ava: is interested in starting a PAT/workgroup and is wondering how to go about starting it.
 - Suggestions:
 - Identify the description of this PAT and how you want it to function.
 - Discuss the creation of this PAT at an EC meeting (Ann would be happy to meet with Ava to help prepare/get the initial documents together).
 - Markell believes the WFPC has the authority to create a PAT/workgroup (it does not even have to be connected to the policy agenda).
 - Excerpt from Section 4 of the bylaws:
 - The Council shall establish standing committees and/or issues committees (Policy Action Teams "PAT" and ad hoc work groups as needed) to perform the work of the Council and to include additional stakeholders. As circumstances arise, the Council can alter, change or disband these committees. People working on these committees are not eligible for stipend.
- c) **Annual Report Update - Ann**
- The 2022 annual report is in progress. The first annual report was created in 2018, and one of the workgroups of the WFPC prepares it with input from the PATs and other workgroups. We do use the tracking form (Marissa will talk about this in today's meeting) to keep record of what the WFPC does throughout the year and to identify what we want added into the report. The report is presented to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) at a public meeting, and it increases awareness of the WFPC and its work (to the commissioners and to the community). In terms of this year's report, articles have mostly been submitted, are being edited, and then Marissa will put the report into its final form

(digital, 2-page document). If there are additional submissions, let Ann know. For example, wondering if there is any update to share in the 2022 report regarding any follow-up to the letters submitted to the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) about bus routes/grocery ride?

- We will email the final draft of the report to council members for approval. Will likely get feedback by passive consent, which is outlined in the bylaws (see excerpt from Section 8 of the bylaws below):
 - Council work being carried out by committees that requires timely attention may be approved via a passive consent process. A deadline for members to respond will be established and if at most one Council member expresses concern, the item will be considered consensus to move the issue forward on behalf of the Washtenaw County Food Policy Council. If two or more Council members dissent, the item will be tabled until the next meeting.
 - We are awaiting the date for our presentation to the BOC.
 - Many thanks to everyone who participated in this creation and to Marissa who will put this report into its final form!
- d) [Tracking Our Work](#) - *Marissa***
- The annual report comes together at the end of the year. For this reason and others, we like to track the work that we do. Track anything you can think of! Examples: if you attend a MLFCN call, if you speak with a trustee in your township about a food-related issue, etc. The tracking form is linked in today's agenda. Some items on the form are required, some are not. If you do not know what policy agenda item it pertains to, that is okay, it is not required. You can reach out to me, or whomever the new Secretary will be, with questions. It is the Secretary's responsibility to ensure this tracking form is filled out. The Secretary should remind you at every meeting to fill out this form. The Secretary will reach out to you if they have additional questions about your entry.
 - If multiple people are involved (example, multiple people go to a meeting), only one person needs to submit an entry, as the tracking form asks who was involved (so you can list the multiple people involved this way).

5. EC Elections ([Bylaws](#))

9:47-9:51, 9:52-9:56 am

- Marissa is stepping down as Secretary. Nominated for positions. Approved Jae as Chairperson (14 votes), Ann as Vice-Chairperson (14 votes), Keesa as Racial Equity Liaison (14 votes), Alex as Policy Liaison (14 votes), and Aubrey as Secretary (14 votes): 14 Council Members present at time of election. Appointments made. Congrats and thank you!

6. Introduce Vision Update Process 2023

9:56-9:59 am

a) Past masterplan: [WFPC Master Workplan - Google Sheets](#)

- We (as the WFPC) are applying for a grant today! It is a Seed grant from the MLFCN for \$5,000 to support a strategic planning process in 2023. The proposal is that the EC would release an RFP for a consultant, and then that consultant would help us with our strategic plan. There is a link in the agenda for the 2018 strategic plan. When we did this process before, we identified five priority areas which helped guide the council's work for the next five years, but it needs updating, because it has been 5 years and there is a whole new set of people on the WFPC. If we are not awarded the grant, the EC will think of other ways to reach the goal, but it might not be as robust as if we had a facilitator and consultant.
- There is a timeline associated with this grant, and it includes a summer (July or August) in person meeting (to be scheduled). Wanted to put this on your radar that it would be for the whole council to come together and participate in the process with the facilitator, as well as pre-work.

b) Plan for updating vision - *Keesa*

- See notes above for #6a.

7. PAT Introductions

9:59-10:18 am

a) Food Access & Nutrition (FAN) PAT – *Jim Mogensen?*

- The FAN PAT is a long-standing PAT. There has been some recent turnover in leadership due to job changes. Currently looking for a new chair. Food Gatherers' employee will not be able to fill the chair role (as in recent past). In process of sorting out how the PAT will function.

- This PAT has a Food Sovereignty workgroup. Growing Hope has surveyed the community, and there are several things that the community have identified they want to work on. We are in the process of sorting through how to make this happen (ex: community food gardens).
- Danielle Dros with the Washtenaw Intermediate School District has been working with Jim on transportation transit issue things (follow-up to what Ann was talking about earlier in today's meeting). Want to make sure people have access to getting to where they need to go to get food. Danielle has an intern who will go out into the community to do some checking on this.
- Next meeting: 1/23
- Julius sent out an email to the FAN PAT google group about the next meeting, and mentioned that he received a lot of email bounce-backs (i.e., people no longer working at that position).
 - Ariane will remove email addresses that are bouncing in this PAT google group, as well as for the other PAT google groups.

b) Food Waste & Packaging WorkGroup – Ann & Aubrey

- This was a PAT prior to the pandemic; currently a workgroup as they get re-started/ready to come out of hibernation.
- Currently a relatively small group (Aubrey, Ann, and three community members). Most of us came together over an interest in increasing food composting in Washtenaw County. Our exact focus and how we want to address that issue is still in flux. Planning to spend this next year to really think about this, choose a focus and/or potential project, and start to move forward with that.
- We welcome anyone who is interested in joining us. We currently have 1 meeting a month (the first Tuesday of the month at 11:00am). You can join the google group listserv to receive updates when we have them. Mostly we have a group email (because it is not actually a PAT yet). Let me know if you would like to be added to this group email.
 - Laura wants to join the group!
- One of the things that has been helpful is our connection to the Washtenaw County Solid Waste Plan Policy Implementation Advisory Committee. Aubrey and Ann have been attending their meetings and are learning a lot about what is happening in Washtenaw County with solid waste.

c) Planning & Zoning PAT - Marissa

- Marissa has been participating on the Planning & Zoning PAT since joining the WFPC, and this year Marissa will be a co-chair (along with Cynthia). For the entirety of last year, it was just Cynthia and Marissa meeting sporadically. Back to the grind now. This PAT met last week and will be meeting monthly on the first Thursday at 5pm. If you want to join this PAT's google group, email Ariane.
- Our official mission is that we examine land uses across the food system as they relate to planning and zoning and share and establish best practices and model ordinances to be able to give individual communities advice should they need it. If you want to get in on the ground level of a project, we would like to first determine when each individual township/city does their master planning and either offer some sort of resource on how to integrate food systems into their master planning process or offer individualized feedback on each master plan (method TBD). Currently in the beginning stages of this project. Could really use some help and would love it if you could join us. This is all volunteer work. Even if you could just come to meetings and offer your input at the meeting, but not volunteer to do any work between meetings, we would still appreciate that. If you have any questions, let Marissa know.
- Towards the beginning of last year, other people did participate in this PAT. Wendy Banka and Cynthia were co-chairs the previous year and had some excellent accomplishments. Towards the middle of the year, we started talking about a policy manual, and that is what has morphed into this current conversation. We would love it if people would join us and help us narrow down the conversation.
- Ariane is adding new people to this PAT's google group when they request to be added. Just a note that not everyone might see your suite of calendar invites that were already sent out. Perhaps try to send reminders periodically before each meeting so all new people added to the listserv can be informed.

d) Farmers PAT – Alex

- Typically, farmers organize politically around commodities. Corn farmers tend to organize politically around issues directly affecting corn farmers, etc. That has, among a whole host of other factors, disadvantaged politically the type of growers that grow lots of different types of crops, selling to direct markets, etc. So, figuring out a way that growers can speak with a unified voice that goes beyond just the one commodity that they are growing is something Alex has been interested in as long as he has have been doing food advocacy. Why is it that the Farm Bureau is so well-

organized and so capable of advocating and speaking with one voice around policy issues, while it has been harder for more diversified growers. Alex thinks one of the reasons why the type of farmers that sell at farmers markets tend to receive fewer subsidies is due in large part to the lack of an ability to coalesce around policy proposals and then push them through the way that commodity growers do.

- Alex would like to set up a PAT that would drill down on ways the County can subsidize these growers. We tend to think of subsidies as a bad thing, but the aversion is more because they go to large farmers (i.e., the lack of equity in how the subsidies are awarded) and not the subsidies themselves. This PAT would focus on what are the specific needs that the growers in Washtenaw County have and how we can get our farmers the resources they need. This PAT [surveyed farmers around their infrastructure barriers](#). Another issue local farmers and ranchers are having is around [processing animals](#) (need to drive for hours to get animals processed, farmers cannot be as in control as they would like to be, there is a long waitlist, etc.). There are a whole host of issues that really affect growers, and Alex would like to distill them into a clear, actionable list and then work with the growers to learn what an effective and important system for their farm would look like so we can communicate that to the County Commissioners, and then hopefully some of those needs can be addressed at the County level (and potentially the State level). Challenges: farmers are unbelievably busy, and it is not easy for them to fill out surveys/attend regular calls. Probably first order of business is figuring out a way we can get feedback from growers without expecting unreasonable commitments regarding their time, resources, etc.
- If anyone wants to meet up and think through this PAT and its initial steps, let Alex know!
 - Sandy, Mary, Cynthia, and Lauren are interested.
- Mary mentioned that Argus has annual check-ins with their farmers and producers. Winter is when produce and store managers meet with them to talk about how the year went, what to do for the next year, etc. This could be an opportunity to incorporate questions/gather feedback this PAT would need.
 - Alex also suggested: write down what farmers are saying at gatherings; that is policy platform.

8. Sign up to Keep Track of Other Councils/Committees - *Marissa*

10:18-10:25 am

- [WFPC Liaison Assignments .xlsx - Google Sheets](#)
- Example: Marissa sits on the Board of Directors for the Huron River Watershed Council. A lot of times their work is relevant to the WFPC. At the end of the WFPC meeting, Marissa will give a brief update to let everyone know if any of the Huron River Watershed Council's work applies to the WFPC (sometimes there is, sometimes there is not). Marissa also follows her local government (Northfield Township), so will bring anything relevant from there to the WFPC.
- There may already be things you are doing/following. It does not mean that you have to attend meetings of other councils/committees; perhaps you read their meeting minutes; perhaps you already sit on another council/committee. WFPC council members are generally well-connected individuals, and we wanted to take time to foster the networking inherently built in.
- We brainstormed which organizations should be on the WFPC liaison assignment list, but this might not be a complete list. You can add other organizations with which you participate. And then at each WFPC meeting, you can share updates from the organizations for whom you are the liaison. Sign up to be a liaison to keep track of other committees/councils via the link on the agenda.
- Keesa is part of an equity collaborative through the Washtenaw County Racial Equity Office, and we are going through a fiscal justice analysis of our County budget. They just sent out a preliminary version of the document, and I have feedback that I am meeting with them to give. I plan to share the report with the WFPC.
- Aubrey shared that food composting and food waste are lumped into the term "solid waste", which also includes disposal, recycling, reuse, circular economy, etc. The definition of "solid waste" may change in future years. Two pieces of legislation passed at the end of 2022 were impactful and big news in the world of solid waste. At the federal level, there was the Food Donation Improvement Act, which passed both the house and senate and was headed to President Biden's desk at the end of 2022. This Act strengthens the existing protections for businesses to support and increase food donation and reduce food waste. At the State level, Part 115 Bill Package passed the house and senate and moved to Governor Whitmer's desk to improve and increase our solid waste laws here in Michigan. Most importantly, to shift focus from diversion to reuse and recycling, which also includes an element of composting. This set of bills improve our solid waste laws which were pretty out of date in Michigan.

9. Effective Advocacy – Ann

10:25-10:42 am

a) [WashtenawFoodPolicyCouncil-Jen Martin Advocacy Training.pptx - Google Slides](#)

- We have several resources in our google drive that pertain to advocacy. Ann will send out an email with a collection of resources after the meeting, and they will be linked in the minutes. Our guiding document is our [policy agenda](#) which lists 24 agenda items. They have been approved for us as a council to pursue through our workgroups and PATs. This is an important document in terms of advocacy. Another resource is a presentation that Jen Martin gave to the WFPC. These slides (linked in the agenda) are still helpful.
- Another important document is our [WFPC Advocacy Guide](#), which defines what we are permitted to do in terms of advocacy. It defines advocacy, lobbying, and education. The lobbying portion is where our Policy Liaison (Alex) comes in. If we are going to ask for a legislator/commissioner (local, state, federal) to vote in a certain way, then we need permission from the county lobbyist. If the WFPC is lobbying, we can do that, but we need permission.
- If the WFPC were to go to the BOC and say (for example) we want you to increase funding, then do not think we need permission to ask the BOC this (since the WFPC is a subcommittee of the BOC). The WFPC would need to vote (as its own body) about whether to go to the BOC. The WFPC has the ability to tell the County to take action, and that has happened many times before.
 - If the WFPC, or someone on behalf of the WFPC, were to go talk to a state senator, the WFPC would need approval from the BOC to do that. The WFPC can lobby if the County gives us permission. The WFPC cannot act independently.
- For some background: about 5 years ago, the WFPC reviewed its structure (as a subcommittee of the BOC) to discern if it should stay with the County or should have a different structure (like with a non-profit or as a coalition). An [Organizational Structure Report](#) was created. Ultimately it was decided to remain as a subcommittee of the BOC (i.e., being a subcommittee of the BOC/connected to the County and its resources/support staff were beneficial). The structure could be revisited again, if decided.
- Markell suggested that it would be helpful to have the County Corporation Counsel, and/or the County lobbyist, and Alex have an info session at one of the WFPC meetings to talk about all of this and answer questions. The Corporation Counsel/County lobbyist would probably want to meet to review the guide to make sure it is still accurate. Markell is happy to be involved or not to be involved.
- Food Gatherers has a recorded advocacy 101 training: <https://www.foodgatherers.org/get-involved/advocate/educational-resources/>
- Maya pointed out that education (i.e., sharing information) is allowed. Just cannot say: do X, vote Y, etc.
 - Ann: most of our activities are educating/informing the public and the commissioners.
- Keesa's questions: when it comes to advocacy for the WFPC and us being advisors to the BOC, what does that really mean for us individually and as a group. How do we continue to move to make sure we are here to create healthy, sustainable environments for the community. Are we doing that? How are we going to move together in that?
- Jean Doss is moving on from her role as a lobbyist with the MLFCN. Stephanie Glidden is Jean's replacement. At Jean's last meeting in December, she had some wisdom to share:
 - Everybody, today, right now, get out your phone and put in the contact information for your county and state elected officials. These are the most important people in our advocacy efforts for state and local policy, and they represent you individually.
 - There are a lot of erroneous assumptions that lawmakers make. It is important to educate them who we are as individuals and what is important to us, tell them about our council that falls under their jurisdiction and what it does, introduce our policy agenda, talk about our priorities for the year, etc.
 - Start down that happy path of developing a relationship with legislators who are there to represent you. Tell them congratulations on winning their election/re-election. Introduce yourself and what organization you are part of. Sign up to receive their email updates, attend their coffee hours/meetings they have in our community, etc. Each of us should be doing this.

10. Round Robin (Council Members)

10:42-10:57 am

a) Things on horizon, important updates from council members

- Markell:

- There have been some important changes to SNAP. The year-end budget bill that congress passed includes some exciting improvements to child nutrition that are permanent. The permanent establishment of summer EBT will provide families that receive free or reduced-price lunches during the school year an additional \$40 in SNAP (or EBT) benefits in the summer when school is out. This will start in 2024. It will exist in 2023 in a different structure. Excited to see nationwide summer EBT as part of Senator Stabenow's leadership. There are other small improvements to summer food and SNAP.
- One thing that is ending early is the emergency allotment for SNAP. Michigan is one of several states that is still providing extra SNAP to eligible households above their regular benefits level. These households get a second deposit that brings them up to the maximum for their household size (or \$95 extra if they are already at the maximum level). This was expected to end when the nationwide public health emergency ends. However, they are ending this early, and the last month that any state can participate across the country is February. Starting in March, people will get their regular benefits without the second additional benefit to bring them to the maximum. Congress, in order to balance the budget bill, ended this allotment early. Waiting to hear how the State will be communicating this to SNAP participants (i.e., will they receive a letter, will it be posted to their account, etc.). Once Food Gatherers hears more, we will post on social media, pass out flyers to our network of partners, and will probably host an info session. There will probably be a lot of confusion. If someone loses their benefits entirely, they can request an appeal. It is going to be important that people have accurate information submitted to their caseworkers in advance to ensure they receive the correct benefits level. A lot of people have not been keeping up with submitting their expenses, because they have been receiving this emergency allotment for SNAP, so their benefits level may not be accurate. Stay tuned for more info!
- This is going to be a big Farm Bill year. Last Farm Bill cycle, the WFPC had great activation/education/info sessions across PATs, County, and food policy councils. Hoping there will be synergy again for this Farm Bill. Perhaps some joint meetings (such as every other month) between the Farmers and the FAN PATs.
- Ann: At the MLFCN I became aware of a group in Michigan that is investigating Universal School Meals (AKA Healthy School Meals for All). This proposal was on the ballot measure in Colorado, and it passed. This allows school districts to have funding to provide free school meals for all students in K-12 public education. There is a group in Michigan that is beginning to meet around this topic, and I am on their listserv. I can provide updates at WFPC meetings, as well as share the listserv information with any that are interested. Here are some articles about this topic:
 - <https://frac.org/healthy-school-meals-for-all>
 - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-087>
- Ava: The Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living (CIL), which is a disability rights organization for Washtenaw, Livingston, and Oakland Counties, has contacted me wanting to get involved with a disability justice PAT/workgroup or the WFPC in some way now that there is a disability justice seat on the WFPC. This is exciting because the CIL has a lot of resources. If we work together, we could perhaps do things like have an access survey for grocery stores, for example, which is the first thing I want to do. If you would like to be part of the disability justice workgroup/PAT (will call workgroup for now), please email me. Should be a lot of exciting things on the horizon.
- Lauren: The Michigan Family Farms Conference will be on Saturday, 2/25 in Kalamazoo. There is a whole tract dedicated to Farm Bill Advocacy with people from the National Sustainable Ag Coalition giving an overview on advocacy and Michigan-specific priorities, a session on storytelling for advocacy, a session with Senator Stabenow's staff, etc. You can learn more at: www.mifffs.org . Hope to see you there and feel free to reach out with any questions.
- Maya: this year our goal at the SOS food pantry is to have healthy cooking classes for the community. We have been working on partnering with different people. Feel free to message me if you have contacts/interest.
- Jim: Cynthia and I have been working with the Washtenaw Solidarity with Farmworkers. During 2020 we worked with the Migrant Resource Council of Southeast Michigan, which includes Lenawee, Monroe, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties. The State is separated out into different migrant resource councils. We were able to raise money to get internet access into some of the migrant farmworker camps in Lenawee County. At the beginning of February, we participated in the US Department of Labor listening session on farmworker issues. One of the groups is having an advocacy training call on farmworker issues (will send this to Ann). When you register you can get access to the recording. It is important for the Farmers PAT to be aware of the growers in Washtenaw County and the Migrant Resource Council, as those who work with the Migrant Resource Council can go on the farms in an official capacity.

Reminder: the WFPC policy agenda highlights living wage and safe working conditions for migrant farmworkers. Contact Jim if interested.

- Keesa: when talking about local and thinking about advocacy, there is an important BOC meeting coming up on 1/18 starting at 5:30pm. You can join in person or online. I will send out the link. The importance of this meeting is that the commissioners will be talking about their priority areas, and priority areas go into the budget.
- Ariane: there is a social media component to the secretary role. I will be posting on social media in lieu of the secretary. My goal is to post monthly. If you have anything you want posted, email Ariane. We are transitioning to a County website (<https://www.washtenaw.org/1469/Washtenaw-County-Food-Policy-Council>). The WordPress website (<https://washtenawfoodpolicycouncil.wordpress.com/>) will maintain the blog, but everything else will be transitioned over to the County website by the end of January. Also, FYI, I will be off tomorrow through Tuesday.

11. Open Comment (Council Members and Public)

10:42-10:57 am

- Combined with #10 Round Robin

12. Adjourn

10:57 am

ACTION ITEMS

- Marissa, Lauren, and Markell will join Ann's ad hoc workgroup about the mentorship program.
- Reminder: a requirement of council members is to be engaged with a committee, PAT, and/or workgroup.
- Once the final draft of the 2022 annual report is created, it will be sent to council members for approval and then presented to the BOC.
- Track your work on the WFPC tracking form.
- Stay tuned to hear if the WFPC was awarded the MLFCN Seed grant.
- The FAN PAT is looking for a new chair.
- Ariane will remove email addresses that are bouncing in PAT google groups.
- Laura wants to join the Food Waste & Packaging WorkGroup.
- If you want to join the Planning & Zoning PAT's google group, email Ariane.
- If anyone wants to meet up and think through the Farmers PAT and its initial steps, let Alex know!
 - Sandy, Mary, Cynthia, and Lauren are interested.
- Sign up to be a liaison to keep track of other committees/councils via the link on the agenda.
- Advocacy: Ann will send out an email with a collection of resources after the meeting, and they will be linked in the minutes. Markell suggested that it would be helpful to have the County Corporation Counsel, and/or the County lobbyist, and Alex have an info session at one of the WFPC meetings to talk about all of this and answer questions. The Corporation Counsel/County lobbyist would probably want to meet to review the guide to make sure it is still accurate. Markell is happy to be involved or not to be involved.
- Email Ava if you would like to be part of the disability justice workgroup.
- Message Maya if you have any contacts/interest in SOS's food pantry healthy cooking classes for the community.
- If you have anything you want posted to social media, email Ariane.

RECORDED VOTES

1. **Motion 1:** To approve September 14, 2022 and November 9, 2022 meeting minutes
 - a. Approved: Yes-14, No-0
2. **Motion 2:** To approve November 9, 2022 and January 11, 2023 meeting agendas
 - a. Approved: Yes-14, No-0
3. Approved Jae as Chairperson (14 votes), Ann as Vice-Chairperson (14 votes), Keesa as Racial Equity Liaison (14 votes), Alex as Policy Liaison (14 votes), and Aubrey as Secretary (14 votes): 14 Council Members present at time of election. Appointments made.