

MISSOULA FOOD POLICY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 16, 2026

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a. Meeting called to order at 3:37 pm
- b. In attendance: Austin Skeens, Alex Brown, Stashia Orkwiszewski, Jamie Breidenbach
- Also in attendance: County Commissioner Josh Slotnick, Sydney Young

2. Approval of March Agenda

- a. Motion to approve: Stashia motioned, Alex seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

3. Approval of February Meeting Minutes

- a. Motion to approve: Stashia motioned, Alex seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

4. Comment on items not on the agenda

- a. This meeting's scheduled speaker, Erin Austin, is unable to attend this meeting. Will be rescheduled to a Board meeting later this year.
- b. Alex has extended an invitation to Dana with All Nations to tour the Rocky Mountain Gardens before the Board meeting in May; the invitation is open to all Board members to join at 2:30 pm.

5. General Updates

- a. Vacancy recruitment – one alternate position still available.
 - Alex will reach out to Dana w/All Nations Health Center about availability to join the Board. There's interest in exploring options to include more diverse groups in Missoula.

6. New Business/Action Items

- a. Board Newsletter (Alex) - 2026 newsletters plan
 1. March Newsletter – not yet completed; Alex will send out the final version.
 - Josh Slotnick – “Living Roots” by Liz Carlisle book release and event highlight
 - Tom – “Spring at the Ag Center” update
 - Blake – “The Magic of Montana Marinara.”
 - New “Read, Listen, Watch” segment with podcast, literature, and documentary recommendations. This will be a recurring segment moving forward.
 - Stashia motioned to approve, Jamie Seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- b. Climate Ready Missoula – update to Climate Ready Missoula (tabled, Bryce not in attendance)

7. Old business

- a. Community Food Assessment – grant updates (Bryce, Blake, Erica)
 1. Email update from Erica: She is working with Bryce and the Missoula County Grants department to prepare an application for a Montana Healthcare Foundation (due 3/31). Farm Connect MT, UM Environmental Studies program, Missoula County Public Health Department, and Providence are

willing to support and partner on this grant. The Board is still waiting on communication from the Missoula Food Bank and Community Center.

- Question from Josh – Is there a way to see who has received this grant before (especially if we are asking community groups for support, who may have received this grant before)? PHC, Providence, All Nations Health, and Mission West have all received this grant in the past.
- 2. Need to include 3 letters of support with the application for the grant. Erika has a template for the letter. Which partners should be prioritized?
 - Missoula Public Health – Josh will forward the letter of support to Jeanna Miller with MPH
 - Partnership Health Center – Josh will forward the letter of support to Lara Salazar with PHC, since they are not applying for that grant this year
 - Missoula Food Bank – Jamie will communicate directly
 - Need to reach out to these entities and see if they are applying for this same grant before asking them to sign the letter of support.
- b. CHIP work group update (Jamie/Alex/Stasia)
 - 1. The Missoula Food Policy Advisory Board will be leading the charge to collect data from annual reports on CHIP goals and objectives. The project is mostly on hold.
- c. Urban Deer Management (Jamie)
 - 1. As an overview:
 - Morgan Valiant is preparing a Chronic Wasting Disease plan for the City of Missoula/City Council. Josh Slotnick will reach out to Morgan.
 - MCPS Ag Center would be reimbursed by Hunters Against Hunger for processing costs
 - FWP is onboard and would be responsible for determining the carrying capacity for the City of Missoula/greater Missoula area
 - Missoula PD and/or Missoula County Sheriff's Department would need to be involved
 - Infrastructure needs could include trapping materials
 - Education, social marketing, and communication with the public will be paramount
 - Question from Alex: How will the Food Policy Advisory Board continue to be involved in these talks? Jamie – this will be an ongoing conversation

8. Round Robin communications/questions

- a. Alex: Desire to revisit expectations of Board members to attend and engage/participate. FPAB bylaws have guidelines for unplanned absences or missed meetings, but above that, when Board members attend, there should be an agreement that there is active participation, even if attending virtually. Jamie will add this topic to the next meeting's agenda.

- b. Stashia: Wanted to acknowledge the work that Jamie, Alex, and Erika have done to contribute to the Board. Stashia secured a \$7k sustainability grant to update the UM preschool garden with new cedar beds, native plants, annual vegetables, and fruiting shrubs. Will take photos and share for future newsletters.
- c. Josh: Working on his small farm, is interested in coming to teach another class at the Dept. of Ecology. Battling the mud and building a secondary home on their property so that his children and grandchildren can live on the family property.
- d. Jamie: Enjoying position as Operations and Financials Manager at United Way of Missoula. United Way of Missoula projects include Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and Missoula Childcare Advantage.
- e. Austin: Working at Ecology Project International as a program assistant, teaching youth groups about the greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

9. Next meetings:

- a. Upcoming presenters
 - 1. Reschedule: Erin Austin, Abundant Montana, 33x33 campaign
 - 2. April 20th – Tour of MCPS Ag Center and School House Meats
 - Sydney will send out an email about carpooling/ridesharing
 - 3. May 18th – Dana w/ All Nations Health Center
 - 4. June 15th - Nathan, City Planning Dept.

10. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn: 4:57 pm