

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FORT BRAGG & CUMBERLAND COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 7, 2022 @ 12pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: *LTC Tathetra Joseph, Fort Bragg Co-chair
Veronica Feliciano, Community Representative
Lauren Tyler, Community Representative
Dr. Anicca Cox, Community Representative (late)*

MEMBERS ABSENT: *Shella Korch, Public Health Representative
Stephanie White, Fort Bragg Schools Representative
Natasha Randall, Local Government Representative
Candace Scott, Child, and Adult Care Representative
Sabrina Steigelman, Cumberland County Schools Representative*

STAFF PRESENT: *Martina Sconiers-Talbert, Cumberland County Grants Manager
Callia Cox, Intern*

Item 1. Call to Order:

LTC Joseph welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

1. Roll Call taken by *LTC Joseph*. Quorum was not met based on current membership status. Informal meeting preceded to introduce the FPC applicant and discuss updates from the Transportation ad-hoc committee.

Item 2. Executive Report

- a. Introduction of Current FPC Members and staff
- b. FPC Applicant Forum
 - a. Goals, Mission, History of the Council provided by LTC Joseph
 - b. Introduction of Members
 - i. Name: Alexis McClain
 - ii. Category: local farming and/or Cumberland County school district

Q1: Why are you interested in serving on the Food Policy Council?

Major McClain is associated with a 300-acre beef/cattle farm in South Carolina and a higher education background in agriculture education (BS) and human resource management (MS). He also has extensive military experience as a Commissioned Corps engineer. Major McClain stressed that because of his agriculture background and extensive network, he believes he could be an asset to the FPC.

Q2: What makes you a good candidate to represent your category?

Major McClain is looking to increase his community involvement, although he is a part of various organizations (100 Black Men, NPHC Fraternity, etc.) as well as a member of Mt. Zion Baptist church. He states he can serve the council in various capacities and has skills in writing, public affairs, or wherever the council would need him.

Q3: Which ad-hoc committee could you serve best; Communications Committee, Transportation Committee, or WIC/EBT Committee, and why?

Major McClain is interested in the communications ad-hoc committee because his 24yr military career included being an AG Officer Inspector General and he currently works with the ROTC unit at Union High School in Sampson County, although he lives in Cumberland County. Major McClain retired from Fort Bragg in 2018.

c. Applicant Questions

LTC Joseph, Veronica Feliciano, and Lauren Tyler expressed their gratitude for Alexis McClain's interest in the council and assured him that he would be a good fit and they are in support of him joining because of his background in agriculture/horticulture and his willingness to serve.

LTC Joseph noted that Major McClain's community involvement could be an asset to the council as a linkage to other potential stakeholders (churches).

Martina Sconiers-Talbert thanked Major McClain for applying and encouraged him to share the application with others in his network as the FPC continues to recruit members.

Callia Cox verified that Alexis McClain applied for the local farming and Cumberland County school district representative positions.

d. Dismissal of FPC applicants

e. Discussion of the Applicant

The council members at the meeting are in support of Alexis McClain joining the council. **A vote will be sent to the entire council via email to determine if the FPC will submit Alexis McClain to the Board of Commissioners, along with Robert Elliott and Cliff Johnson.**

Item 3. Reviewing By-laws Absentee Policy

1. Article VI, Section VI states that council members shall notify the secretary and/or council co-chairs of an expected absence prior to a regular meeting. When an appointed member is absent for more than 50% of regular scheduled meetings in a calendar year, the co-chairs may request that the council member provide a written explanation of their absences. The co-chairs must find the explanation acceptable or unacceptable. If the co-chairs reject the resignation, the absences will incur for the purposes of a resignation. Members may take a leave of absence of a predetermined length by notifying the co-chairs with a written notice.

Veronica Feliciano suggested that all council members start with a clean slate starting in January based on the key word "calendar-year" stated in the by-laws. She also suggests that the by-laws and expectations are reviewed at the January regular meeting. *LTC Joseph* agreed.

Item 4. Informational & Discussion Items (Ad-hoc Committee Assignments Reports)

1. Transportation (*Veronica Feliciano*)
 1. Food Policy Council Riding Assignments

1. Someone from the FPC will ride at least 1 route/month to conduct formative research/notes about the food (stores, fast-food, etc.) and health resources along the routes, location of bus stops, as well as auxiliary factors like space for groceries and snacks passengers may have.
2. Sign-up Sheet is in progress
2. Pilot Ride of Route 19 ([Route 19](#): Yadkin Rd/Fort Bragg/CC Mall)
2. Saturday, December 3rd - *Veronica Felicano and LTC Joseph* reported that they had a successful observation period. LTC noted that going in the morning is best because the buses get busy around 1pm. Route 19 does not pass by Walmart or Target, however many smaller grocery stores and convenience stores are along the bus route. LTC Joseph noted that soldiers from Ft. Bragg are most familiar with Walmart and Target, therefore riders would have to transfer buses if they are coming from Fort Bragg. The staff are very friendly people and help riders navigate their travel.
3. *Veronica Felicano* began data collection and reported that Route 19 passes 6 grocery stores (3 Asian grocery stores) and the Commissary. The main landmarks on this route include Yadkin Rd, Campground Church, Simon Temple. *Veronica* also created a checklist that considers the weather, traveling with children, and the need for refrigeration. These data points can be collected for each route the council rides and shared with the Transit and collaborate with other stakeholders (food pantries, grocery stores).
**Veronica's* spreadsheet will be shared in Basecamp
4. In discussion *Martina Sconiers-Talbert* added that the Cumberland County Health Department has started a partnership with Uber to help transportation needs to appointments.
5. *Veronica Felicano* also had the idea for the FPC to find a grant that could fund shopping carts or freezer bags with FPC/food assistance organization branding through a marketing grant. *Veronica* notes that part of the transportation issue within food access is that people can only purchase what they can hold/transport onto the bus, therefore designated shopping carts could reduce that barrier. *Lauren Tyler* adds that she has seen similar grants funded and to focus on opportunities to partner with organizations that have already secured funding. *Veronica* also highlights that the council needs sustainable funding to produce tangible outcomes in addition to policy recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.
 1. Next Bus Routes of Interest- [Route 12](#): Murchison Rd/FSU
6. *Veronica Felicano* would like to partner with *Lauren Tyler* to create stronger relationships with the community along Murchison Rd.
7. *Lauren Tyler* also announced that a new community garden is launching in 2023 that will be accessible to civilians and Fort Bragg
8. Community Food Strategies Microgrant Brainstorming
 1. \$500 scholarship, application due February 25, 2022
 1. Ideas include Logo development, Flyer printing, Meeting interpretation, Translation services, Conference registration for a council member

ADJOURN

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: *Monday, January 9, 2023, 6pm-7:30pm*