

## ***Austin-Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board Work Plan (April 2012 – March 2013)***

**MANDATE:** Evaluate and monitor residents’ access to an affordable, diversified local-food supply and recommend measures to improve food security and nutrition.

**Board Goals:**

**Recommend policies that facilitate:**

1. equitable access to healthy food that will end hunger in Austin and Travis County;
2. the high availability and consumption of local, fresh, and quality sustainably-produced food;
3. culture of good food as a fundamental right [local governments help create conducive environments];
4. robust and just local economy through the strengthening all five sectors of the food system; and
5. the preservation of agricultural land and family farming in Austin and Travis County.

**Food Access and Wellness Area**

**Board Liaison: Michele Murphy-Smith**

**1. equitable access to healthy food:**

<b><i>Policy Objective 1.1</i></b>	<b>Identify and map food deserts and provide incentives and support for grocery stores of different scales, farmers markets, food carts and other mobile vendors to locate and thrive in underserved communities. [Rid area of food deserts]</b>		
<b><i>Working Group Name Purpose</i></b>	<b><i>Board Member/ Chair</i></b>	<b><i>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</i></b>	<b><i>Policy Outcome(s)</i></b>
<b><i>Food Security</i></b> Assess current efforts in Austin/Travis County and identify relevant stakeholders (e.g. HHSC, USDA, THI, Share our Strength, grocers, existing and proposed co-ops)	<b><i>Brd Member: Ronda Rutledge CoChair: Kathy Green Mary Teeters</i></b>	<b><i>Potential planning meeting @ CAN Aug 2012</i></b>	<b><i>A thorough hunger assessment (without re-inventing the wheel) to guide the SFPB and others to make policy recommendations around</i></b>

<b>Policy Objective 1.1</b>	<b>Identify and map food deserts and provide incentives and support for grocery stores of different scales, farmers markets, food carts and other mobile vendors to locate and thrive in underserved communities. [Rid area of food deserts]</b>		
	<i>Jake Stewart</i>		<i>hunger alleviation in the city/county.</i>

**2. consumption of local, fresh, and quality sustainably-produced food;**

<b>Policy Objective 2.1:</b>	<b>Review best practices, current efforts and policies that support getting nutritious and local fresh food to all residents – emphasizing those with difficulty accessing it.</b>		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<p><b>Central Texas Food Assistance Programs (existing)</b>            Increase participation in, and impact of, federal food and nutrition programs such as SNAP, WIC, CACFP, Summer Food Program, etc.</p> <p>The working group may expand on its work to address enrollment in other nutrition programs, such as WIC.</p>	<p><b>Brd Member: Mary Teeters</b>  <b>Chair: Kathy Green</b>  <i>as well as members of several community groups who work on hunger and food access issues.</i></p> <p><i>Participants:            Suzanne –SFPC            Caludio Harrington (El Buen Samaritano)            Kristy Hansen</i></p>	<p><i>Convened:            February 2012?</i></p> <p><i>Report to SFPB            March 26, 2012</i></p>	<p>The group reviewed the SNAP participation data for Austin/Travis County, and discussed barriers to enrollment. After review and discussion, the group made a recommendation that the City of Austin create a SNAP outreach campaign using a bilingual elected official.</p> <p>The Work Group created a draft letter for the SFPB to send to the city council outlining the work group’s findings and recommendation. Letter sent to Council on _____.</p>

<b>Policy Objective 2.3:</b>	Create local fresh food initiatives in institutions (e.g. schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, nursing homes, city and county departments/venues) and through encouraging food service purchasing policies that prioritize locally-sourced, nutritious, and sustainable foods.		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<p><b><u>Healthy, Local, Sustainable Food in City/County Venues</u></b>            Group's charge: To make policy recommendations to the Sustainable Food Policy Board pertaining to healthy, local, sustainable food served at and procured for City of Austin and Travis County sponsored events and property.</p>	<p><b><i>BrdMbr: Ronda Chair: Joy Casnovsky</i></b></p> <p>Participants: Wendy Scaperotta, Travis Co., Melissa Barry, DAA, Joe Barnes, COA, Sandra Evans, UTSOPH, Rose Jennings, UTSPH, Reuben Olivo, PARD, Ian Kahn, PARD, Rebecca Saltsman, SFC, Robert Kingham, HHS-COA, Elizabeth Riachard, HHS-COA, Kristy Hanson, HSS-COA, Michele Hallahan, AE-COA</p>	<p><i>Report by Sep 2012?</i></p> <p><i>Meeting planned 7.25.12</i></p>	<p><i>Recommendations of policies promoting healthy, local, sustainable food served at and procured for City of Austin and Travis County sponsored events and property.</i></p>

**3. culture of good food as a right;**

<b>Policy Objective 3.2:</b>	Coordinate with the sustainability office, other city and county staff, and local/regional environmental groups to ensure that the issues involved with supporting a sustainable local food system are incorporated in any relevant plans, initiatives, or activities		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<p><b><u>Imagine Austin Work Group</u></b>            Influence Imagine Austin comprehensive plan process to ensure that the City/County SFPB objectives are included in</p>	<p><i>BrdMbr: MMS /Chair: MMS</i>            Participants:            Katherine Nicely</p>	<p><i>Begin: October 2011</i>  <i>Final Report - June,</i></p>	<p><i>Provide research and policy recommendations throughout the Imagine Austin process to city</i></p>

<p><b>Policy Objective 3.2:</b></p>	<p><b>Coordinate with the sustainability office, other city and county staff, and local/regional environmental groups to ensure that the issues involved with supporting a sustainable local food system are incorporated in any relevant plans, initiatives, or activities</b></p>		
<p>a clear and comprehensive manner. Understand the Imagine Austin process to enable full stakeholder response and participation in issues important to the City and County relating to food and the local economy.</p>	<p>Paula McDermott Heather Frambach-Nieto Jake Stewart Shirene Garcia</p>	<p>2012</p>	<p><i>planners, the Citizens Advisory Task Force, the relevant Planning Commission work group, and ultimately, City Council prior to final approval.</i></p>
<p><b>City/County Bond Issues Work Group</b> Assess any city/county bond creation projects to ensure that, wherever possible, City/County SFPB objectives from Imagine Austin are included in a clear and comprehensive manner.</p>	<p><i>Brd Mbr: Katherine Nicely</i> <b>Chair: Paige Hill</b>  Participants: Katherine Nicely Katie Kraemer</p>	<p><i>Begin May 2012</i></p>	<p><i>Provide feedback to City Council and/or Travis County Commissioners with recommendations to align proposed bond programs with Imagine Austin or SFPB mandate food issues.</i></p>
<p><b>Community Engagement Work Group</b> Purpose: 1) plan 2-4 effective, well-attended community-based SFPB meetings over the next calendar year; and 2) establish a systematic way to disseminate information and recruit community stakeholders for each of the work groups.</p>	<p>Board Member: MMS Chair: MMS  Participants: Toni Tipton-Martin, Invite: Ellen Sweets, Brandi Clark Burton, Katie Kraemer, Erin Flynn, Shirene Garcia <b>Ck w/Marla on an intern.</b></p>	<p>Begin date: July 2012 Target end date: October 2012</p>	<p>Policy Outcome: establishment of a user-friendly and effective process for engaging the community in ongoing dialogue and work activities related to the mandate of the SFPB.</p>

Updated 8.23.12

**Food Production and Business**

**Board Liaison: Adam King**

**4. robust and just local food system;**

<b>Policy Objective</b> 4.2:	Assess potential resource recovery for farmers and residents inherent in the wastage/surplus of food in Austin/Travis County.		
<b>Working Group Name</b> <b>Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair /</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<b><u>Food Surplus &amp; Salvage Working Group</u></b> Clarify existing policies as they relate to food surplus and salvage activities and expand the capacity for food to be safely delivered to its highest and best use (1. Humans 2. Animals 3. Compost), and none to the landfill.	<b>Mbr: Paige /Chair: Brandi Clark</b>	<b>Convene: 9.16.2011 Closed 6.25.12</b>	As there is a larger, multi-focused community group working on this issue, the SFPB work group decided to discontinue their effort. At any time should the community group need support from SFPB, they will approach member Paige Hill.

<b>Policy Objective</b> 4.4:	Foster local capacity to help implement food systems-related recommendations and plans.		
<b>Working Group Name</b> <b>Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<b><u>Retail Capacity Building Work Group</u></b> <b>Build capacity of local food retail businesses to source and sell locally and/or sustainably produced foods in areas with limited access.</b> Identify specific city and/or county codes, permits, variances, policies, programs, and/or procedures that will facilitate the creation and success of new (or existing) local food retail businesses (e.g. compact urban groceries, cafes, food trailers, green carts, coops), particularly those that source locally and/or sustainably produced foods and locate in areas with limited access. The working group will then make suggestions to SFPB to recommend to relevant policy	<b>Brd Mbr: Adam Chair: Adam</b>  Participants: Paula existing and potential food businesses, retailers, and farmers, city/county staff, individuals with knowledge of city and county codes.	<b>Convene: June 2012 1st report to SFPB Exec. Committee – August 2012 Recommendations to SFPB – Sep 2012</b>	Implementation of new policies/procedure or programs by city and/or county, and a system for collecting metrics on progress.

<p><b>Policy Objective 4.4:</b></p>	<p><b>Foster local capacity to help implement food systems-related recommendations and plans.</b></p>		
<p>makers.</p>	<p>*Use Austin Notes to recruit more members.</p>		
<p><b><u>Increasing Distribution/Processing of Local Meats Work Group</u></b>          Recommend new policies to increase local, sustainable meat processing and distribution by:          (1) identify barriers local, sustainable farmers have for processing their livestock and distributing meat locally;          (2) research best practices;          (3) seek to quantify health benefits and economic opportunities of growing this sector; and          (4) recommend new policies</p>	<p><b>Brd Mbr: Erin Flynn</b>  <b>Chair: TBD</b>           Participants: Melanie McAfee</p>	<p><b>Convene: May 2012</b>  <b>Recommendations to SFPB - March 2013</b></p>	<p>Recommend new policies to increase local, sustainable meat processing and distribution</p>
<p><b><u>Affordable Water for Sustainable Farms</u></b> Convene stakeholders to: (1) identify existing barriers to affordable water for sustainable farmers serving the city/county (2) research best practices (3) seek to quantify health benefits and economic opportunities of securing this resource and (4) recommend new water policy</p>	<p><b>Brdmbr: Erin Flynn</b>  <b>Chair: K.Kraemer</b>           Participants:          Paige Hill,          Jake Stewart,          Katie Kraemer,          Melanie McAfee          Others invited to participate:          Professional Farmers          Water Utility Employees          City Planners          Water Activists          Environmentalists          General Public</p>	<p><b>Convene: Sept 2011</b>  <b>Recommendations to SFPB - March 2013</b></p>	<p>Recommend new policies to:          1) ensure availability of affordable water for sustainable agricultural use and          2) seek to establish this water use as a priority for the city/county.</p>