



## Sustainable Food Policy Board

## MEETING MINUTES Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### Board Members in Attendance:

Kathy Green, Alexandra Evans, Dominique Bowman, Felipe Camacho, Jake Carter, Dustin Fedako, Jessica Gaffney, Adrienne Haschke, Erin Lentz, Sharon Mays, Errol Schweizer

### Absent Board Members:

Carla Jenkins

### Staff in Attendance:

Edwin Marty, Paula Camacho, Amanda Rohlich

### CALL TO ORDER

Board chair Kathy Green called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

### 1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

- a) Annalise Lottmann, Central Texas Program Representative for Texas Rural Cooperative Center. She wanted to introduce herself to the board. Also runs a small food co-op in Austin.
- b) Erin Flynn, Previous SFPB member, speaking to lobby for Farmland Preservation—specifically at Greengate Farms. Roberts Resort purchased 250 acres redevelop with luxury RVs and plans to knock down Bergstrom Barn which was built in 1902. She is working with neighbors to keep neighborhood in place.

### 2. STAFF BRIEFINGS

Prior to launching into staff briefings, Chair Kathy Green suggested that the board members all introduce themselves for the sake of the new board members. New members: Jessica Gaffney, works part time at SFC, passion for farmland preservation and food access. Errol Schweizer, background in community organizing, GMO labeling campaigns, farmland preservation and food access.

- a. American Heart Association Kelsey Bernstein, Christina Holch, Caitlin Murphy, Update on Local Programs
  - a) AHA goal to improve the cardiovascular health of all residents by 20% by 2020.
  - b) 80% of Austin voters agree that an investment in a Healthy Corner Store Initiative will improve the quality of life in neighborhoods lacking corner stores that offer healthy foods.
  - c) \$400,000 is the necessary appropriation for a city the size of Austin. Assuming \$80,000 for administrative cost, \$40,000 program costs, \$4,000 at an average of 70 stores (\$280,000) for other direct costs to stores.
  - d) AHA sees this as a way to make an immediate impact on health outcomes for City of Austin and believes full funding and stakeholder collaboration is necessary for successful outcomes.
  - e) Questions from board:
    - 1) Sandra Evans: Have you met with other organizations about collaboration? Yes, have met with GAVA, Austin Interfaith, updating one another regularly. Austin Interfaith and GAVA are focusing on specific zip codes while AHA is looking at doing this Citywide. Policy to read citywide and then prioritize zip codes by need. Looking to make this a permanent program.
    - 2) Errol Schweizer: How will funds be used? What constitutes what is considered healthy? Resources dedicated to capital expenses any funds used for order and handling and shrink. Definition would be perishable items—AHA has guidelines but this would constitute as healthy can be worked out with City and other partners/stakeholders. Looking to other cities to see how they are working with how to deal with shrinkage. Mini grants to cover when you first stock fresh produce to when you actual start selling. Majority of administrative costs

would cover education and community engagement. Action item: Errol wants to see the Philadelphia model.

- 3) Erin Lentz: Is your ask for a one time amount, or does there need to be a maintenance piece? Annual appropriation for more funds will be needed after initial investment of \$400,000. How many participants in Philadelphia? Majority of investments would be for refrigeration and shelving.
  - 4) Dominique Bowman reminded new board members that Food Trust came in and gave full training last year.
  - 5) Why Austin? Looking at Corner Store Initiative as shorter term solution to access because grocery stores take longer.
  - 6) Sandra Evans: How will success be evaluated? Have not identified evaluation partner but either an experienced non-profit or academic partner would help track and measure success of program.
  - 7) Jessica Gafney: How will this be executed? AHA advocates for policy, would make recommendations and guidance on how to administer the funds.
  - 8) Jake Carter: Would AHA provide partnership/guidance to other organizations such as GAVA or InterFaith if the ask was not fulfilled for AHA Citywide initiative? AHA is open to partnerships but focused on a Citywide policy.
- b. Edwin Marty, Office of Sustainability, Neighborhood Food System Planning
- a) Plan4Health grant overview. End goal, make food system work better by making it easier to understand what a food system is and how they can interact with the food system and create advocates for food system policy.
  - b) Planning approach—mapping food system assets tracking existing food system infrastructure (i.e. community gardens, school gardens, food retail, etc.) Working on ways to representing this information graphically in a manner that is easy to digest.
  - c) Outreach approach
    - 1) Food team: Looking at three clusters. Surveying food businesses, individual interviews with general public and partnering with AISD through their Kellogg Grant. Transportation: One on one “motivational interviewing” to provide information on existing resources that can help community members use multi-modal transportation. Pilot process, looking to better understand the barriers to participating. Fifteen students from UT’s LBJ School of Public Affairs to help.
  - d) Questions:
    - 1) Sandra Evans: What are the outcomes? Looking at behavior change? LBJ students will be looking at best practices.
    - 2) Sharon Mays: There is an upcoming all member meeting for community garden, trickle-down effect of organic gardening. Sharon to send email with that information to Erin Lentz.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE MEETING

- a) Board Chair Kathy Green makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 6/8/15
- b) Board Member Dominique Bowman seconds the motion to approve
- c) All are in favor of approving with two corrections; None opposed

### 4. OLD BUSINESS

- a) **Board Infrastructure & Protocol:** Transition period for COA Board members is over. All City appointees have been re-approved. Appointment dates are all pushed 4 years back.
  - 1) Board Officers Elections
    - a. Open nominations for Vice-Chair
    - b. Erin Lentz makes a motion that Sandra Evans serves as Vice-Chair. All are in favor; none opposed, so moved that Alexandra (Sandra) Evans will serve as Vice-Chair.
    - c. Open nominations for Chair. Sandra Evans makes a motion that Kathy Green serves as Chair. All are in favor; none opposed, so moved that Kathy Green will serve as Chair.

- 2) Boards and Commissions Task Force Information Update
    - a. No update
  - 3) Review Board Members' meetings with City and County Officials
    - a. Chair Kathy Green reminded Board members to make appointment with City Council to meet with them about the ask in their resolution recommending City of Austin funding for a multi-pronged approach to healthy food access. Stay in contact with Council and County Commissioners.
- b) **Board Recommendations and Follow-up**
- 1) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Outreach/ Incentives – no updates
  - 2) Local and Healthy Food Procurement—Edwin Marty reported that the Office of Sustainability is getting closer to be ready for deeper collaboration with Center for Good Food Purchasing. UT Austin is interested, AISD showed initial interest. Goal of collaboration is to better understand who we are buying food from and what are we buying, setting goals, tracking changes, and celebrating successes.
  - 3) Urban Farm Ordinance, City Council Memo--tip sheet has been created to help navigate Urban Farm Ordinance.
    - a. Question from Board Member Dustin Fedako: Are there other City ordinances that need to be translated into plain language. (i.e., cottage industries, farmer's markets)? Working groups to think about needs for additional Client Assistance Memos/Tip Sheets and communicate that back to staff.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Working Group Briefings and Recommendations**
- 1) Working Group Break-outs
    - a) Codes and Ordinances Working Group
      - i. Board Member Sharon Mays updated: Meeting to work on white paper. Giving information to inform and advise Code Next on what could improve food systems. Identified 4 transects and five elements of food system that land code could affect.
      - ii. Draft White Paper is on google drive –opportunity based on each transect
      - iii. Would like for full board to review full report (six pages) and provide feedback so there can be a final version for September meeting.
      - iv. Board to email Sharon Mays directly with feedback.
    - b) Farmland Preservation and Access Working Group
      - i. Board Member Adrienne Haschke updated: Travis County Representative has spoken to working group. Discussed the conservation easement program. Goal is for Land Code to recognize value of agricultural land. Meeting on Thursday to consider what priorities could be included in the program next year. Meredith Gray from Parks and Recreation Department to present on some priorities, community capacity building, etc.
    - c) Retail Capacity Working Group
      - i. Board Member Dominique Bowman updated: Group had met to discuss mobile food market and review case studies and best practices from existing programs. The group has conducted an exploratory needs assessment and plans to discuss next steps in next meeting.
    - d) Question as to what the limit is for number of Board Members allowed to attend a working group meeting. Need clarification from Deena Estrada as to what a walking quorum is. Edwin Marty to confirm with Deena Estrada and City Attorney.
- b) **Discussion of Vacant Board Position**
- 1) Need clarification on which County Commissioner is to appoint this position. Kathy Green to follow-up.
  - 2) Adrienne Haschke moves that we recommend someone who is an active producer/farmer, to be appointed to Board. Errol Schweizer seconded; all in favor, none opposed.
- c) **Review of Board Member Assignments**
- 1) Kathy Green send Errol Schweizer the Philadelphia model of the Healthy Corner Store Initiative.
  - 2) Sharon Mays to send email with information on all member garden meeting to Erin Lentz .

- 3) Full board to review full White Paper from Codes and Ordinances Working Group (six pages) and provide feedback so there can be a final version for September meeting. Email Sharon Mays directly with feedback.
- 4) Edwin Marty to confirm with Deena Estrada and City Attorney as to what constitutes a walking forum and how many member can attend working group meetings.
- 5) Kathy Green to check-in on which County Commissioner appointment is vacant.
- 6) All members to schedule meeting with council member to discuss resolution.

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- a) None

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) Formal Recommendation – Code Next White Paper to be adopted as resolution from Codes and Ordinances Working Group.
- b) Update from Curt Nelson from Austin Foodshed Investors
- c) Introduction to Austin Independent School District’s Nutrition and Food Services Director, Annalisa Turner
- d) Update from University of Texas at Austin on Food Procurement

**ADJOURNMENT at 7:39 pm**