



## **Annual Internal Review**

**This report covers the time period of 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018**

### **Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board** **(Official Name of Board or Commission)**

**The Board/Commission mission statement** (per the City Code) **is:** to serve as an advisory body to the City Council and Travis County Commissioner's Court concerning the need to improve the availability of safe, nutritious, locally, and sustainably-grown food at reasonable prices for all residents, particularly those in need, by coordinating the relevant activities of city government, as well as non-profit organizations, and food and farming businesses.

- 1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

The board made recommendations to the Austin City Council on the following:

- Supporting the use of city-owned land for urban agriculture
- Supporting the City of Austin earned sick days policy
- Supporting updating city code language regarding beekeeping
- Supporting the U.S. Conference of Mayors Farm Bill recommendation
- Recognizing Marla Camp for her vision and leadership in the Austin local food movement
- Amending CodeNEXT definition of Community Agriculture to include community gardens
- Passing a Council Committee Agenda Item request for the Proposed Food and Climate Addendum to the Austin Community Climate Plan

Annual Review and Work Plan  
2017-18

The board made a recommendation to the Austin City Council and the Travis County Commissioners Court on the following:

- Supporting the city and the county adopting a legislative agenda item for the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session to protect and strengthen SNAP

The board additionally had seven working groups that met throughout the year. They were Farmland Preservation and Access, Codes and Ordinances, Healthy Food Security and Access, Budget and Policy, Institutional Purchasing, Food Recovery, and Food and Climate. Some of the highlights of the working groups included:

- The Healthy Food Security and Access working group divided into three sub-groups: Affordable Housing and Food Access, Texas Legislative Priorities, and Distribution of Fresh Produce in City and County Neighborhood Centers. Through the legislative sub-group, the working group made a recommendation to the full board on placing SNAP as a legislative priority for the city and county. The affordable housing and fresh produce sub-groups are continuing to meet and research issues.
- The Food and Climate Working Group finalized the Food and Climate Addendum to the Austin Community Climate Plan, with support, review and input from City staff representing relevant offices and departments: Office of Sustainability, Austin Public Health and Austin Resource Recovery. This report was reviewed by the Joint Sustainability Committee and the Austin Travis County Food Policy Board, both of which unanimously passed a Council Committee Agenda Item Request in support of adopting this addendum. The Health and Human Services Council Committee has expressed an interest and invited the group to present at their scheduled August 8<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting.
- The Food Recovery Working Group developed a budgetary proposal to increase Austin Travis County Food Pantry capacity and to support an end-to-end food waste donation technology infrastructure for food recovery. In the fall, working group members supported coordination for the 2017 Feeding the 5,000 Event on the Texas Capital lawn, which was a big success. After identifying significant food pantry permitting obstacles, the group worked to establish a set of guidelines for food pantries, food access sites, and food rescue agencies to safely deliver and serve food (including surplus food) to vulnerable populations (e.g. low income, elderly, homeless, disabled, etc.). The group also engaged with Environmental Health Services officials and other agencies to explore possible paths to get pantries into compliance while not compromising food access for the thousands of Austin residents who rely on emergency food from pantries.

**2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.**

The board's actions complied with their mission statement in that it focused on all aspects of the food system, and how to improve it for all Austin and Travis County residents.

**3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.**

*(Make sure the goals and objectives fall within the mission statement of the board/commission.)*

Each working group of the board did their own goals for the year:

- Codes and Ordinances – (a) Create productive relationship with Austin Public Health (b) Create an oversight committee to review
- Farmland Preservation and Access (a) Continue to work with City of Austin and Travis County to make lands available for farmland (c) Find parcels eligible for farmland preservation (d) Reduce cost barriers and permitting barriers for existing farmers
- Food and Climate (a) Add a Food and Climate Addendum to the Austin Community Climate Plan
- Healthy Food Security and Access (a) Expand the distribution of fresh produce using already established hubs in city and county neighborhood centers. (b) Craft food access priorities to place on the city and county's agendas for the 2019 Texas legislative session. (c) Request that the City of Austin utilize city owned land for affordable housing; prioritize areas surrounding healthy food access outlets.
- Food Recovery (a) Review food pantry permitting, and determine what is needed