



## Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board

MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**The Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board (ATCFPB) convened on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, Street Jones Building, 1000 East 11th St, 400A, Austin, TX**

### CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Karen Magid called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

#### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Andrea Abel, Felipe Camacho, Joi Chevalier, Roman Gonzalez, Lorig Hawkins (Vice-Chair), Karen Magid (Board Chair), Sharon Mays, Emily DeMaria Nicola, Kara Prior

#### **Staff in Attendance:**

Emily Ackland, Edwin Marty, Amanda Rohlich, Sam Night

### 1) CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- a) 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. – none

### 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE MEETING

- a) Board Chair Karen Magid motioned to approve the meeting minutes from June 10, 2019 with Board Member Sharon Mays seconding the motion to approve pending minor edits. Passed on a 10-0 vote.

### 3) BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

- a) **Roman Gonzalez** – CEO of Gardenio; marketing and media experience (product user experience designer), community organizer for 2012 Obama Campaign
- b) **Emily DeMaria** – Chief Program Officer for the Central Texas Food Bank; non-profit and labor organizing career background
- c) **Kara Prior** – Community Programs Director at It's Time Texas, previously at CTFB; Young Non-Profit Professional Network
- d) **Andrea Abel** – Executive Director of FarmShare Austin; background in food and ag policy, building sustainable communities – access to environment and economy
- e) **Felipe Camacho** – Del Valle ISD; background in water and wastewater management, conservation; moved to Austin to preserve green space, build community gardens East of I-35 with SFC
- f) **Sharon Mays** – CEO of Baby Greens; background in marketing and PR (27 years experience), entrepreneur (opened five different food establishments in Austin), worked in business operations, worked in music industry, marketing for Dell, Chipotle; board of non-profits (community gardens, etc. → policy experience
- g) **Lorig Hawkins** – Farming in Central Texas for 10 years (2 farms in Austin city limits, 2 farms in Travis County); involved in urban farm ordinance; Co-founder of Central Texas

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Young Farmer Coalition; owns own farm in Bastrop County; familiar with regional and city agricultural communities (Vice Chair)

- h) **Joi Chevalier** – Founder and owner of Cook’s Nook (culinary incubator with 25 current members, 20 in the works); Google Refresh – women, food, and tech; spent 18 years in tech industry, went to culinary school
- i) **Karen Magid** – Director of Sustainability and STEM at Huston-Tillotson University for 5 years; scientific/laboratory background, Peace Corps service 8 years ago; environmental justice, broad approach to sustainability with justice at the forefront (Board Chair, member for 3 years, representative to the Joint Sustainability Committee)

**4) STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR UPCOMING YEAR** – facilitated by Emily Ackland

- i) Board recognizes Amanda Rohlich for her work as staff liaison and with Building Opportunities for Food Entrepreneurs working group (Sharon Mays – working group chair) on Food Pantry Permitting process
- ii) Emily Ackland review ground rules and roles
- iii) Desired Outcomes
  - (1) Understand what the board has been in the past (what works, what hasn’t)
  - (2) Discuss board identity, working with other boards and commissions, recruiting/succession/board sustainability, outreach to elected officials, advocacy
  - (3) Discuss working groups – is the structure working?
  - (4) Define outcomes and metrics for working groups and full board
  - (5) Discuss meeting structures, what the Board wants to accomplish during monthly meetings this year
  - (6) Identify best way to efficiently share information
- iv) Edwin Marty reviewed the history of the Food Policy Board
  - (1) Timeline (link embedded on COA website), not exhaustive but provides recent
  - (2) Bylaws – on COA website
    - (a) **Mission – Serve as an advisory body to the City Council and Travis County Commissioners 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 and county government, as well as non-profit organizations, and food and farming businesses.**
    - (b) **Board’s primary purpose – make recommendations to city and county officials**
    - (c) 13 members – 7 from the city council, 6 from the county commissioners court
      - **“10/1”** in the city – most boards and commissions moved to giving each City Council representative a nomination; proposal to have 10 city members and 8 county, but not adopted
      - Full city council must vote on each member
      - Each county commissioner gets to appoint one member, judge gets 2
    - (d) TX Open Meetings Act

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- (e) Robert's Rules of Order
  - (f) Many of these rules can be changed if the Board wants to
  - (g) Used to have committees, moved a few years ago to working groups (less formal, loosely structured)
  - (h) Annual report
- v) Karen Magid gave a review of the Board's work in the past year
- (1) Mission and goal – produce recommendations, but only had one in the last year
  - (2) Opportunity to discuss goals
  - (3) Lots of churn on the board, consistent vacancies and turnover
  - (4) 3 open positions from the city
- vi) Lorig Hawkins discussed recruitment for vacancies
- (1) List openings on Austin Food Notes
  - (2) Let Lorig know if members have recommendations for nominees, allows her to coordinate with appointers
  - (3) Have to apply online
  - (4) Board can advocate for who they want to be selected
- vii) Group discussion about working groups and board priorities
- (1) Working groups set individual goals and metrics, 2 board members per group
  - (2) Review of processes from Food and Climate, Healthy Food Access and Food Security, Opportunities for Food Entrepreneurs, Support for Farms and Farmers
  - (3) Work has become increasingly sophisticated, so need for support materials to take the work into action; gap is developing between the working groups and recommendations from the full board; take next steps to make policy and give work a chance to move forward
  - (4) Develop standard operating procedures and a training manual for working group chairs to level set knowledge base about advocacy, planning, scoping, research, etc.

## **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Karen Magid adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.

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