

## SFPB COA Website Content

### Board Overview

The Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) serves in the unique capacity of directly advising both the Austin City Council and the Travis County Commissioners' Court to improve the availability of safe, nutritious, locally, and sustainably-grown food at reasonable prices for all residents, particularly those in need.

The scope of the board's charge is far-reaching, encompassing the assessment and strengthening of Austin and Travis County food systems as well as the accessibility and affordability of fresh food, and the effectiveness of outreach and education. In short, the board advises policymakers about two intersecting areas – a sustainable local food system and food access and wellness.

The board was officially established with ordinance 20081120-058 which added the Sustainable Food Policy Board to the city code.

<http://www.cityofaustin.org/edims/document.cfm?id=123825>

The Travis County Commissioners Court approved a similar ordinance soon after and the board was seated and began meeting in the Spring of 2009.

### Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) Meetings

The SFPB regularly meets the fourth Monday of the month in the Austin City Hall Boards and Commissions Room from 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm.

The Executive Committee regularly meets the third Monday of the month in the Austin City Hall Boards and Commissions Room from 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm.

The board follows the Texas Open Meetings Act and Roberts Rules of Order. The meetings are open to the public. For updated information on meetings and posted SFPB minutes, agendas, and backup material for meetings, as well as current information on membership and the board's bylaws, visit the City of Austin Boards and Commissions site:

[http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityclerk/boards\\_commissions/boards/bid47.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityclerk/boards_commissions/boards/bid47.htm)

### SFPB Email List

If you would like to subscribe to the SFPB's informational email list, simply go to the City of Austin's \*Austin Notes\* page and select "Sustainable Food"

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/news/notes/index.cfm>

### Working Groups and Community Participation

In March 2011 (thanks to a change in the city code) the board began establishing working groups – temporary groups intended to involve a diverse representation of stakeholders and experts from the community to work toward a specific purpose and make recommendations to the Sustainable Food Policy Board.

The following working groups are currently active. Community members interested in participating may contact the person listed for more information on how to get involved. In addition, the SFPB welcomes community input during the Citizen Communication period at the beginning of all board and executive committee meetings.

Current Working Groups:

#### **Imagine Austin**

Contact:

Michele Murphy-Smith <mms@mail.utexas.edu>

Purpose:

To review the Imagine Austin process and current plans, to invite participation and ensure representation in each of the 7 work groups. Participants are expected to voice the importance of sustainable local agriculture and of access to healthy food for Austin residents across all income and geographical areas as it specifically relates to each comprehensive plan working group. The targeted outcome is high priority food-related objectives on the final working plan for each group.

Timeline:

April to end of summer (August) 2011 – report to SFPB bi-monthly and assess for outcomes (and any recommendations for action by SFPB or City Council) in August.

Board unanimously agrees to accept Imagine Austin working group. Vote 11-0.

### **SNAP Participation**

Contact:

Arthur D'Andrea <arthur.dandrea@gmail.com>

Purpose:

To collect, compile and report all information relevant to SNAP participation in Austin and Travis County as well as best practices in the state and other regions in order to make recommendations to the SFPB on city and county policies and practices aimed at improving participation in the program and tracking progress.

Timeline:

April to June 2011 – report back to SFPB at board meeting scheduled for June 27, 2011.

### **Urban Farming Best Practices**

Contact:

Allison Beadle <beadle.allison@gmail.com>

Purpose:

Research and identify best practices/benchmarks used by municipalities effectively making resources available for sustainable urban farming (e.g., land, water, compost, training).

Identify existing related definitions – such as “sustainable agriculture,” “urban agriculture,” and “urban farm” - and provide recommendations for working definitions.

Timeline:

April to May 2011 – report back to SFPB for May 25, 2011 meeting.

### **Community Gardens Best Practices**

Contact:

Allison Beadle <beadle.allison@gmail.com>

Purpose:

Research and identify best practices/benchmarks used by municipalities effectively making

resources available for sustainable community gardens (e.g., land, water, compost, training). Identify existing related definitions and provide recommendations for working definitions.

Timeline:

April to May 2011 – report back to SFPB at May 25, 2011 meeting.

### **Farmers Market Permitting**

Purpose: To examine current permitting practices and fees for all farmers market participants in Austin and Travis County in order to identify optimal short and long-term permitting practices and fees that will facilitate a strong local food economy while ensuring safety. Include information on best practices/benchmarks within the state and in other regions while noting potentially shifting state regulations and definitions that impact permitting practices.

Timeline:

April to July 2011 – report back to SFPB at July 25, 2011 meeting.

### Links to relevant city resolutions and ordinances

Ordinance 20081120-058 – Establishing the Sustainable Food Policy Board

<http://www.cityofaustin.org/edims/document.cfm?id=123825>

Resolution 20091119-065 – Support for Sustainable Urban Farms and Community Gardens

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityclerk/edims/2009/20091119-reg.htm#065>

Resolution 20091015-023 – Affordable Water and Waste Water for Urban Agriculture

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityclerk/edims/2009/20091015-reg.htm#023>

Temp Food Handlers Permit effective 11/8/10:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityclerk/edims/2010/20101028-reg.htm#046>

Sustainable Urban Agriculture Fees effective 2/21/11:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityclerk/edims/2011/20110210-reg.htm#019>

Urban Farms & Community Gardens effective 2/21/11:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityclerk/edims/2011/20110210-reg.htm#017>

Community Garden effective 2/21/11:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityclerk/edims/2011/20110210-reg.htm#018>

Farmers Market Permitting Fees effective 4/18/11:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityclerk/edims/2011/20110407-reg.htm#064>

### Board Membership

Each city council member and the mayor and each county commissioner and the county judge appoint a representative to the SFPB (the judge appoints two).

For current board membership information check here:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/boards/results.cfm?bid=100151>

To apply to serve as a City of Austin representative on the SFPB, go here:

[http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityclerk/boards\\_commissions/boards/bid47.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityclerk/boards_commissions/boards/bid47.htm)

For information on serving as a Travis County Representative on the SFPB, please contact Juanita Jackson <Juanita.Jackson@co.travis.tx.us>.