



Sustainable Food Policy Board

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES Monday, February 27, 2012

The Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) convened on Monday, February 27, 2012, at Boards and Commissions Room, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Chair Paula McDermott called the meeting to order at 12:40pm.

Board Members in Attendance:

Erin Flynn	Katie Kraemer	Ronda Rutledge – Vice Chair
Kathy Green	Paula McDermott – Chair	Toni Tipton-Martin
Adam King	Michele Murphy-Smith	Marla Camp
Paige Hill	Katherine Nicely	

Absent Board Members:

Melanie McAfee	Arthur D'Andrea
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Staff in Attendance:

Kristy Hansen, HHSD	Robert Kingham, HHSD	Ashley Pudnos, HHSD
Bob Gedert, ARR	Dylan Siegler, Office of Sustainability	Sherry Fleming, TC HHS/VS

CALL TO ORDER

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Bishop Zareh discussed genetically modified food labeling.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2012.

Vice Chair Ronda Rutledge made a motion to accept minutes. Member Katie Kraemer seconded motion. Member Katherine Nicely was not present at vote. Member Paige Hill abstained. Motion passed 9-0-1

3. STAFF BRIEFING – AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY FOOD WASTE DISPOSAL PILOT (BOB GEDERT, DIRECTOR, AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY)

Presentation on Organics Recovery discussed goals of Austin Resource Recovery with future recovery and a pilot for multi-family complexes to participate in organics recovery.

4. STAFF BRIEFING – FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN IMAGINE AUSTIN DRAFT (IMAGINE AUSTIN STAFF, COA PLANNING AND REVIEW DEPARTMENT)

Staff member Paul DiGiuseppe gave an update on Imagine Austin Plan. Chair Paula McDermott noted that many people in the working group were unclear that “food” was part of “Healthy Austin.” More information on Imagine Austin can be found at www.imagineaustin.net/chapters.

5. STAFF BRIEFING- TRAVIS COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS (SHERRI FLEMING, COUNTY EXECUTIVE, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND VETERANS SERVICES)

Non-county requests for the 2013 budget are due on 3/23/12 to the appropriate department. The budget submission for the County is due 4/23/12. Budget parameters are available on Travis County website.

6. DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION

- City of Austin 2012 Farm Bill Recommendations Letter from the Mayor (Ronda Rutledge)
-The updated letter is included in the backup documents. No action taken.
- Proposed Texas Department of State Health Services Rule Changes Affecting Farmers Markets (Paula McDermott)
-New rules based on State Legislature. Member Marla Camp made a motion to draft a letter noting that time frame is too short. Member Katherine Nicely seconded motion. Motion passed 11-0-0.
- SFPB Web Presence and Listserv Update (COA STAFF - CPIO)
-Chief Sustainability Officer Lucia Athens provided update on the new content management system for the website. No action taken.
- SNAP Recommendations Letter (Paula McDermott)
-Edits approved from the last meeting are still in progress. No action taken.
- Texas Hunger Initiative/Community Action Network Food Security Assessment (Sherri Fleming)
-Sherri Fleming recommended that SFPB collaborate on this initiative to maximize efforts. More information about Community Action Network can be found at www.caction.org. No action taken.
- Review of Existing Working Groups and Proposed Changes (Group Liaisons)
-Member Paige Hill made a motion to close Biosolid Work Group. Member Marla Camp seconded motion. Motion passed 11-0-0.
- Board Annual Report - March 2011 – February 2012 (Working Group)
-Member Erin Flynn is working on this and will be assisted by Chair Paula McDermott. It will be completed in March. No action taken.
- Identify Work Plan for Coming Year - Board Priorities/Objectives/Working Groups
-Due to time constraint, this will be discussed further at the next meeting.
 - Food Access and Wellness Area Prioritization Procedure and Adoption of Work Plan
-Decided to move Policy Objective: Increase participation in, and impact of, federal food...to fit as the Central Texas SNAP Participation Work Group purpose and move that Work Group under 2. the high availability and consumption of local, fresh and quality sustainability-produced food.
 - Food Production and Business Area Prioritization Procedure and Adoption of Work Plan
-No action taken.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Community Transformation Grant RFP (COA HHSD)
-Release of 2 RFPs:
https://www.ci.austin.tx.us/financeonline/vendor_connection/solicitation/solicitations.cfm

2. Texas Food Policy Workshop – February 17th, Texas Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association –TOFGA (Ronda Rutledge)
-Due to time constraint item will be discussed at next meeting.
3. Presentations – UT Health and Science Center – February 7th, UT Sustainable Business Summit – February 24th
-Due to time constraint item will be discussed at next meeting.
4. Texas Food Policy Summit – May 10th – 11th – San Antonio
-Due to time constraint item will be discussed at next meeting.
5. Travis County Snapshot – 2010 American Community Survey
-More information: http://www.co.travis.tx.us/health_human_services/research_planning/

8. DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Identify Work Plan for Coming Year-Board Priorities/Objectives/Working Groups
2. County Bond Process – Farmland Preservation
3. County Presentations and Relevant Budget Items (including HUD Report)
4. Urban Ag Coordinator Briefing and Introduction of Staff (Jake Stewart)
5. Sustainability Office Update
6. Economic Development Department Update
7. Report on Community Transformation Grant - HHSD

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.