

URBAN FARM CODE UPDATE - Public Notice re: Next Steps

There will be several other points in the public process for anyone to comment on the proposed changes to the land use code. The first draft of the recommendations were presented to the Sustainable Food Policy Board on June 24th, but the board did not choose to take action on the recommendations. The reasons for this were:

- The SFPB as well as City Staff needed more time to look at all the documentation and at the recommendations.
- The board felt that there are still concerns from farmers, neighbors, food advocates, etc. that needed to be considered.
- Pushing it out gives everyone time to review the draft.
- The working group has time to take stakeholders responses and concerns into consideration and make revisions to the recommendations for final presentation and approval in July.

Many hours have been put into this initial recommendations. We thank you for your comments and invite you to join us at the Working Group meetings, which take place on Tuesdays at City Hall from noon – 1:30pm. We may have to even add another weekly meeting in order to be prepared for the final recommendations.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations have received formal staff review from:

- Planning & Development Review
- Health & Human Services
- Sustainability
- Code Compliance

The Working Group is considering staff review comments and making revisions to the recommendations. These recommendations will then be presented to the Sustainable Food Policy Board (see schedule below).

Next meetings in the process:

Sustainable Food Policy Board meeting – August 26th from 12:30-2:30 p.m. @ City Hall Board and Commissions Room (301 West Second Street, 78701)

The board will consider the FINAL CODE recommendations of the Codes & Metrics Working Group and take **action**. These recommendation will go to the Codes & Ordinances Subcommittee of the Planning Commission. Find agendas for the SFPB here:
<http://austintexas.gov/sfpb>

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*Codes & Ordinances Subcommittee (Planning Commission) - Tuesday, September 17th at 6:00 p.m.
@ City Hall*

The Codes & Metrics Working Group will brief the subcommittee on the recommendations and the subcommittee will take **action** on the recommendations. Agenda will be posted here: <http://austintexas.gov/planningcommission>

Planning Commission meeting - Tuesday, September 24th at 6:00 p.m. @ City Hall

The PC will consider and take **action** the code revision recommendations and public comments will be accepted. Note that these meetings can run very long and agendas are packed. Find agendas for the PC here: <http://austintexas.gov/planningcommission>

City Council - Thursday, October 3rd around 10:30 a.m. @ City Hall

The Codes & Metrics Working group expects to brief Council on recommendations. No public comment will be allowed during this meeting, but it is open for observation.

City Council - Thursday, October 17th after 4:30 p.m. @ City Hall

Final action on the recommendations is expected at this Council meeting, assuming everything stays on track. Council has final approval of land use code revisions, as presented by the Planning Commission and reviewed by staff. Agendas for Council meetings can be found here:

http://austintexas.gov/department/city-council/2013_council_meeting_schedule.htm. To speak on a specific agenda item, follow these instructions:

<http://austintexas.gov/department/citizen-participation-council-meetings>

Please be in touch with your thoughts and input to the process:

- **Kate Vickery** (Sustainable Urban Agriculture & Community Garden program, City of Austin)
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- **Katherine Nicely** (Sustainable Food Policy Board member) -
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