



Austin Travis County Food Policy Board



MEETING MINUTES Monday, August 8, 2016

The Austin Travis County Food Policy Board (ATCFPB) convened on Monday, August 8, 2016 at the Street Jones Building, 1000 East 11th St., 4th Floor, Room 400A, Austin, TX 78702

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Kathy Green called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Kathy Green (Chair), Felipe Camacho, Jake Carter, Dustin Fedako, Jessica Gaffney, Adrienne Haschke
Karen Magid, Errol Schweizer

Absent Board Members:

Alexandra Evans (Vice Chair), Erin Lentz, Sharon Mays

Staff in Attendance:

Edwin Marty, John Miller, Amanda Rohlich

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

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.

Allen Schroeder, food recovery activist, spoke to the board about food waste recovery, encouraging the board to consider a Food Recovery Ordinance. Additionally, Mr. Schroeder suggesting publishing a food waste glossary to give more clear definition to some of the terms being used around organics diversion.

2. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. John Miller, City of Austin Health and Human Services Department, Financial Manager. Gave overview of current budget proposal for FY 2017 (see presentation in back-up materials)
 - a) Provided overview of cost drivers, performance gaps, horizon issues, and funding requests.
 - b) Total budget \$99.2 million, \$4.4 million increase from FY 16 but not a lot of new programs. Increase is mainly due to the increased cost of provided existing services.
 - c) Questions/comments from Board Members:
 - 1) Kathy Green pointed out that the one time Healthy Food Access funding to Chronic Disease Prevention for \$400,000 was championed by the Food Policy Board and is recommended to continue this year as part of the Healthy Food Access Initiative funding that staff proposed in recommendations to Council (not included in HHSD budget proposal)
 - 2) Jessica Gaffney asked for the best way for the board to work with HHSD and Miller recommended that the board work with Council Members and push them to ask good questions.
- b. Edwin Marty, City of Austin Office of Sustainability, Food Policy Manager. Gave overview of Food For All Neighborhood Food Planning Process and the Recommendations to Council on Improving Food Access (see presentation in back-up materials)
 - a) Need for more nuanced and better data around food access; cannot rely on USDA food desert data because it does not necessarily reflect the on-the-ground experience of Austin residents
 - b) Recommendation #3 on Increasing Urban Food Production is already underway

[Karen Magid stepped away from dais at 6:50 pm]

- c) Questions/comments from Board Members
 - 1) Adrienne Haschke – Are the Healthy Food Retail Initiatives funds available to initiatives in any zip code? Edwin Marty – We don't have enough information to limit to any specific geographic locations at this point. Maybe in future years when we information from the food retail assessment we would be able to geographically target initiatives.
 - 2) Kathy Green – There is a placeholder for this six-point strategy in the current budget concept menu. Different council members may take on individual initiatives to champion. CM Garza has expressed interest in Recommendation #2 to incentivize new food retail in District 2. CM Pool and Tovo have expressed interest in Recommendation #5, the Coordinated Awareness Campaign.
 - 3) Jessica Gaffney – When we talk to CMs, do we push all or prioritize those that are not already championed? Kathy Green suggests to push for all recommendations getting funding. Question – Which department will these initiatives fall under? Answer – HHSO Director Shannon Jones has expressed support for housing in their department but ultimately it is up to the City Manager to determine where budget allocations and FTEs get placed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY MEETING

Board Member Jake Carter motioned to approve the meeting minutes from June 13, 2016 with Board Member Errol Schweizer seconding the motion to approve. All are in favor of approving with none opposing

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Board Infrastructure & Protocol
 - 1) Discussion of three board position vacancies and next steps
 - 2) Review Board Members' meetings with City and County Officials
 - a. Adrienne Haschke – met with Commissioner Gerald Daugherty.
 - b. Dustin Fedako—participated in tour of composting sites in Austin, as part of a discussion for continuing the curbside organics diversion program. CM Pool, Mayor Staffer Brandi Clark Burton, Rep from CM Tovo and CM Renteria's office were in attendance.
 - c. Jessica Gaffney plans to visit CM Garza's office as representative of SFC on 8/12. Meeting with Notley Ventures has been postponed again.
- b) Board Recommendations Follow-up
 - 1) Local and Healthy Food Procurement – AISD and UT working with manufacturers and distributors to get information on whole food purchases to inform score under GFPP. Celebrate in October, pitching feature article to local media outlets.
 - 2) Healthy Food Access funding -- all contracts out. Funding for implementation and evaluation of Healthy Food Funding was allocated later than hoped for and so there isn't a lot of information about performance of these initiatives.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Debrief of the Joint Sustainability Committee (JSC) meeting
 - 1) Adrienne Haschke provided updates from July 27th. Five resolutions passed including a composting materials waste management recommendation. JSC recommends 3-year roll out of weekly curbside organics diversion service with no opportunity to opt-out. All taxpayers will be effected regardless of if they are receiving service or not, so for the sake of equity, everyone should receive service as quickly as possible. Another recommendation was to pay down the Fayette power plant which is a coal

fired plant responsible for 28% of the City's GHGs and 80% of City Energy. May increase cost of service. Meeting minutes can be found on the JSC BC website.

- b) Working Group Briefings and Recommendations
 - 1) Budget and Policy – see Edwin Marty's presentation (Item 2a)
 - 2) Codes and Ordinances – Sharon Mays was absent. Edwin Marty reported that group is continuing to research ways to make white paper actionable.
 - 3) Farmland Preservation and Access – No meeting since last meeting. Commissioners Gomez and Shea expressed support for Food System Study but County funding may be difficult to secure. Considering making it more specific to production capacity. Looking for new chair to lead farmland preservation.
 - 4) Food Safety and Innovation –Errol Schweizer gave update on raw milk. DSHS is working on new regulations pertaining to the transportation of food.
 - a. Errol Schweizer motioned to draft letter to seek clarification on raw milk issue; Felipe Camacho seconded.
 - b. After board discussion motion was withdrawn on Board Member Errol Schweizer motion, Board Member Jake Carter second; all in favor with none opposing.
 - 5) Healthy Food Security and Access – AISD received grant to expand breakfast in the classroom, food trucks at three more schools, and to expand salad bars to all schools within 3 years
- c) Review of Board Member Assignments
 - 1) Standing item—all board members to update Council and Commissioner profiles and meeting information after meetings
 - 2) Kathy Green to schedule conference call this week to coordinate strategy in City Council outreach and advocacy for food access recommendations
 - 3) Dustin Fedako to follow up with Juanita Jackson to discuss board member vacancies. Also to follow up with Judge Sarah Eckhardt and Commissioner Gerald Daugherty
 - 4) Adrienne Haschke to invite board members to the next Farmland Preservation working group meeting—looking for someone new to chair this working group
 - 5) Edwin Marty to look into how the Food Safety and Innovation working group should show support for DSHS Council to slow down the process of new regulations and put together a stakeholder group before publishing and guidelines on raw milk
 - 6) Errol Schweizer to draft letter to seek clarification on raw milk issue and future police involvement
 - 7) Errol Schweizer and Edwin Marty to schedule meeting with Aiden Cohen of Austin Resource Recovery and Allen Schroeder, food recovery activist, to discuss Allen's suggestion of a Food Recovery Ordinance
 - 8) Amanda Rohlich to send out Doodle to schedule advocacy training within next month

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) August: Advocacy training--recommended as separate meeting apart from regular board meeting
- 2) September: Austin Resource Recovery, Universal Recycling Ordinance, Organics Diversion – Aiden Cohen or Teresa Chapman of Austin Resource Recovery
- 3) October: Brighter Bites October
- 4) November: Green Gate roll out of new site development

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kathy Green adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m. without objection.