



AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY FOOD POLICY BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation Number: 20180514-5b1a

Update CodeNEXT Definition of Community Agriculture

WHEREAS, the current definition of Community Agriculture in Draft 3 of CodeNEXT reads, “A site for growing or harvesting food crops or ornamental crops on an agricultural basis, by an individual or group of individuals for personal or group use, consumption, donation, to be sold for profit, or may provide agricultural education activities. Agricultural education activities include, but are not limited to, volunteer programs, farm tours, youth programs, and farming classes,” and

WHEREAS, there are currently 67 community gardens in Austin and there is high demand for additional garden space, and

WHEREAS, community gardens are currently only included as an allowed use in the Civic Open Space section (23-4C-2160), and are not specifically mentioned as a type of community agriculture use in the Definitions section (23-13A-2030), and

WHEREAS, *Imagine Austin* indicates that Austinites prioritize access to community gardens, as stated: “make healthy and local foods accessible, particularly in underserved areas, by removing barriers and providing incentives for the establishment of sustainable community gardens, urban farms, neighborhood grocery stores, farmers markets, and farm stands and mobile vegetable sales carts” (City of Austin, 2012), and including mention of community gardens in the definition of Community Agriculture ensures that they will remain permitted uses under City Code,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Austin Travis County Food Policy Board (ATCFPB) encourages the City of Austin to amend the CodeNEXT Draft 3 definition of Community Agriculture to include “community gardens,” as follows, “A site for growing or harvesting food crops or ornamental crops on an agricultural basis, by an individual or group of individuals for personal or group use,

consumption, donation, to be sold for profit, or may provide community gardening and agricultural education activities. Agricultural education activities include, but are not limited to, volunteer programs, farm tours, youth programs, and farming and gardening classes.”

Date of Approval: May 14th, 2018

Record of the vote: 9 in favor, none opposed

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwina Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

City of Austin, Office of Sustainability, Food Policy Manager/ ATCFPB Staff Liaison