

## Notes from the FY 2022 Strategic Planning Meeting of the Austin Travis County Food Policy Board

Discussion after the Purpose and Mission of the ATCFPB presentation:

1. Board members would like to talk about the bylaws at a meeting
2. The word “shall” in the bylaws is a heavy lift because the Board is not provided with resources to do the work that is required. How can the Board leverage the language in the bylaws to obtain funds/resources?

Top priority of the Board for 2022 will be the Food Planning Project. Board members will be key to that project and will participate via a work group.

Other priorities discussed (from the post-it note exercise) and categorized by the “Purpose and Duties” listed in the bylaws (these priorities could be individual projects that a board member takes on themselves (I) or would require the efforts of the work group (WG)):

1. Monitor the availability, price, and quality of food throughout the Austin and Travis County Area
  - a. Emergency response planning – creating better systems/policies for food access during an extreme weather event (WG)
  - b. Ensure decision makers have the most up-to-date city and county food system data including updating Office of Food Policy reports (WG)
2. Collect data on the food security and the nutritional status of city residents
  - a. Access to healthy culturally appropriate food – affordable produce, easy to access, and locally grown. (WG) this was posted by 2 different board members.
3. Inform city and county policy makers, administrators, and the public at large about the status of the regions food system and food security
  - a. None
4. Monitor and analyze the administration of city and county food nutrition programs
  - a. None
5. Explore new means for the city and county to improve the local food economy, the availability, sustainability, accessibility, and quality of food and our environment, and assist city and county departments in the coordination of their efforts
  - a. “Local” from RGV (WG)
  - b. County invests in food system projects (WG)
  - c. Continue monitoring/informing new CFO process (I or WG)
  - d. Assist with formation of Food Plan CAC (I or WG)
  - e. Find ways to work across gov’t boundaries to make plan regional (I or WG)

- f. County and City collaborate on food system investments (I or WG)
  - g. Food innovation study – research innovations happening in the food system that could provide opportunities for new policy that would strengthen the local food system. (I)
6. Review availability and recommend measures to promote the preservation of agricultural land in the City of Austin and Travis County
- a. Remove obstacles to starting new community gardens (WG)
  - b. Access to land in Austin and TC for food production on any scale (WG)
7. Recommend to the city and county adoption of measures that will improve existing local food production and add new programs, incentives, project, regulations, or services.
- a. Public food sector (utility storage) (WG)
  - b. ARPA funds – GFPP in all city food procurement (WG)
  - c. Prioritize food workers – solidarity economics (WG)
  - d. RFP writing (WG)
  - e. Policy writing (WG)
  - f. Recommendation writing (WG)
  - g. Organics diversion policy – the current policy isn’t aligned with the TFCR or CFO Policy. (The language of it). Update the policy so that it allows food establishments to comply while also meeting the TFCD and FCO requirements (I or WG)
  - h. Promote labor participation in comprehensive Food System Plan (I or WG)

The Board then discussed and decided on the following priorities for 2022:

1. Participate in the Food System Planning Project
2. Focus on Food Access through the work group
3. Make Recommendations in the form of policy and funding priorities
 

*This was discussed in terms of board members working on individual projects they could bring back to the board or by forming work groups dedicated to specific issues (such as those listed above) that have clear timelines and outcomes.*

Next steps

1. Participate in WG for the Food System Planning Project
2. Continue participation in the Food Access WG and assist with setting priorities around food access (convey what was discussed at the strategic planning meeting to help prioritize)
3. At the Nov Board meeting, discuss what projects should have WG’s that will develop recommendations around the issue areas above. Determine who will serve on the WG’s, establish a timeline for each WG and decide on deliverables. This can be an ongoing process so that not all WG need to commence in Nov.
4. Determine what individual Board members would like to work on as “independent” projects.