



## **Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**April 10, 2023**

The Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board (ATCFPB) convened on Monday April 10th at the City of Austin Permitting and Development Center, 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr, Room 4001, Austin, TX 78752.

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Andrea Abel, Lisa Barden, Joi Chevalier, Frances Deviney, Cecilia Hogan, Karen Magid, Rosamaria Murillo, Sari Vatske; Kacey Hanson joining at 6:24pm

### **Board Members Absent:**

Adrian Lipscombe

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Edwin Marty (City of Austin), Sergio Torres-Peralta (City of Austin)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair Joi Chevalier called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

Justin Lanier, Sustainable Food Center consultant on Good Food Purchasing Program.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY MEETING**

Board Member Andrea Abel motioned to approve the meeting minutes with Board Member Karen Magid seconding the motion. Minutes passed pending minor edits on an 8-0 vote.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

1. Travis County Budget Related Updates, Rachel Coff, Travis County Health & Human Services, Research & Planning Division (see backup material for presentation)
  - a. Questions and discussion:
    - i. Sari Vatske: How does staff decide how much to ask for when increasing requests? Rachel Coff: They looked at historical county increases for staff. Using trends to calculate increase. Staff is the highest expense.
    - ii. Sari Vatske: Do we envision a scenario where the food policy board discusses strategies for investments in projects that inform the budget process? Rachel Coff: Board may put together a board request that goes to HHS, is reviewed by staff then submitted back. Board may also do a letter of support. etc.
    - iii. Frances Deviney: Additional budget request; Would it be better to bring forward in front of a commissioner so they can do a budget request? Rachel Coff: A new request would need strong support from a department or have a sponsor.
    - iv. Frances Deviney: Are the variables used to calculate cost of living available? Rachel Coff to provide data and variables used to calculate cost of living; Rachel to send to Amanda so then we can share with the board.
    - v. Andrea Abel: On timeline, when would the Commissioners Court consider markups? Rachel Coff: In August- September for the general fund.
    - vi. Andrea Abel: If the court were to say 'yes, we approve a request to increase 1M', does HHS already have a proposed budget to allocate the money? Rachel Coff:

No, we don't have an specific plan but this money will go into a solicitation pool for the identified themes (i.e., workforce and youth).

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2. Review board members' meetings with City and County officials
  - a. Kacey Hanson attended meetings with Rachel Coff and Commissioner Travillion regarding the Ag Extension involvement in the food planning work. Rachel Coff and staff are doing a great job updating Comm. Travillion on Issue Areas, members. Comm. Travillion wants to ensure the Food Planning team has access to necessary support and networking.
  - b. Sari Vatske: Central Texas Food bank met with Ryan Alter and provided an overview of the food plan, outlining the work of the CAC and IAG. CM Alter was referred to staff for more updates.
  - c. Edwin Marty: OOS to meet with new COA Council members to brief them on the work of the OOS and the work of the Food Plan
  - d. Joi Chevalier: Will have a meeting with Comm. Brigid Shea soon to discuss food plan and a variety of food related issues.
3. Review prior board recommendations and discuss City and County budgets
  - a. March meeting canceled; Staff cannot call more than one special meeting per quarter.
  - b. Budget recommendations were not able to get into the process; Like County markup process, the City Council may discuss 'markup' items after the budget allocation happens. This poses an opportunity to push some initiatives forward.
  - c. Board vacancies and appointments; discuss reappointments
    - i. New mayor requiring city appointed members to be reappointed
      1. Joi Chevalier has been reappointed
      2. Lisa Barden and Dr. Rosamaria Murillo still need to be reappointed.
      3. 3 vacancies from City. Mayor staff should have access to individuals who have applied.
    - ii. Dr. Murillo has reached out to mayor staff
    - iii. Kacey Hanson recommends members seeking reappointment reach out again for an update to sort reappointments before April 13th. Members need to continue reaching out regarding reappointments.

## **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

4. Discussion and take possible action on electing a Board Chair and Vice Chair
  - a. Current Chair and Vice Chair are interim, elections are due; chair and vice chair can nominate themselves and then the rest of the board may vote:
    - i. Chair Nominations: Joi Chevalier self-nominated; Joi Chevalier elected Chair on a 9-0 vote.
    - ii. Vice Chair Nominations: Joi Chevalier nominated Lisa Barden (pending reappointment); Lisa Barden elected Vice-Chair on a 9-0 vote.
5. Discussion and take possible action on Joint Sustainability Committee meeting, Frances Deviney
  - a. No meeting due to lack of quorum in March
  - b. No specifics on budget related regarding food. Awaiting meeting minutes.
  - c. ACTION ITEM: Frances to share JSC minutes with Amanda or Edwin as they become available
  - d. Strong focus on emissions and fuel implementation strategies.
  - e. Joi Chevalier: Is Council expecting JSC to implement the ACEP? Edwin Marty: It's the main body shepherding its implementation
6. Discussion and take possible action on Food Planning, Karen Magid (Community Advisory Committee liaison for ATCFPB)
  - a. Overview: tension between time /budget constraints and making it an authentic community driven process. Slow deliberate process that allows for people to participate offline. Consensus based decision making processes.

- b. Coming up: Issue Area Groups are yet to be defined. Additional members to be recruited into the IAGs. Also, Charter and Mission and Vision goals for the process.
    - i. ACTION ITEM: Board members to reach out to Karen if anyone has experience with the community driven planning process. Karen to join the Issue Area Group action team carrying feedback from the board.
      - 1. How should we be thinking about Issue Area groups? Karen interested about discussion of how it could be possible to structure it differently
      - 2. Reach out to Karen regarding how to move the process forward regarding advocacy with elected officials.
    - ii. Sari: Progress over perfection; Consensus based decision making feeds into tension.
- 7. Discussion and take possible action on Food Recovery, Lisa Barden
  - a. Lisa had a meeting with the CTFB on surplus food.
  - b. Request is to double money from \$10 to 20M. Sari to wait for update from farm bill legislation
  - c. Joi: was there any communications regarding advocacy?
  - d. Feeding Texas has a proclamation.
- 8. Discussion and take possible action on a letter to City Council and City Manager from the Emergency Preparedness, Including Resilience Hubs Working Group, Lisa Barden
  - a. Lack of action during ice storm. Updates from HSEM regarding the food and water appendix execution. As well as the Mass care branch hiring and org chart
  - b. Draft letter review.

(Sari Vatske left the dais at 7:31pm)

- c. Motion: (Allows to talk about the letter, and have it sent to the mayor and City Council.)
      - i. Karen Magid made a motion to accept and send letters with Kacey Hanson seconding the motion.
      - ii. Discussion centered around formatting.
      - iii. Letter is approved pending Lisa Barden's final edits on an 8-0 vote.
- 9. Discussion and take possible action on Improved Food Access for People in Need, Kacey Hanson, Andrea Abel, Lisa Barden
  - a. No meeting. Team has postponed the meeting and hope to convene in May.
    - i. Budget recommendation: City and County to purchase JBG's former location.
      - 1. Lisa Barden: recommends including similar plots within budget rec.
      - 2. Include in Team's May Agenda: ACTION ITEMS:
        - a. Joi Chevalier to get lot number of available property near Thompson Lane
        - b. Edwin Marty to share URL of open data portal containing list of City owned property
- 10. Discussion and take possible action on letter of support for Austin Public Health's application for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health RFA
  - a. Edwin to read letter to Adrian Stirrup regarding a grant proposal that APH is applying for.
    - i. Intended to reach underserved individuals in the eastern crescent
    - ii. APH has received a REACH grant before, this one is larger.
    - iii. APH looking for a letter of support.
  - b. Kacey Hanson made a motion to put forward a letter of support; motion was seconded by Lisa Barden.
  - c. Open discussion
    - 1. Andrea Abel to abstain from voting.
    - 2. REACH grants need to show strong support from letters of organizations brought along. Dr Murillo Support COA moving into it.
    - 3. REACH is about to move into healthcare and increase their scope

- ii. The letter of support was approved on a 8-0 vote with Andrea Abel abstaining.
- 11. Discussion other board activities not included in previous updates
  - a. None
- 12. Review Board Member Assignments
  - a. Rachel Coff to provide data and variables used to calculate cost of living; Rachel to send to Amanda so then we can share with the board.
  - b. Joi Chevalier to include Lisa Barden's re-appointment in future communication with Mayor's office
  - c. Frances Deviney to share JSC minutes with Amanda or Edwin as they become available
  - d. Board members to reach out to Karen if anyone has experience with the community driven planning process. Karen to join the Issue Area Group action team carrying feedback from the board.
  - e. Joi Chevalier to get lot number of available property near Thompson Lane
  - f. Edwin Marty to share URL of open data portal containing list of City owned property

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chair Joi Chevalier adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm

The minutes were approved at the May 8, 2023, meeting on Board Member Karen Magid's motion, Board Member Lisa Barden's second with a 7-0 vote.