



Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board

MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2023

The Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board (ATCFPB) convened on Monday May 8th 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, Kacey Hanson (joined dais at 6:24pm)
Cecilia Hogan, Karen Magid, Rosamaria Murillo

Board Members Absent:

Adrian Lipscombe, Sari Vatske

Staff in Attendance:

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL MEETING

1. Board Member Karen Magid motioned to approve the meeting minutes with Board Member Lisa Barden seconding the motion. Minutes passed pending minor edits on an 7-0 vote.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Food Plan Implementation Analysis and Recommendations, Stephanie Chupp
 - a. Metrics of success: do they have frequent, ongoing communications in conjunction with digital updates. San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Vermont stood out on communications.
 - b. Recommendation Highlights
 - i. Governance: Backbone organization – food system alliance or food system networks. All others were government or civic associations.
 - ii. A look at a few select recommendations
 1. Goal setting – SMART goals; 2040 deadline with a 2030 benchmark
 2. Create Action Plans every 3 years that include 2-3 specific initiatives
 3. Manage a virtual goal measurement dashboard on the Food Plan website
 4. Measure and update progress annually
 - iii. Most important aspect is to grow network and leaders over time which leads to a more resilient system
 - iv. Some recommendations should be considered up front and when designing plan (i.e., include specific goals and strategies in the plan that cultivate coordination, cooperation, and communication or separate Food Plan strategies by stakeholder sphere of influence.)
 - v. Network growth:
 1. Use storytelling techniques to ignite emotion-based action motivators
 - vi. Create virtual hub for stakeholders to go to – Vermont was exceptional at this.

- c. Feedback and questions from Board Members:
 - i. Kacey Hanson: Ways to communicate outside of electronic means.
 - ii. Karen Magid: When do you reevaluate? Did you see that some areas are getting together for additional action planning? Leadership has to be distributed. Example of Denver's goal around food security. Once we hit the goal or the time, more goals. The timeline never ends. Highlights importance of building network.
 - iii. Lisa Barden: Did you look at date of publishing plan and how did that impact attributes? SC: Did not notice adding of new attributes over time.
- d. Next steps
 - i. Edwin Marty to share the report once received
 - ii. Stephanie Chupp to present to the Community Advisory Committee

Rosamaria Murillo joined dais at 6:30 pm.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 3. Review board members' meetings with City and County officials
 - a. Cecilia Hogan met with County Commissioner Gomez with Fruitful Commons. They are very interested in how we can address some issues around climate change through soil.
 - b. Andrea Abel sent email communications to County Commissioners and Judge on food access contract
 - c. Dr. Rosamaria Murillo was at a press event with Judge Andy Brown who was speaking to food access and housing assistance.
 - d. Joi Chevalier met with Council Member Vanessa Fuentes discussing her office following up on the funds her office approved this past year, especially around second- and third-line grocers coming into her district. Also provided an update around low-cost store option [community owned food retail]
 - e. Frances Deviney – Council Member came to Urban Roots event

Adrian Lipscombe joined dais at 6:48 pm

- 4. Review prior board recommendations and discuss City and County budgets
 - a. LFRF County Funds; no updates from Emily Ackland to provide update on what was decided
- 5. Board vacancies and appointments
 - a. Three vacancies on the City side
 - b. Term expirations on County side
 - c. Frances Deviney is stepping down as director of Urban Roots in July and will also step down from Food Policy Board
- 6. Discussion of Strategic Planning to take place August 21, 2023
 - a. Amanda Rohlich adjust calendar invite for board members

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- 7. Discussion and take possible action on Joint Sustainability Committee meeting, Frances Deviney
 - a. Last meeting had several presentations; Project Connect update – some questions came up that are relevant to food businesses. They may have to cut off utilities for some amount of time which would impact businesses. Would the new green line connect to a grocery store in Colony Park. Are these lines going to help address food access?
- 8. Discussion and take possible action on Food Planning, Karen Magid (Community Advisory Committee liaison for ATCFPB)

- a. CAC met on May 1. Shifted format that was positively received. There will be a facilitation training around consensus provided by Celine Rendon and Juniper Ross for CAC members, staff, consultants, and ambassadors.
 - i. Do we have the liaison role clearly defined and can we relay that information back to the CAC? Will bring questions to the Board if things come up that need CAC action.
 - ii. Thoughts on Karen Magid providing background and context to leadership team to help with agenda setting.
 - 1. Kacey Hanson: Question – can they decide to go in the direction you propose? How can other folks be pulled in to be subject experts? There needs to be a mechanism to pull other people in to provide perspective.
- 9. Discussion and take possible action on Food Recovery, Lisa Barden
 - a. Two things the group is focusing on:
 - i. Charitable Feeding Organizations – came across plan in Boston that has something along the lines of URO but they specifically exclude CFOs from that policy. Looking to take some of that language from Boston ordinance and apply that locally to not have CFOs have to file an Organics Diversion Plan
 - ii. Zero Waste Rebate does not give any preference for money that is spent towards food recovery or food donation. To encourage more food donation, offer higher incentive for food recovery over composting.
 - iii. ARR is looking at redoing the documentation for food donation so they have come to the group for input on food donation.
 - iv. Q from Joi Chevalier: There is a limit on how many times you can put in services. Any chance they would consider changing that?
- 10. 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. Letter sent to City Council. Emily Ackland shared letter with Eric Carter in Travis County Office of Emergency Management and Kirsten Siegfried in Health and Human Services as well as the Travis County Commissioners Court.
 - b. Edwin Marty provided update. Disaster Food and Water Appendix was adopted. Next steps is to operationalize it and integrate it in the Mass Care Branch Operations Plan. HSEM would like to come to present at the next board meeting and will provide updates on staffing. How can disaster feeding be better incorporated across City/County.
 - c. Resilience Hubs had a Community Advisory Committee meeting. Not ready to release information about Hub sites. Still in conversation with staff at those locations to ensure they will not be overly burdened before announcing. Some of the locations have been used as shelters, some have not. They did not talk about food and water being a part of the hubs; some of that would depend on HSEM's operations. They will be offering mini grants for resilience building projects in the community. Resilience Blueprint launched May 5.
 - d. Emily Ackland manages community resilience team of two. Laura Patiño is coming to speak to this group and will be including County Executives.
- 11. Discussion and take possible action on Improved Food Access for People in Need, Kacey Hanson, Andrea Abel, Lisa Barden
 - a. Kacey Hanson shared that they have not met. Adrian Lipscombe and Sari Vatske will be joining this group. They will then reach out to the full workgroup.
 - b. In thinking about food planning work, they have recognized that working group is primarily made up of community-based organizations. What they do as working group will determine who shows up.
- 12. Discussion other board activities not included in previous updates
 - a. Update on Values Based Procurement from Karen Magid. SFC was working on a budget recommendation. Karen looking to see if there is another board member who is interested in helping charge this work forward. Andrea Abel also involved but does not have time to put into this effort.

- b. Update from Emily Ackland – Travis County just completed greenhouse gas inventory at community level
- 13. Review Board Member Assignments
 - a. Edwin Marty to share Stephanie Chupp’s food plan implementation report once finalized
 - b. Emily Ackland to provide update on what was decided regarding Travis County’s Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF)
 - c. Amanda Rohlich to confirm strategic planning facilitation for August 21 with Rachel Coff and Emily Ackland
 - d. Emily Ackland to look into Travis County term expirations and reappointments
 - i. According to [COA roster](#), the following board members have expired terms
 - 1. Kacey Hanson (Feb 2023)
 - 2. Frances Deviney (Feb 2023)
 - 3. Adrian Lipscombe (Feb 2023)
 - 4. Cecilia Hogan (Feb 2023)
 - e. Edwin Marty to send link to real estate portal with real time surplus property
 - f. Frances Deviney to share minutes from JSC meeting
 - g. Amanda Rohlich to share Resilience Blueprint with Board Members
 - h. Andrea Abel to send email to Emily Ackland with GIS request for farmland
 - i. Emily Ackland to share calendar invite for the Travis County Work Session on May 18

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 14. Vote on JSC liaison
- 15. HSEM presentation

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Joi Chevalier adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm

The minutes were approved at the June 12, 2023 meeting on Board Member Andrea Abel’s motion, Board Member Kacey Hanson’s second with a 7-0 vote.