



Austin/Travis County Food Policy Board

MEETING MINUTES June 10, 2024

The Austin/Travis County Food Policy Board (ATCFPB) convened on Monday, June 10th at the City of Austin Permitting and Development Center, 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr, Room 1406, Austin, TX 78752.

Board Members in Attendance:

Lisa Barden, Mark Bethell, Marissa Bell, Joi Chevalier, Larry Franklin, Larry Franklin, Rosamaria Murillo, Natalie Poulos

Board Members Absent:

None

Staff in Attendance:

Edwin Marty (City of Austin), Amanda Rohlich (City of Austin)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joi Chevalier called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Board Member Lisa Barden motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the Regular Meeting on April 15th, with Board Member Marissa Bell, seconding the motion. Minutes passed on an 7-0 vote.

STAFF BRIEFING

2. Final Approved Version of Food Plan, Edwin Marty, Food Policy Manager (see back-up materials for presentation)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Discuss the Community Investment Budget, Larry Franklin and Kathy Mitchell of Equity Action (see back up for Community Investment Budget document). Includes visionary alternatives on public safety. Food related investments to help with the implementation of food planning include: Capacity Building Grant for small, local neighborhood organizations addressing food insecurity and accessibility at \$220,000; Food Plan Project Manager (FTE) with Office of Sustainability \$150,000; Food Plan Coordinator (FTE) Austin Resource Recovery \$120,000; Food Plan Coordinator (FTE) with Austin Public Health \$120,000; Food Plan Coordinator (FTE) with Economic Development \$120,000.
4. Discuss advocacy plan, talking points, and schedule for board member outreach to elected officials on food planning and board-approved budget recommendations.
5. Update form Lisa Barden regarding Andrea Abel's meeting on June 4, 2024 with D3 – CM Velasquez staff Jaelyn Valero. Jaelyn covers environment, food insecurity and public health and has a personal interest in sustainable agriculture. They had a 20-minute conversation where Andrea Abel introduced her to the ATCFPB and the Food Plan. Abel shared that the hope was for the Food

Plan to be reviewed by City Council in July. Abel also shared that CM Fuentes would most likely sponsor the resolution to support the ATCFPB recommendation to fund an FTE for food plan implementation with backup from CM A. Alter and CM R. Alter. Jaelyn indicated that we could anticipate CM Velasquez's support as well. Jaelyn asked if there was a dollar amount to implement the food plan but Abel let her know that was not determined yet. Jaelyn mentioned an Environment Investment Plan memo that had been sponsored by CM R. Alter and approved by Council.

Larry Franklin left the dais at 7:27 pm; he returned to the dais at 7:36 pm.

6. Update from Marissa Bell on May 31, 2024 meeting with D8 – CM Paige Ellis. They were aware that the food plan was underway but not with the specifics. CM Ellis noted that it's not uncommon for agenda items to get pushed back. Was interested to learn how D8 specifically can get involved in implementing the food plan. Suggested targeted first steps for implementation for each district. Interested in a staff briefing. Also offered their newsletter as an outlet for communications.
7. Update from Marissa Bell on April 24, 2024 meeting with D10 – Allison Alter staff Ashley Richardson. CM A. Alter plans to co-sponsor the amendment. Amendments need to be supported by 6 council members to pass. This is CM A. Alter's last year in office, so they are laying the ground work for continued support of the Food Plan after she is gone (ex: letting someone else own the amendment). The City is projected to be in debt, so it'll be a lean budget year, and recurring items like full-time employees are more tricky to pass. One option includes: Temporary funding (ex: fund for 1 year, with potential to reassess and reallocate funds) "Land acquisition and preservation" appears to be the lowest-hanging fruit in the City's control due to funding structure. Could potentially fund via general obligation bonds since it is a capital investment, so funds wouldn't have to come from city budget. At present, polling for a bond is favorable, so likely to be successful. Ashley highlighted the Green Investment Plan as a complementary initiative to the Food Plan, indicating its potential to bolster efforts outlined in the Food Plan. She mentioned an upcoming public hearing on May 30th and ongoing advocacy efforts associated with the Green Investment Plan.
8. Update on Board Appointments (Matt Simon, Andy Smith, Hilda Gutierrez, and reappointment of Kacey Hanson and Andrea Abel). After the June 26th training, we will have a full board.
9. Discussion of Joint Sustainability Committee meeting on April 24 (Regular Meeting), April 30 (Special Called meeting), May 22 (Regular Meeting), Larry Franklin and Dr. Rosamaria Murillo. No significant updates on the Environmental Investment Plan.
10. Discuss Annual Internal Review which is due July 31, 2024
11. Review Board Member Assignments (Note for Chair: take item out of order and discuss at end of meeting)
 - a. Amanda Rohlich to email latest Food Planning slide deck
 - b. Joi Chevalier to meet with CM Fuentes and Comm. Shea
 - c. Lisa Barden and Larry Franklin meeting with D1 on Wednesday, June 12
 - d. Andrea Abel, Kacey Hanson, Lisa Barden, and Joi Chevalier to share bulleted list of advocacy efforts from June 2023 to June 2024. Amanda will send a brief survey/form to collect input from board members on activities from previous year.
 - e. Amanda Rohlich to share pdf Annual Internal Review from last year
 - f. Emily Ackland and Yaira Robinson to reach out to County officials to understand their thoughts on any updates to board membership and process on updating the bylaws
 - g. Amanda Rohlich will send meeting cancellation for July board meeting
 - h. Edwin Marty and Emily Ackland will make necessary formatting updates to the recommendations to prepare them for posting
 - i. Larry Franklin will connect with Ryan Alter
 - j. Dr. Rosamaria Murillo to connect with Commissioner Jeff Travillion

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

12. Discuss and approve amendments to bylaws including an adjustment to County appointee terms and number of City and County appointees. No action taken.
13. Discuss and approve cancelling July meeting. Lisa Barden moved to council the July meeting. Natalie Poulos seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 7-0-0 vote.
14. Discuss and approve recommendation to City Council to adopt the Draft Food Plan in addition to funding the FTE to support implementation (see Recommendation 20240318- 007 from March 18th meeting). Marissa Bell made a motion to approve the recommendation to the City Council to adopt the food plan with Dr. Murillo seconding. The motion passed on a 7-0-0 vote.
15. Discuss and approve recommendation to Travis County Commissioners Court to adopt the Draft Food Plan in addition to funding the FTE to support implementation (see Recommendation 20240318-008 from March 18th meeting). Lisa Barden made a motion to approve the recommendation to the County to adopt the food plan with Natalie Poulos seconding. The motion passed on a 7-0-0 vote.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion and scheduling of future agenda items

Request to have Central Texas Food Bank present at August meeting to share information about the Travis County Community Needs Assessment and the proposed Central Texas Food Policy Council. Suggestion to have an Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan update, update from Homeland Security and Emergency Management on staffing for food access coordination, and update from Economic Development Department on Community Owned Food Retail initiative.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Joi Chevalier adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm

Minutes were approved at the August 12, 2024 full board meeting on Board Member Mark Bethell's motion with Board Member Marissa Bell seconding. Minutes passed on a 10-0 vote.