



**Bloomington Sustainability Action Plan Local Food and Agriculture
Working Group Meeting One Notes
6 March 2018
City Hall
7:15 pm – 8:15 pm**

Topic: Identify the most important local food and agriculture issues to address in the next five years

Facilitator: Stephanie Richards

Computer notes: Steven Chybowski

Number of participants: 16 (Stephanie Richards, Steven Chybowski, MaCie' Moore, Jane St. John, Angela Babb, Teddie Phillipson-Mower, Amanda Nickey, Janice Lilly, Marcia Veldman, Hattie Johnson, John Galuska, David Parkhurst, Kiran Singh, Brandon Bartley, Sheryl Woodhouse Keese, Ryan Conway)

Summary of Topics discussed:

- Introductions of the working group members
- Review of sustainability action plan process
- Review of the working group member list
- Review of the main topics under local food and agriculture
- Ratings of the importance of local food and agriculture topic areas
- Wrap-up/next steps

Detailed Notes

Review of Sustainability Action Plan Process

- We have a mix of people from public, private, and nonprofit sectors in this working group
- We are all responsible for sustainability
- This project and working group is supported by Steve, Macie, and Gnarly Tree
- We are here to recommend actions for the community as it moves forward
- We will look at what the city and community is doing to address these identified issues of food and agriculture
- We will look at what other cities are doing for these topics especially identifying best-case examples
- SPEA students will provide brief introductory presentations on background research at future meetings

Review of Working Group List

- Feel free to politely put pressure on the non-highlighted names to join us for future meetings
- Amanda Nickey indicated people who have experienced food insecurity should be represented in these discussions and will reach out to her board to see if they can invite a client to participate
- Marcia Veldman recommended Robin with Cardinal Spirits as a private-sector member and will reach out to her
- IU Food Services/IU Dining Hall should be represented; Rahul Shrivastav is recommended and Jane knows him
- Daniel Orr would be great for the group, but has not signed on

- Group noted we might want to have an Independent Restaurant Association representative and we can check the website for contacts
- A Kroger representative would be good as someone with knowledge of larger scale food distribution; Brandon will reach out to Kroger
- We need farmers in the room, maybe a well-established farmer could represent the group; Marcia will give some thought on farmers that would come to the meetings

Topic Area Discussion

- We're here tonight to identify the priority issues facing Bloomington for discussion in Meetings 2 - 4
- The list of ideas came from the public open houses
- We will use stickers to vote on the top issues our community is facing in local food and agriculture
- You may distribute 6 stickers you receive as you see fit
- Group member clarified there already is zoning for urban agriculture; the issue in residential areas is that you cannot sell food in residential areas so that is the zoning issue that is being suggested for updating
- By the term Greenwashing, the group was referencing the fact that some grocery stores have products they are claiming is local or natural when it is not
- In recognition of the fact that we are all responsible for sustainability, we will now use 6 more stickers you can use to acknowledge issues your organization can do to help contribute to solving these issues
- Fresh food access includes - food insecurity caused by income inequality, produce prescriptions, mobile food pantry, residential food stands
- Produce Prescription refers to when a health professional gives people money for healthy foods
- Group member noted this group should be the food insecurity task force
- Group member noted that some topics are goals, some topics are issues
- Question was brought up about food insecurity and whether that is an issue of income or a global issue of running out of food?
- Group member noted that accessibility, availability, utility are the 3 pillars of food accessibility
- Reducing dependency on outside food falls on a comprehensive approach to addressing food insecurity
- Food sovereignty is being less dependent on outside food sources
- Anything that has to do with people having control over their food sources fall under food sovereignty
- We can send these ideas out via email to gather ideas on how to group these topics
- We will perfect our topics with everyone's guidance
- We can create an urban agriculture category and work all related issues into that
- Collaboration between City and local organizations will be an overarching goal for all groups
- Hattie Johnson noted school has shut down salad bar because kids weren't eating it
- For healthy school lunches to work in the school, it takes someone inside the school
- Report what the schools are growing, and food services will use it, they use all those veggies anyway
- Those in charge of the curriculum need to add nutrition and use cafeteria for teaching

Wrap-up/Next Steps

- We are going to try to re-categorize these topics based on feedback we've received tonight
- Top topics will direct SPEA students' research
- We will provide you with time to provide feedback on these topics in Meetings 2 - 4
- In the coming days, you'll be asked to provide input on a vision statement for the SAP and Stephanie will combine feedback from various sources
- All of this information will be going on the sustainability action plan webpage

Priority Issues for Discussion in Meetings 2 – 4

- **Food Availability** (support for community gardening, support for urban agriculture, farmland for the Food Bank, development of Food Hub, support for renters and government housing to have gardens, awareness of existing community gardens, collaboration between city and local organizations, localization of food system)
- **Food Accessibility** (accessibility of fresh foods, mobile food pantries, produce prescriptions, SNAP at Market)
- **Food Utility** (education on food nutrition, quality of school lunches)
- **Food Stability** (support for next generation farmers, education on urban agriculture, use of best practices in farming management for climate change mitigation and adaptation)

Top 10 Issues

1. Accessibility to fresh foods
1. Comprehensive approach to food insecurity through establishment of task force
1. Quality of school lunches
2. Public education of urban Ag.
3. Development & support of next generation of farmers
3. Mobile food pantry
3. Zoning to allow for urban agriculture
4. Collaboration between city & local organizations

4. Dependency on outside areas for food
54. Food hub

4. Support for renters & govt housing to have gardens

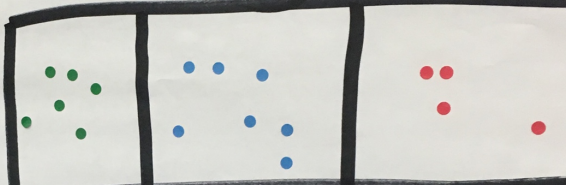
4. Recognize food insecurity is caused by lack of income - income inequality

4. Education on food nutrition, cooking pre K-grade 12

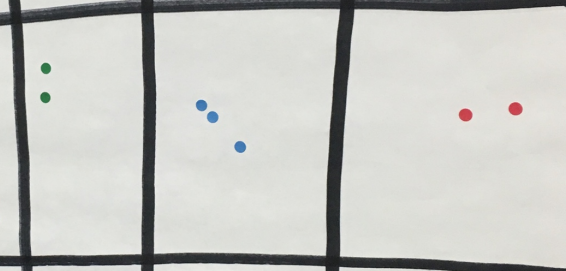
Local Food + Agriculture

* Org Me

Access to
fresh foods



Awareness of
community gardens



Churches as food
distributors



Collaboration b/t
city + local org's

