



Local Food and Agriculture Working Group
Meeting 2
City Hall McCloskey Room
29 March 2018

Attendees: Sheryl Woodhouse Keese, John Galuska, Brandon Bartley, David Parkhurst, Larry Howard, Marcia Veldman, Kiran Singh, Jane St. John, Jodee Ellett, Autumn Salamack, Ryan Conway, Stephen Stal, Whitney Schlegel, Teddie Phillipson-Mower, Janice Lilly, Steve Thomas, MaCie' Moore, Steve Chybowski, Logan Pfeiffer, Stephanie Richards

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Tonight's Agenda

- 6:00 pm – 6:05 pm: Review of Detailed Process
- 6:05 – 6:10 pm: A Comprehensive Approach to Food Security: Working Definitions of Food Availability, Food Accessibility, Food Utility, and Food Instability
- 6:10 pm – 6:15 pm: Review of Draft Definition of Sustainable Community
- 6:15 pm – 6:20 pm: Review of Draft Vision Statement for Sustainability Action Plan
- 6:20 pm – 6:40 pm: Presentation on Food Availability (MaCie' Moore)
- 6:40 pm – 7:00 pm: Root Challenges of Food Availability
- 7:00 pm – 7:45 pm: Breakout Groups (3) – Actions, Metrics, Partner Organizations
- 7:45 pm – 7:55 pm: Summary of Group Findings
- 7:55 pm – 8:00 pm: Wrap-up, Feedback, Election of Working Group Leaders

Summary of Main Points:


- Great discussion on food availability
- Discussed pillars of food security and reviewed definition of food availability
- Identified some root causes of food availability and potential solutions
- Breakout groups discussed real actions, metrics, and potential partners to support community gardens and local farming
- Jodee and Ryan will be group leaders for incorporating feedback into draft report
- Next meeting will discuss food accessibility (and potentially wrap up food availability discussion from meeting 1)

Detailed Notes:

Review of Detailed Process

- Next steps:
 - After 4 working group meetings, Stephanie will meet with Advisory Board and gives presentation of ideas from working groups
 - First draft of BSAP in early July; sent to Advisory Board and Working Groups
 - Incorporate feedback from Advisory Board
 - Draft 2 – send to all working group members
 - Tonight: 2 leaders will be elected to collect feedback from group to submit comments to Stephanie (review during mid-August)
 - Final BSAP in late August
- Review of meeting 1:
 - Compiled Top 10 issues, grouped them into the Four Pillars of Food Security (defined by UN) → priority topics from open house and Meeting 1 introduced as subtopics of the four pillars
 - Will discuss Food Availability in this meeting
 - Food Accessibility in Meeting 3
 - Food Utility and Food Stability in Meeting 4

A Comprehensive Approach to Food Security (4 Pillars): Working Definitions of Food Availability, Food Accessibility, Food Utility, and Food Instability

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Four Pillars of Food Security


- **Food Availability.** The term food availability is used to describe a situation when all members of the community have sufficient quantities of food consistently available to them as a result of adequate food production and trade.
Sample subtopics: Community gardening, Urban agriculture, and Support for Local Farming
- **Food Accessibility.** The term food accessibility is used to assess whether individuals have access to appropriately nutritious food at an affordable price and convenient travel distance.
Sample subtopics: Accessibility of Fresh Foods, Mobile Food Pantries, Use of SNAP at Farmers Market, Produce Prescriptions
- **Food Utility.** The term food utility refers to developing a mindset towards food that views it as fuel for the body, consumed solely for its nutritional benefits.
Sample subtopics: Education on Food Nutrition, Quality of School Lunches
- **Food Stability.** The term food stability refers to resilience in food supply when faced with potential disruptions, such as drought, shipping disruptions, economic recession, political instability, and climate change.
Sample subtopics: Next Generation of Farmers, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Sources: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Food Availability:
 - One participant says this definition should be more than just food, should include quality of food or nutritious food or healthy food
 - How does availability and accessibility differ? → Accessibility considers price and distance to travel to access

- One participant discussed concern about trade included in availability – wanted to focus more on local – can we emphasize preference for local food
- Another participant noted can't feed population without trade
- One participant asked: what's the link between sustainability and food? Nutrition, health, resilience other sub-topics help make more of a connection to sustainability and importance of localization of food sources
- One suggestion to potentially change these pillars from food security to sustainability?

Review of Draft Definition of Sustainable Community


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Draft Sustainable Community Definition

A sustainable community works together to manage its natural, social, and economic resources to ensure a healthy and just environment for existing and future generations everywhere.

- Everywhere is included in definition because we are trying to emphasize global sustainability
 - One question was why include; several supported its inclusion
 - One mention to “thrive”, not just “survive”
 - One mention to include healthy and just environment and society, not just focus on environment

Review of Draft Vision Statement for Sustainability Action Plan



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Draft Vision Statement

By 2030, the City of Bloomington will distinguish itself as the most sustainable community in Indiana. We will work collaboratively with the area's academia, nonprofits, and businesses to enhance our natural capital; build a diverse and growing economy; and ensure a healthy and equitable standard of living for all residents while enhancing the capacity of other Indiana cities and towns to do the same.

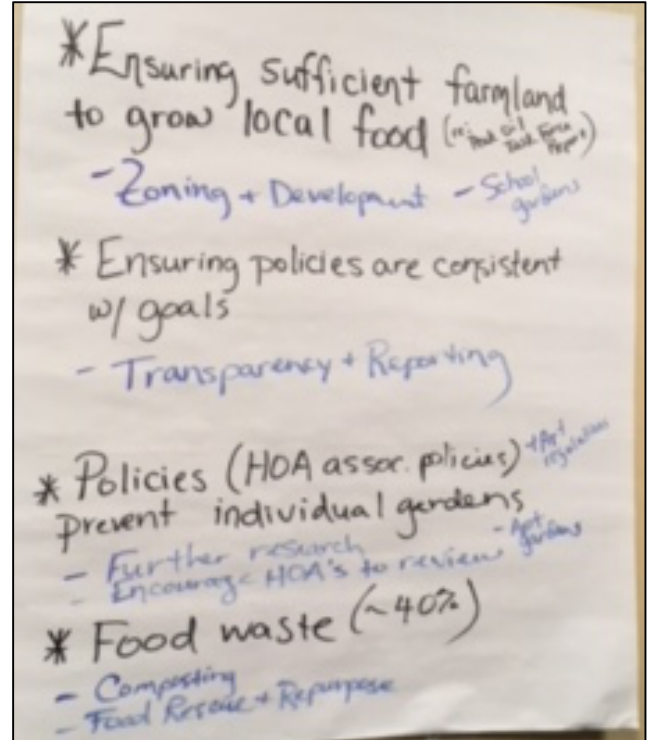
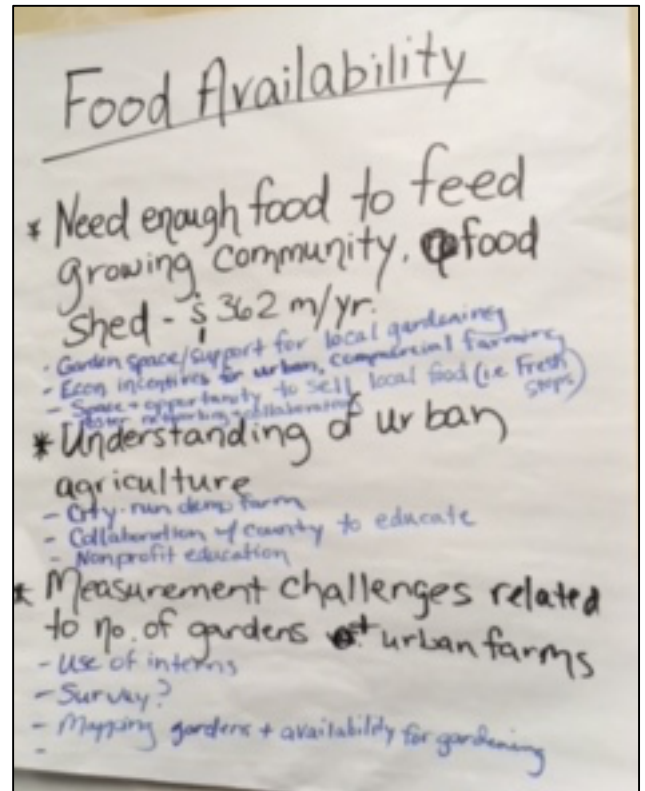
- Like that it emphasizes collaboration, leadership, capacity building
- One mention of this is an ambitious goal

Presentation on Food Availability

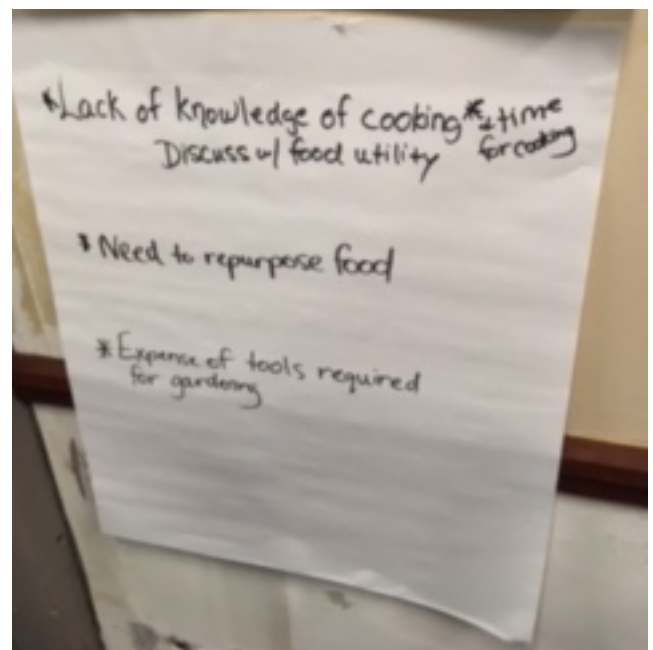
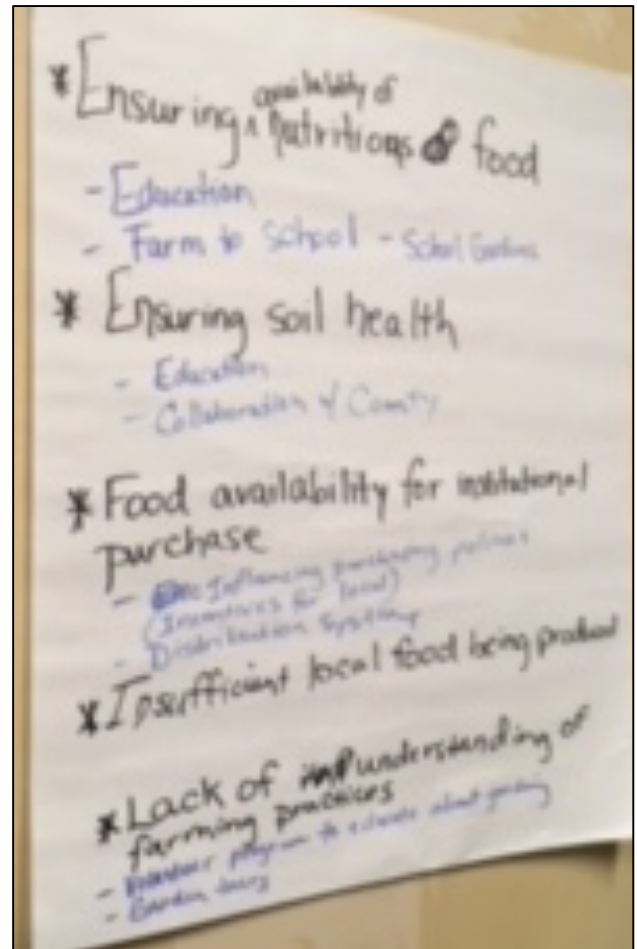
- Complete slides are attached
- Bloomington is dependent on outside food
- All garden plots at Butler are rented; 80.6% of plots at Willie Streeter are rented
- Existing community gardens in longish walking distance of public housing
- BHA has rules regarding gardening
- BHA areas are to provide garden area – unsure if they do really provide
- Walnut Woods garden doesn't appear to have space for community garden but need to research further
- City provides funding to food-related organizations (~\$ 1 million in 2016)
- Goals in Food Charter are *city's* goals, not just goal of outside forces
- Verbs in Charter are passive – this process we are doing provides actions
- Reviewed goals and metrics in other cities
- Reviewed actions recommended by STAR

Root Challenges of Food Availability

- Monroe County buys \$362 million/year – can that be produced by local food shed
 - Food at home and away from home
 - We need enough food to feed a growing community (6% population growth over 10 years)
 - *Solution: Provide garden space for low-income residents where required (but aren't providing)*
 - *Solution: Economic incentives for entrepreneurs (ex: train cars into gardens), or commercial urban farming*
 - *Solution: Provide space/opportunity within city to vend (rather than city residents going to farm) ex: Fresh Stops in Louisville (like a pop-up farmers' market)*
 - *Solution: Foster networking and collaboration*
- Challenge understanding urban agriculture
 - How many gardens/urban farms exist in the city? How do they acquire that data?
 - *Solution: Develop a city farm*
 - *Solution: Collaborate with county – certificate pilot*
 - *Solution: Mother Hubbard's Cupboard trains residents*
 - *Solution: Interns could try to get data, did have a map survey, but need to expand and map where gardens are – if people see where they are, people may be more inclined to garden*
 - *Solution: Get people who grow gardens to volunteer to educate – garden tours – can inspire others*
- Need to ensure there is enough land to provide food
 - Peak Oil Task Force report calculated metrics and space to feed Bloomington/Monroe County
 - *Solution: Zoning and Development*
 - *Solution: School gardens*



- Policies have to support availability of land, not limit behaviors which increase food
 - *Solution: Transparency and reporting*
- Policies (ex: homeowner association covenants) may prohibit individual gardens
 - *Solution: Further research into how to change HOA policies*
 - *Solution: Encourage HOAs to review covenants*
 - *Solution: Encourage apartment gardens*
- National estimate of food waste is 40% - how do we reduce this?
 - *Solution: Food repurposing*
 - *Solution: Composting companies/programs*
 - *Solution: Food rescue (ex: University of Kentucky program)*
- Challenge in availability of nutritious food – is this related to education? (supply and demand) – is this related to best practices in farming? (soil health)
 - *Solution: Education*
 - *Solution: Farm to school, food education, and school gardens – changing consumer/personal choice*
- Ensuring soil health
 - *Solution: Education*
 - *Solution: Collaboration with County (ex: Soil and Water Conservation District)*
- Scalability concerns regarding institutions purchasing food (e.g., university, school, hospital, etc.)
 - *Solution: Influence purchasing policies to favor local purchase*
 - *Solution: Distribution system*
- Lack of understanding of Farming Practices
 - *Solution: Education*
 - *Solution: Garden tours*
- Need more people growing food
 - Training and support – farm school
 - Recruiting new farmers
 - Expense of tools required for gardening

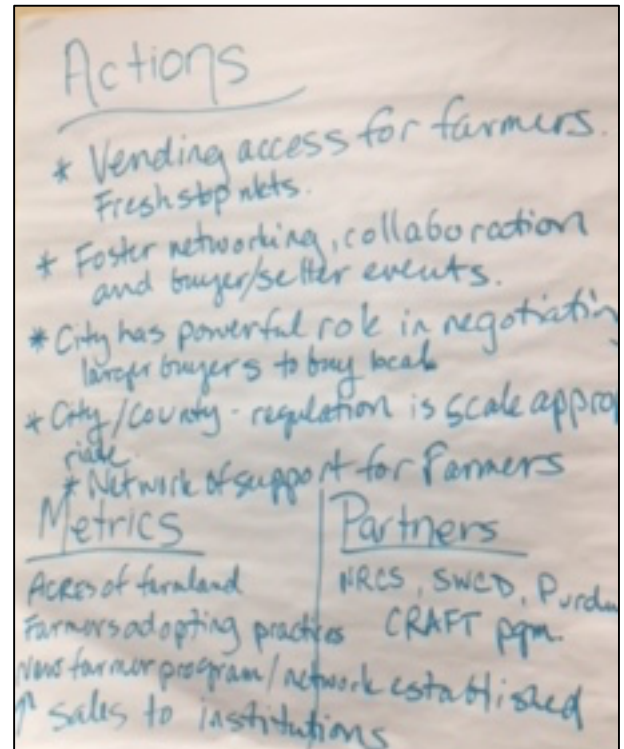


- Lack of understanding about how to use food? (cooking, preparing) → better subject for food utility

Breakout Groups

Community Gardens/Urban Ag

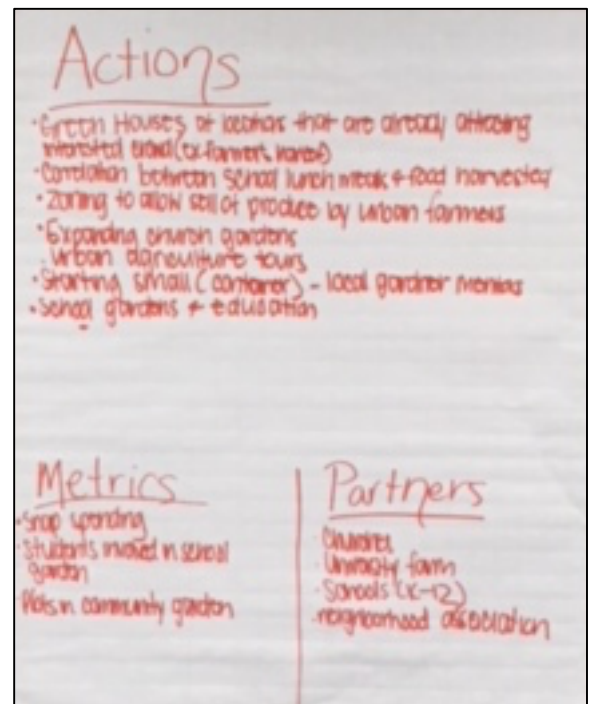
- Why don't people garden? – Lack time, knowledge space
 - Some churches have community gardens
 - Identify people with space to garden, but aren't gardening, but would be willing to allow others to use (a relatively new model – businesses are using for their space, informal agreement between neighbors)
 - Build greenhouse/garden in a place where they're already going, rather than asking them to come to place they wouldn't otherwise
 - Tour of urban agriculture – there were garden curious folks, but unsure if it was attracting new people (had 20 people on tour 8 years ago)
 - Master gardeners
 - Garden mentors
 - Guerilla gardening
 - Container gardening as a starting point – this might get them interested in learning more or expanding (Ready, set, grow!)
 - Need to provide easy access and potential, but relying on education requires agency on the part of residents (may be big leap if just a little curious)
 - Work through schools – the kids are easy to get excited, influence their parents' buying decision – allow kids to get more involved in the garden and let them care for it
 - Food Bank targets certain populations (teen nights) – can the city reach out to the school to do something similar – or build into the curriculum (North and South high schools have school gardens, Edgewood too, but small) – can the food be introduced into the cafeteria? → connect seasonal harvests on site
 - Lot of opportunity with smaller community gardens – all sorts of types
- Thoughts/Questions
 - What zoning issues exist, other than fencing? Chickens, selling food, food stands, electric fences, city created new zoning category of agriculture on city limits



- What is potential for other farmers' markets in different locations? How much SNAP money is spent there and can those demographics be grown? (also compare % SNAP dollars spent on produce in store vs. commercial products)
- **key issue for most action is just getting started, starting small
- **what is liability for people growing own food and selling? → **research licensing, insurance, zoning, permitting and threshold for insurance** → how different is this from garage sale RE: parking, traffic (Sacramento has no liability)
- Metrics
 - Kids involved in school garden activities
 - Garden plots within a community garden (this would require standard definition of plot size/use)
 - SNAP spending – on fresh food at farmers' markets or at grocery stores
- Partner Organizations
 - Churches
 - University Farm
 - Neighborhood associations or nexuses
 - Schools

Local Farming

- Bloomington needs more opportunities to sell – physical space + legalization
- More market venues and legal opportunities
- More spaces for farmers markets
- Legalize food sales in more areas
- Middle man for collecting food from farmers and selling often results in food consistency issues
- Grasshoppers in Louisville, mini food hubs ran by farmers – example that could be adopted here
- Tremendous need for networking between farmers
- Enhance connection with food
- Difficult to measure food
- Scale-appropriate legislation to support farming
 - Ex. Allow local farmers to collect food scraps for livestock
- Transparency and education for larger buyers of food on state regulations
- Average local farms are less than 100 acres
- Why aren't there more local farmers?
- Need more local food demand, but then need more local supply; catch-22 – which comes first?
- City needs to negotiate with large institutions to encourage more local food purchase
- Education on production practices to ensure soil health
- Increased food testing to identify best practices partner with IU/Purdue
- Site to share results of food testing
- No local grower's guild



- No quality control over composting
- Measure inputs and outputs
- Educate with the carrot not the stick
- Ways to increase the growing season via education and resources
- Metrics
 - Acres of farmland
 - Farmers adopting practices
 - Indicators
 - Sales of food
- Partner Organizations
 - Agencies
 - Innovative programs (CRAFT – Collaborative Regional Alliance Farmer Training in Hudson Valley, KY, upper Midwest → establish something based on this model)

Wrap-up, Feedback, Election of Working Group Leaders:

- David noted this is a great group to work with
- Group noted they like McCloskey room for meeting if possible
- Options related to time:
 - Make comments on Google or otherwise on own
 - Subgroup can continue this conversation in next meeting
- Working Group Leader Volunteers:
 - Jodee Ellett
 - Ryan Conway