



**Bloomington Sustainability Action Plan Local Food and Agriculture  
Working Group Meeting Three Notes  
12 April 2018  
City Hall  
6 pm – 8 pm**

**Topic:** Identify challenges regarding food accessibility and propose solutions.

**Facilitator:** Stephanie Richards

**Computer notes:** Steven Chybowski

**Number of participants:** 17 (Marcia Veldman, Janice Lilly, Stephen Stoll, David Parkhurst, John Galuska, Ryan Conway, Pam Weaver, Teddie Phillipson, Sheryl Woodhouse Keese, Larry Howard, Whitney Schlegel, Brandon Bartley, Jodee Ellett, Stephanie Richards, Autumn Salamack, Steven Chybowski, MaCie' Moore)



**Agenda**

6:00 pm – 6:05 pm: Feedback on Sustainability Definition and Vision Statement  
6:05 pm – 6:20 pm: Review of Meeting 2 Recommendations for Food Availability and Definition of Food Accessibility  
6:20 pm – 6:40 pm: Presentation on Food Accessibility  
6:40 pm – 7:00 pm: Root Challenges to Food Accessibility  
7:00 pm – 7:45 pm: Breakout Discussions  
7:45 pm – 7:55 pm: Sharing of Breakout Results  
7:55 pm – 8:00 pm: Wrap up

**Summary of Topics discussed**

- Review goals and actions discussed in meeting two
- Background presentation of the current situation of Bloomington food accessibility
- Identify challenges the community faces with food accessibility
- Discussion of challenges and solutions for food accessibility
- Recap of challenges and solutions for food availability

**Detailed Notes**

**Overview of the Meetings and Process**

- We will start with feedback from last meeting
- Then, we will have a food accessibility presentation
- Next, we will identify issues with food accessibility
- We have shared different definitions of food security and food sovereignty
- We need to pay attention to both of these issues in our recommendations
- Sovereignty also deals with individual choice about well-being
- Tonight, food accessibility will focus on price and distance
- Next meeting will focus on food utility
- We are trying to align the Sustainability Action Plan with the comprehensive plan

- Goal 3.8 of the comprehensive plan deals with food accessibility

## Review of Meeting Two Notes



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## Recommendations from Meeting 2

- Ensure Public Housing provides garden space for low-income residents
- Provide economic incentives to encourage entrepreneurs to engage in urban farming (e.g. train cards into gardens)
- Provide space/opportunity within city to vend (e.g. Fresh Stops in Louisville)
- Foster networking/collaboration opportunities for gardeners/farmers
- Develop a city farm
- Training for residents by Mother Hubbard's Cupboard
- Map locations of gardens to obtain accurate count
- Encourage volunteers to help with education and garden tours to inspire gardeners
- Encourage schools to have their own gardens and involve children to create connection with food
- Encourage food education in schools
- Provide opportunities for farm to school
- Research how HOAs would change covenants to facilitate urban agriculture
- Encourage apartment gardens



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### Recommendations from Meeting 2

- Encourage food repurposing and rescue
- Encourage composting
- Collaborate with Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District to educate individuals regarding soil health
- Influence institutional purchasing policies to favor local purchase
- Identify or encourage development of distribution center (e.g. mini food hub like Grasshoppers in Louisville)
- Recruitment, training and support for new farmers
- Pair up people with space for gardening with those who want to garden (e.g. partnership between businesses and residents)
- Encourage churches and other places citizens frequent to have community gardens
- Tours of urban agriculture initiatives
- Encourage and educate people on container gardening to get them started
- Increase food testing to identify best practices through partnership with IU/Purdue and offer Website to share results
- Research appropriate legislation to promote farming (e.g. allow local farmers to collect food scraps)



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### Recommendations from Meeting 2

#### Potential Metrics

- Number of children involved in school garden activities
- Number of garden plots in the community gardens
- SNAP spending on fresh food at farmers markets and grocery stores
- Acres of farmland
- Number of farmers adopting best management practices
- Sales of local food

- Farm to school incorporates providing farm products in school lunches as well as gardens at the school sites
- ILP Improved location permit – potentially waving that for a farmer for greenhouses for an incentive – in Monroe County control
- Seasonal housing for students to apprentice/intern with farmers – less strict housing restrictions/more flexibility (cabins)
- Find ways to better bring people in to apprentice farming

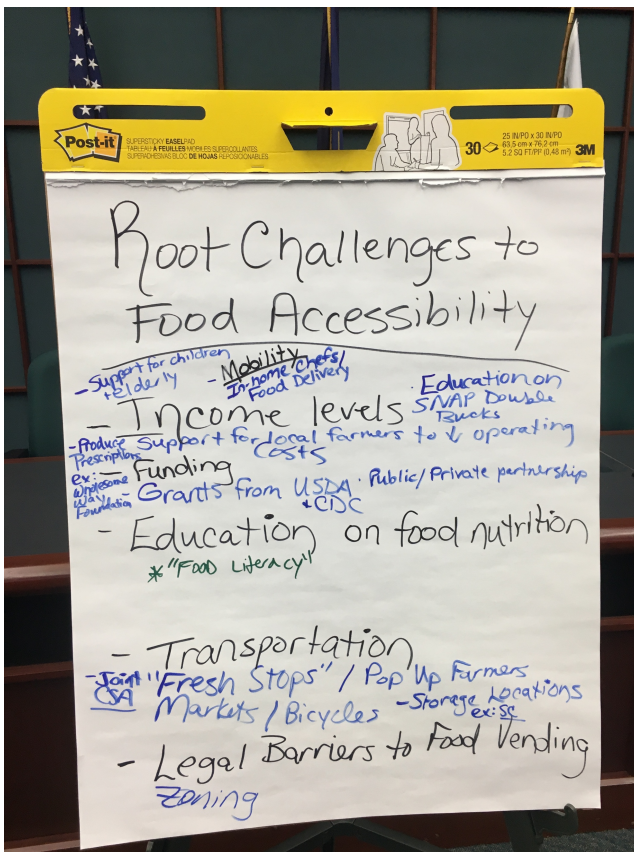
- Willing workers on organic farms – don't pay them, they work half days, but you provide housing and food
- What are we asking the City to do in all this?
- Citizens are brought into these groups without knowing the parameters such as budget – knowing that would allow people to optimize ideas within the policy parameters
- Metrics – how much space is needed per capita to feed each person (similar metric is in the Peak Oil Task Force)
- Composting can improve the soil within the City of Bloomington in the long term
- Having zoning in place so people can do what they want with farming
- There are 23 recommendations in the Peak Oil Task Force
- Peak Oil Task Force recommends at least 200 acres of public land for intensive public gardening in the next 1-5 years
- Maybe we get a group first, and then we can get gardening instructors because garden instructors are available, but participants do not always want to put in the work and commit
- Goal is to find the right organizations to make gardens sustainable
- USDA sustainable agriculture and research program – partners with farmers on research projects – potential funding source

### **Presentation on Food Accessibility**

- There is now a Lucky's closer than the Kroger for the Broadview neighborhood
- Is there a definition of "healthy food?"
- In food deserts, healthy food may involve access to truly fresh fruits and vegetables
- How did New Orleans encourage grocery stores to locate in low-income areas?

### **What are the Challenges to Food Access?**

- Income levels
- *Possible Solution: Support for local farmers to decrease operating costs*
- *Possible Solution: Public-private partnerships*
- *Possible Solution: Education on SNAP double bucks*
- *Possible Solution: Support for children/elderly*
- *Possible Solution: Produce prescriptions – vouchers could be for farmers market or Bloomingfoods (may limit utilization)*
- *Possible Solution: CDC offers grants that could contribute to stop obesity and health conditions*
- Mobility
- *Possible Solution: Meals on Wheels*
- Education on food nutrition
- Transportation (could also deal with the producers)
- *Possible Solution: Fresh stops*
- *Possible Solution: Trucks/bikes to collect food from producers*
- *Possible Solution: Storage locations (Ex. South Carolina sponsors coolers for food storage)*
- *Possible Solution: Joint Community Supported Agriculture*
- Laws that prevent food stands in residential areas
- *Possible Solution: Zoning*
- Funding
- *Possible Solution: Grants from USDA*



## Breakout Groups:

### Food Accessibility:

- Community Kitchen – no one would be paid below a living wage
- State of Indiana prevents local living wage laws
- City can ensure that all City employees receive a living wage even part time/laborers
- Public campaign to promote other businesses that also pay living wages
- Grants and other funding sources are not sustainable like living wages
- Americans are hesitant to spend money on food, but spend considerable money on recreation
- Volunteer Network could have a food market shopper for those with limited mobility
- What if Tuesday market did half-price food at low-income housing on Wednesday mornings – would require refrigeration - MCUM
- Explore avenues to provide leftover food at low cost to low income residents
- Pair food hub/refrigeration with community gardens
- Fresh start – paying ahead of time – takes away the choice from consumers
- Market Wagon – farmers can post what they have available – customers can order from market wagon – efficiencies of scale and cost sharing
- SNAP doubling – farmers market does a good job promoting that information
- Commission on sustainability is looking into vending opportunities from the legal standpoint
- Explore Food Bank has a gleaning program that allows the food bank to clean up already farmed land to get the scraps
- Challenge with food delivery systems – are those people that receive food also willing to cook food?
- Free bike share for low income people
- What happens with restaurant food leftovers?
- City composting facility
- Encourage travel besides cars
- Senior bike riding day

## Actions:

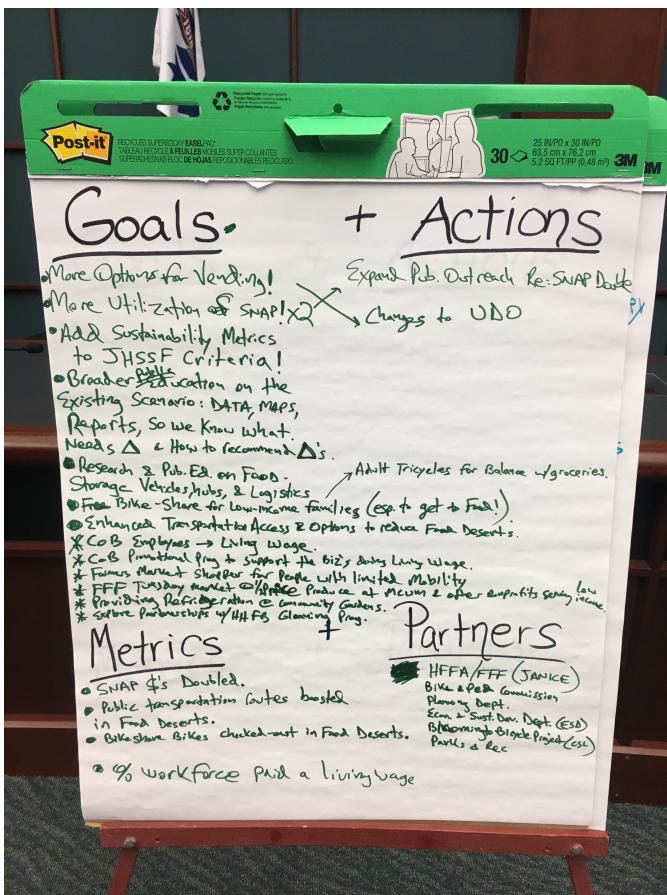
- City of Bloomington paying a living wage to all employees
- City of Bloomington promote businesses that pay living wages
- Farmers market shoppers for those with limited mobility
- Sell half price produce directly at low income housing after Tuesday market
- Explore gleaning program
- More options to vending – changes to the UDO
- Broader education on existing scenario in Bloomington
- Free bike share for low income residents

## Partners:

- HFFA/FFF
- Bike and Pedestrian Commission
- Planning Department
- Economic and Sustainable Development Department
- Bloomington Bicycle Project
- Parks and Recreation

## Metrics:

- Amount of SNAP money doubled
- Amount of public transit routes in food deserts
- Bikes checked out in food deserts
- % of workforce paid a living wage





## Food Availability

### Actions:

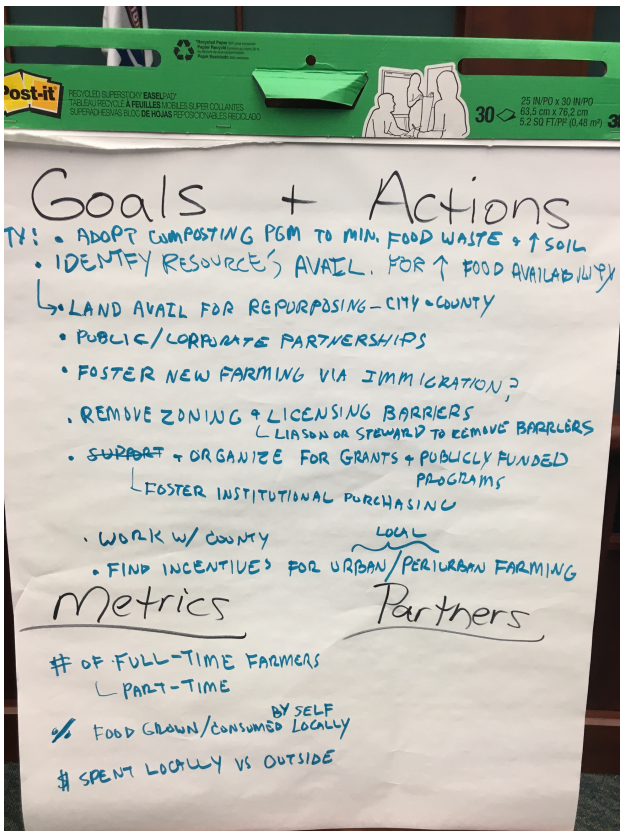
- Adopt composting program to reduce food waste
- Identify sources and land available that can be repurposed for growing
- Foster new farming via immigration
- Remove zoning barriers
- Have a liaison
- Organize for grants and public funding programs
- Foster institutional purchasing
- Find incentives for urban farming

### Partners:

- County government

### Metrics:

- Number of fulltime/part-time farmers
- Percent of food grown/consumed locally
- Amount spent locally vs. outside



### Wrap up/Comments about the Process:

- Next meeting will focus on food utility and food stability