



**Bloomington Sustainability Action Plan Local Food and Agriculture
Working Group Meeting Four Notes (Part 1)
26 April 2018
City Hall
6 pm – 8:30 pm**

Topic: Identify challenges regarding food utility and food stability and propose solutions.

Facilitator: Stephanie Richards

Computer notes: Steven Chybowski

Number of participants: 13 (Janice Lilly, Marcia Veldman, John Galuska, Ryan Conway, David Parkhurst, Larry Howard, Stephen Stoll, Jodie Ellett, Whitney Shlegel, Autumn Salamack, Stephanie Richards, Ma'Cie Moore, Steven Chybowski)

Summary of Topics discussed

- Review goals and actions discussed in meetings two and three
- Background presentation of the current situation of Bloomington food utility and stability
- Identify challenges and solutions with food utility
- Identify challenges and solutions the City faces for food stability

Detailed Notes

Overview of the Meeting

- First, we will look at the sustainability definition and vision statement
- Then we will review our previous meeting recommendations
- Ma'Cie will give a presentation on food utility and stability
- Then, we will combine some of our ideas and vote on them
- The Advisory Board will see all of our recommendations, but we will have the priorities identified
- Tonight, we will discuss food utility and stability
- We are making sure that the SAP fits within the goals of the Comprehensive Plan
- Goal 3.8 of the Comprehensive Plan relates to food availability
- What can we do in the next five years? We will have aspirational goals in the plan, but we want goals that we can accomplish in the next five years and get the most bang for our buck
- Change the definition of food utility from “solely for its nutritional benefits” to “primarily for its nutritional benefits” there is an enjoyment to eating real food that makes you feel good long-term
- Change the definition of food utility to “nourishment” instead of “nutrition”
- “Nourishment for the body and the mind”
- Can we vote electronically?
- Group things by subject area before voting as there are items that we need to be combined

Review of Sustainable Community Definition and Vision Statement

- Where does transportation fit into the sustainable community definition? – it cuts across all 3 areas of interest

- How does culture fit in to the vision statement? Community and culture is a part of it, not just natural systems

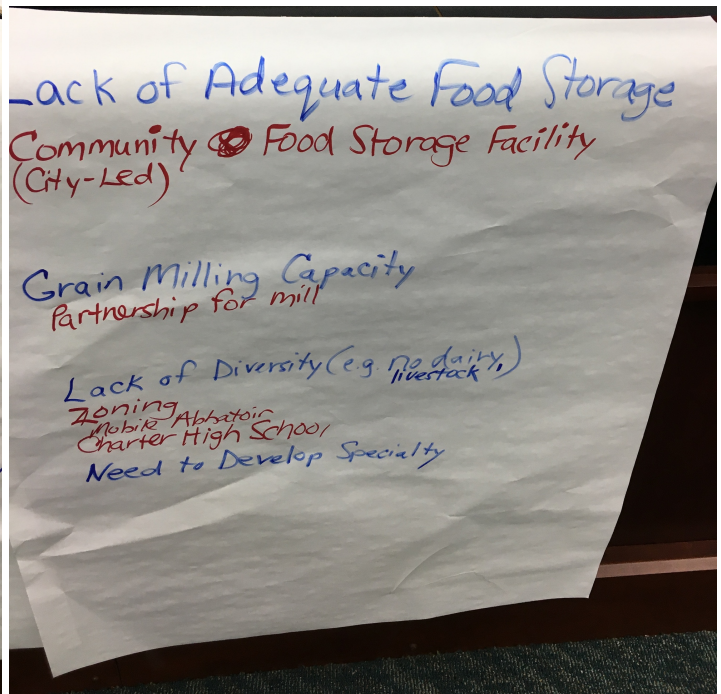
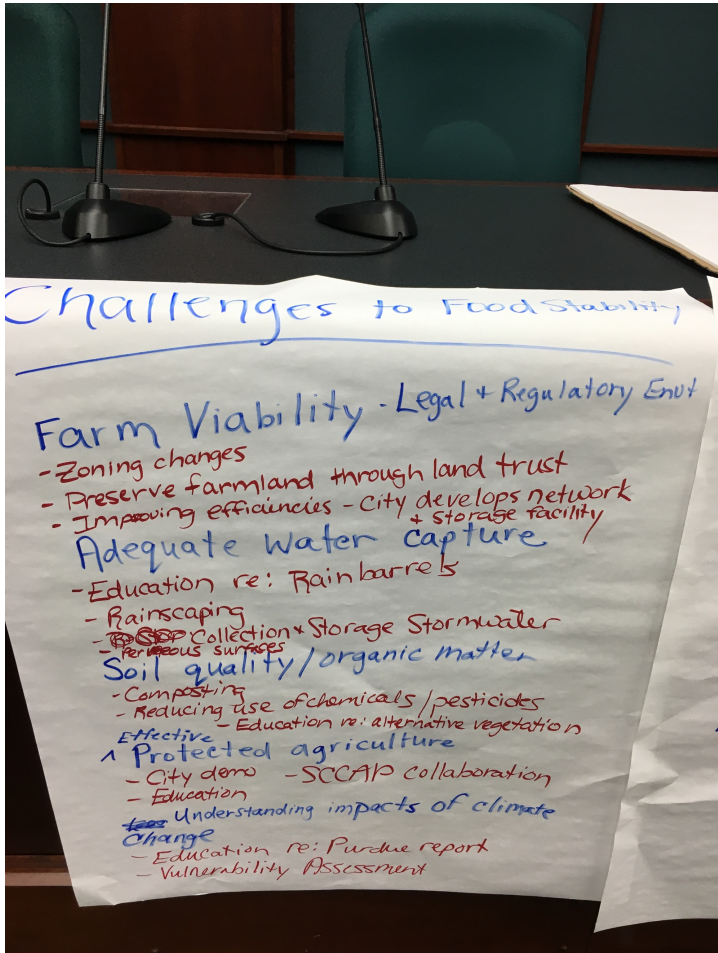
Presentation on Food Utility and Food Stability

- What were the nine classes that Bloomington's Parks and Recreation offered? – They were all food-related
- Where did the data come from about obesity and fruit/vegetable eating? - CDC
- Is there something going on with the age of people and their interest in gardening? If there is a demand at IU for gardening classes, why aren't people taking the classes offered locally?
- MCCSC Food and Nutrition information on their website – who is using it and how often? Why aren't they displaying daily percentages?
- Is there a baseline of data in Bloomington?
- Parks does make strategic plans after they identify goals for implementing actions to achieve goals
- Peak Oil Task Force does have some metrics
- What does the first STAR goal we have listed have to do with food utility and stability? – public spaces that can be used for food workshops, gardens, and other food activities
- Peak Oil task Force was approved as an advisory document, not a policy document
- The number of farmers in Bloomington is going down. How do we reverse that trend?
- 10,000 farmers in the Peak Oil Task Force does not mean 10,000 people making their livelihoods farming, it could be people gardening for themselves
- As farms get bigger, they generally farm corn and soybeans instead of other produce for consumption
- If we could increase farming from .5% of the population to 2% of the population in Bloomington, farmers could feed all the households in Bloomington according to one group member's calculations
- What is the County's role? A partner for collaboration
- How can we build a multi-county collaboration with Bloomington as a base?
- We should look at transition towns

What are the Challenges faced for Food Stability?

- Farm viability
- *Possible Solution: Zoning*
- *Possible Solution: Preservation of farmland (through land trust)*
- *Possible Solution: Improve efficiencies of the supply chain with technology and communication*
- *Possible Solution: City can help create a network of the local food supply chain*
- Legal and regulatory environment – farmers have lawyers on retainer to stop small farms from being shut down
- Adequate water capture
- *Possible Solution: Education re: rain barrels*
- *Possible Solution: Rainscaping*
- *Possible Solution: Collection and storage of storm water*
- Soil quality/organic matter
- *Possible Solution: Composting*
- *Possible Solution: Avoiding chemicals and pesticides*
- *Possible Solution: Education in alternative vegetation*
- Effective protected agriculture
- *Possible Solution: Education*
- *Possible Solution: SCCAP collaboration*
- *Possible Solution: City demonstration*
- Understanding impacts of climate change
- *Possible Solution: Education with the Purdue report*

- Possible Solution: Vulnerability assessment
- Lack of adequate food storage – issue for farmers and consumers
- Possible Solution: Community food storage facility
- Grain milling capacity
- Possible Solution: Public-private partnership
- Lack of diversity (e.g. dairy)
- Possible Solution: Zoning and regulation
- Need to develop or identify specialty



Food Stability

Goals:

- Increase the number of farms and gardens
- Better understand and map farmland

Actions:

- Develop City composting program for yard waste and organic matter
- Encourage commercial composting
- Map farmland
- Conduct community garden survey for which we could use online submission
- Giveaway for rain barrels
- Conduct vulnerability assessment
- Education in climate impacts

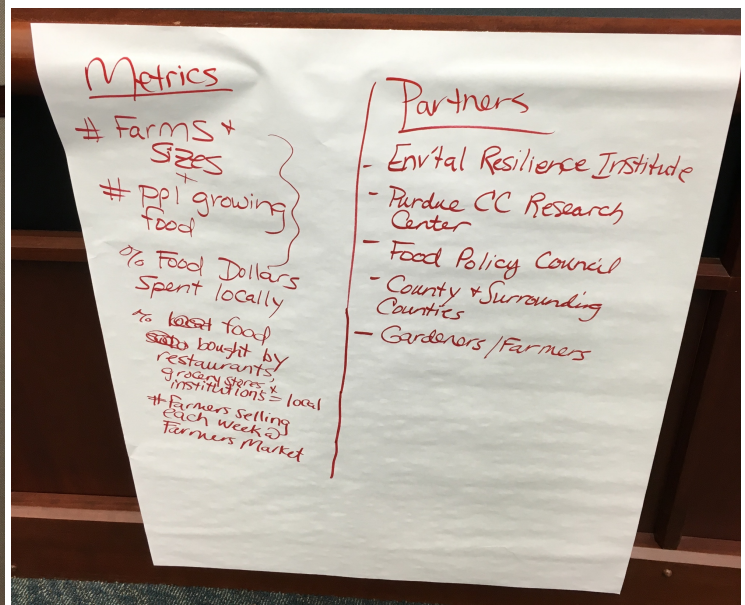
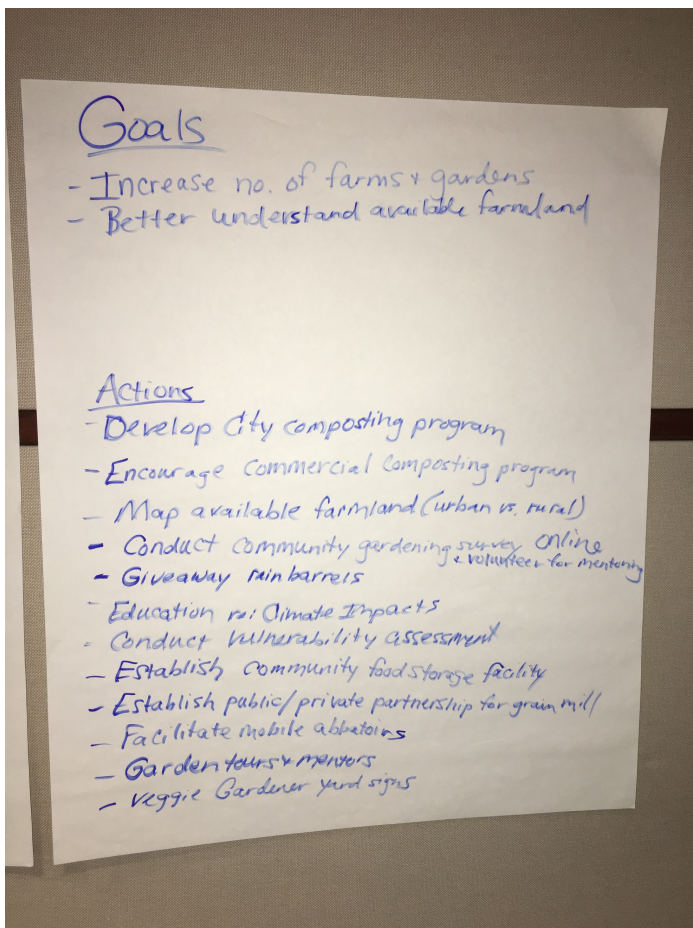
- Establish public-private partnership for grain mill
- Facilitate mobile abattoirs
- Garden tours and workshops
- Garden yard signs

Partners:

- Environmental Resilience Institute
- Purdue Research
- Food Council
- Monroe County and surrounding counties
- Master gardeners and farmers

Metrics:

- Number of farms
- Size of farms
- Number of people growing food
- Percent of food dollars spent locally
- Percent of food bought by restaurants/grocery stores/institutions that is local



Food Utility

Goals:

- Improve food literacy among community

Actions:

- Garden at every school
- Hire a City employee that deals with food full-time

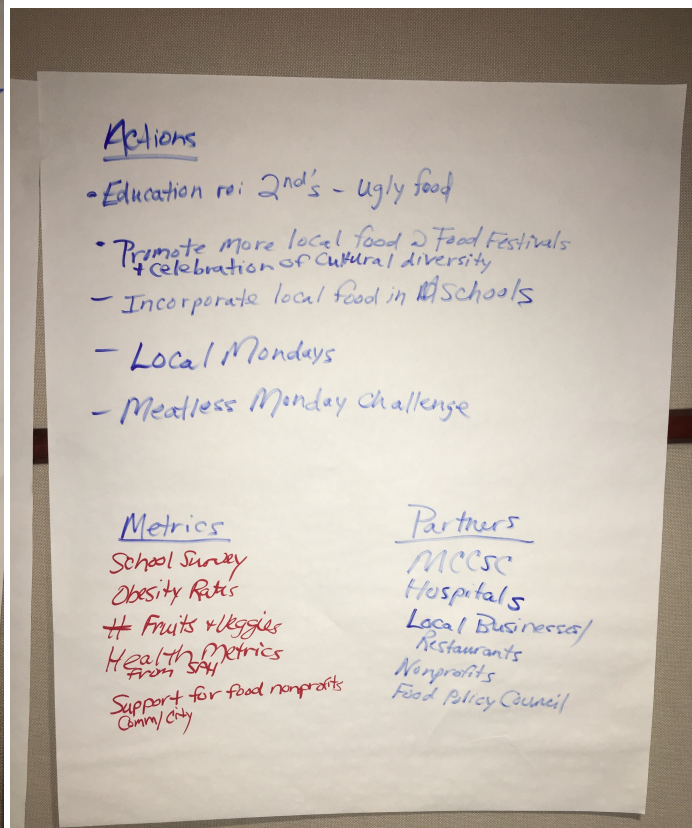
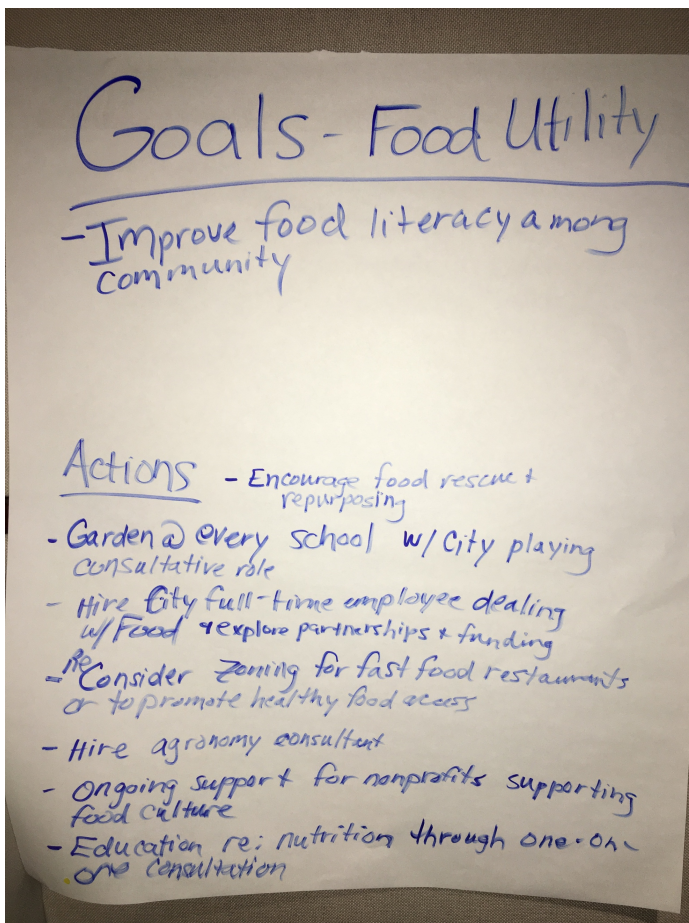
- City employee can research partnerships
- Use zoning to limit fast food restaurants/use zoning to encourage healthy food access
- Hire agronomy consultant
- Ongoing support for nonprofits supporting the food culture and improve food literacy particularly with low-income residents
- Education re: nutrition through one-on-one consultation
- Encourage food rescue
- Education in 2nds – ugly food
- City could promote local food through its festivals
- Events could also promote diversity
- Promotion of meatless Mondays
- Or maybe “local Mondays”

Partners:

- MCCSC
- Hospitals
- Local businesses/restaurants
- Local nonprofits
- IU School of Public Health

Metrics:

- School surveys
- Obesity rates
- CDC survey on fruits/vegetables consumed
- Health metrics
- Dollar amount supporting food nonprofits (both community and City support)



Wrap up/Comments about the Process:

- Stephanie will write up a list for everyone to choose from electronically
- Stephanie will get list out by end of the weekend
- Everyone votes online
- Stephanie will then meet with the food leaders Jodie and Ryan to make sure all ideas are combined
- Next steps, ALL of the ideas will be presented to the Advisory Board, but the top five will be highlighted
- There will be an annual reporting mechanism in place on the status of the report and the goal is to create another plan in five years
- Possibility of a rolling five-year plan where each year you create a new five-year plan rolling over uncompleted ideas
- Will community members be able to stay involved and continue to provide input?
- Autumn is working on the outreach and engagement process for the completed plan – include best ways to get involved with the plan
- There will be a kickoff event when the plan is complete
- We will ask the working groups again how we and they can help get the plan out