

Boston Food Access Council

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 14th

2nd Floor Conference Room | Tobin Community Center

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF

**FOOD
ACCESS**

MAYOR MARTIN J. WALSH

CITY of BOSTON

Introductions and Welcome

Boston Food Access Council Meeting
Thursday, June 14th, 2018



Overview of Agenda

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Overview of Agenda

Opportunity to Develop Mayor's Citywide Food Agenda	6:10p - 6:25p
Updates from BFAC Working Groups, Discussion of Next Steps	6:25p - 7:30p
Public comments, questions	7:30p - 7:50p
Announcements	7:50p - 7:55p
Closing	7:55p - 8:00p

**Opportunity to Develop Mayor's
Citywide Food Agenda**

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Citywide Food Agenda

Develop citywide food agenda

- Chief Martinez connecting with national partners
 - Opportunity to align work of BFAC and OFA more closely with Mayor Walsh's agenda, Imagine Boston 2030
 - Consultant to facilitate summit with stakeholders
 - Would tentatively occur in Fall 2018
- BFAC role in this?
 - Work to date can be embedded into this agenda
 - BFAC would shepherd the agenda forward
- Thoughts? Suggestions?

Working Group 1

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Working Group 1

Goal 1: Improve food access in underserved communities through economic development and community wealth building initiatives.

Priority issue: Cost, *physical access* identified as primary barriers to food. More food access outlets needed with range of food at affordable prices, including healthy food.

Suggestion to address this issue: Create “toolbox” of TA and other financial resources to ***support development and/or expansion of food access retail*** outlets in underserved communities

Status: Information gathering phase

Working Group 1

- **Small Business Department, City of Boston**
 - Resources (primarily TA) available to support small businesses, not tailored to food retail
 - Difficulty connecting with businesses, awareness about resources
- **LA Food Policy Council**
 - *Healthy Neighborhood Market Network*
 - A suite of services from group workshops to long-term, one-on-one TA tailored specifically to store's needs to complete store transformation and rebranding
 - Emphasis on business development and leadership development
 - Team of TA providers employed by LA FPC working on this program specifically
 - *COMPRA Foods*
 - Complements HNMN program
 - Aggregates distribution for small stores to access fruits and vegetables more affordably
 - Delivery managed by LA FPC and partners



COMPRA
— FOODS —

Working Group 2

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Working Group 2

Goal 2: Improve food access in under resourced communities by making more vacant land accessible and usable for cultivation by local residents interested to pursue community gardening and commercial urban agriculture.

Priority issue: Many **barriers** for groups and individuals interested to pursue urban growing:

- **Permitting/regulatory process** to develop land for these purposes is complicated and arduous to navigate
- **Costs of development** comparable to any other development project, but most individuals or non-profits cannot handle these costs the way a housing developer can
- **Capacity of interested parties** to navigate these processes and then sustain the project is limited

Suggestion to address this issue: City and external partners work together to clarify these barriers and find opportunities to minimize or eliminate them

Status: Information gathering

Working Group 2

Next step:

- ***Convene practitioners who have or are trying to acquire and develop land for urban growing***, hear their experiences in order to:
 - Identify and clarify the barriers they faced/are facing
 - Identify City departments who are involved in the process and should be a part of the conversation
- From there we can begin the process of understanding the perspective of the City departments involved in this process to assess opportunity to adjust it



Working Group 3

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Working Group 3

Goal 3: Strengthen and expand resources that support Bostonians to access the food they need and want.

- ***Increase physical access*** in low access areas
 - Bring food resources to communities with low access
 - Ex. BaltiMart in Baltimore, grocery delivery with EBT
 - Market Basket as a popular option across Boston
 - Increasing services to bring residents in low access area to food resources
 - Ex. Public/private partnership like Uber-sponsored rides, successful pilot by The Ride/MBTA
- Create a ***strong, unified advocacy*** voice
 - Advocate for ***protection, expansion of state, federal programs*** relevant to our work (ex. SNAP, WIC, Summer Food Service Program)
 - Incorporate ***advocacy efforts from peers*** focused on other areas relevant to our constituency, including affordable housing, living wages, and so on.

Working Group 3

Connected with Harvard Center for Health Law and Policy on MA ***Food is Medicine Plan***

- Initial BFAC discussions identified importance of advocacy for food as a social determinant of health
- Plans aims to improve health of MA residents by increasing access to medically tailored food and nutrition services
 - Leveraging MassHealth Accountable Care Organization (ACO) shift
 - Integrates more community-based health care support
 - Considers intervention opportunities around social determinants of health
 - Holds health care providers accountable for costs and outcomes
- WG members offered input into plan, will continue to connect with these efforts
- Upcoming opportunity to offer input:
 - CHLPI Listening Sessions. (**PASSWORD to access the Eventbrite pages is: FoodisMedicine***)
 - Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care: Harvard Medical School, Minot Room, Countway Library | 10 Shattuck Street | Boston, MA 02115, Tuesday, June 26, 2018 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM (EDT)
(<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/massachusetts-food-is-medicine-state-plan-harvard-medical-school-center-for-primary-care-listening-tickets-46766712496>)



Working Group 3

Next Steps

- ***Develop advocacy priorities***
 - What are priorities of state/local partners?
 - How do those apply to Boston constituency and Boston food access?
- What is ***appropriate role for this group*** with respect to advocacy? Don't want to reinvent the wheel.
 - Convene an advocacy working group for Boston partners?
 - Who convenes? Who participates? What is the goal?
 - Work internally in BFAC WG to pull in various efforts and add BFAC voice?
 - Develop online platform as clearinghouse for food access advocacy initiatives and opportunities?
 - Help constituents find a space for their voice
 - Help organizations leverage strength in numbers
 - Bolster advocacy efforts overall
 - Something else?

Questions? Comments?

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Announcements

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Announcements

- **BOSFoodLove**

- Will begin outreach for student/family Coalition this summer
 - Kenny (Dorchester, btwn Ashmont and Neponset)
 - Tobin (Roxbury Crossing)
 - Umana (East Boston)
- Hiring Program Coordinator soon



- **Summer Meals**

- OFA/Project Bread partnership supporting expansion of meal sites in Boston:
 - Codman Square, East Boston, Mattapan and Grove Hall libraries
 - 18 Boston farmers markets
 - 3 Boston Housing Authority sites (in partnership with BPHC)

- **Upham's Corner Farmers Market**

- Opening mid-July
- Seeking Farmers Market Manager

- **Other announcements?**

Closing

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Closing

Next Steps

- *Will follow up about agenda-setting summit*
- *No working group meetings in July*

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 13th, 6p - 8p

Tobin Community Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room

(Second Thursdays of the month, on quarterly schedule)

Future Meeting Dates

- Thurs., Dec. 13th, 2018: 6p - 8p, Tobin Community Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room
- Thurs., Mar. 14th, 2019: 6p - 8p, Tobin Community Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room

THANK YOU

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City of Boston
Mayor Martin J. Walsh



Innovation & Technology