

**Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB)  
Meeting Notes**

<b>MEETING SUMMARY</b>	<b>Date:</b> November 19, 2021 <b>Time:</b> 9am – 11am <b>Location:</b> WebEx
<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Bilan Aden Laura Flores Cantrell Rebecca Finkle Jen Moss Barbara Rockey Paul Sherman Tanika Thompson Christina Wong
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Barbara Baquero Jaimée Marsh Munira Mohamed
<b>GUESTS:</b>	Office of Sustainability & Environment: Alyssa Patrick, Chris Iberle, Bridget Igoe, and Suzy Knutson City Budget Office: Akshay Iyengar Human Services Department: Sean Walsh

<b>DECISIONS MADE</b>	The CAB decided to cancel the December meeting and extend the January meeting to hold a planning retreat.
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FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS			
#	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	TARGET DATE
1	Share ideas for retreat topics, take Doodle Poll to decide on retreat date, and indicate if interested in being a co-chair (sent via follow up email)	All CAB members	Dec 3

**Meeting Notes**

*Tanika Thompson and Jen Moss, Co-Chairs, facilitated the meeting*

**Welcome and Introductions**

- CAB members introduced themselves.
- City staff introduced themselves.
- No members of the public were present
- CAB reviewed and approved agenda.

**Welcoming and Thanking CAB Members**

The CAB welcomed two new Mayor-appointed members, Bilan Aden (Seat 4, Community Representative) and Barbara Rockey (Seat 9, Public Health).

- **Bilan** developed and launched the South Delridge Farmer’s Market this year and has experience in both food access and early learning. She has a background in education and her and her mother founded the African Community Housing and Development in South King County.
- **Barbara** was very involved in school nutrition and education as president of Garfield High School’s PTSA, and is passionate about addressing disparities in public health, education, and other areas. Barbara works with Treehouse and is happy to be able to focus on nutrition and education within economic development to communities facing disparities.

Jen Moss and Dan Torres were also reappointed to their positions for another term by the Mayor. All four appointments and reappointments must also be confirmed by Council, which is currently in process.

The CAB also thanked outgoing CAB member Paul Sherman for his service on the board. Paul’s term ends in 2021.

### **2021 and 2022 Budget Update**

*Budget Analyst Akshay Iyengar, City Budget Office*

[PowerPoint presentation](#) (slide 2)

A. Iyengar shared that the City updated their revenue projections in November and found that SBT revenue for 2021 and 2022 is projected to be lower than what the CAB and Mayor’s Office originally planned for (see graph below for comparison). Here are the key points:

- Neither CBO nor Council are looking to make cuts at this time.
- Council is planning on back filling the SBT fund with General Fund dollars to fill the gap for 2022. The 2021 gap is partially addressed by the existing balance remaining for this year, and CBO may look to underspend to cover the remaining gap.
- Council is currently voting on amendments to the budget and working on a balancing package that they will vote on November 22.
- The budget then goes to the Mayor’s Office for her sign-off to become the adopted budget.

### **Q&A from CAB:**

- **Q:** Do we have a sense from historical numbers, what would the amount of recapture be and what happens when they are recaptured? Do they go back to the pool?
  - **A:** No, it would just be a transfer to help pay for the shortfall.
- **Q:** Where/when does the CAB need to be ready to come into this process and/or weigh-in on budget decisions?
  - **A:** For 2021, the gap is relatively small and we believe it can be filled, so no action is needed. Of course, the CAB is still always welcome to comment.
  - For 2022, CBO is also not looking at cuts right now, but since the CAB has more time before that spending starts you could discuss laying out priorities on where to look for cuts or how to balance if that becomes necessary. The CAB did include criteria that CBO and Council should use when addressing SBT revenue shortfalls in their [2021 recommendations letter](#) (p 9).
  - CBO will continue to keep the CAB informed if anything changes.

A. Patrick also shared the following food-related budget updates with the CAB. Neither item is funded by SBT but is aligned with CAB values and priority SBT investment areas.

- **Emergency food assistance:**
  - An amendment for additional emergency food system investments recommended by the Human Services Coalition and included in Solidarity Budget was under consideration with Council. The investments sustain 2021 food bank and meal program levels through Sept 2022.
  - Other amendments under consideration included population specific meal program investments for East African and Vietnamese seniors; and a geo-specific meal and produce programs in Phinney Ridge and CD.
- **Indigenous food access:** An amendment under consideration is to support establishment of an Indigenous pharmacy or market.

### **Food Action Plan Overview**

*Bridget Igoe and Chris Iberle, Office of Sustainability and Environment; Sean Walsh, Human Services Department*

[FAP Presentation](#)

City staff provided an update on development of a new Food Action Plan (FAP) that will define the city's values and priorities related to food security and a resilient, just, sustainable food system. Below are key points from [the presentation](#):

- The first five-year FAP was launched in 2012 and articulated 40 actions to increase access, expand growing opportunities, reduce food waste, etc.
- In Sept 2021, the City relaunched an interdepartmental process to update the Food Action Plan. Great foundational work happened in 2019 before COVID hit and we are picking that back up now.
- There is a renewed sense of urgency on the heels of COVID and the summer of 2020 due to the protests against racial injustices. We led the first FAP workgroup meeting of 2021 with a presentation from the Environmental Justice Committee ([EJC](#)), which developed Food Justice Values that will ground the strategies and actions laid out in the FAP.
- Community engagement is ongoing and will continue into the first part of 2022.
- The CAB is a key stakeholder in this work and there will be many opportunities for the CAB to provide feedback, starting in January and February 2022.
- The goal is to have the full plan developed and ready to publish by Sept/October 2022.

### **Q&A from CAB:**

- **Q:** What was learned from the process of the original Food Plan and the implementation? Strengths and gaps that helped inform the current plan development?
  - **A:** Major successes: both Fresh Bucks and Farm to Table are in the 2012 plan as pilot programs with recommendations to continue as ongoing programs. The Sweetened Beverage Tax and CAB priorities have made that possible. There was also success with SPU food waste goals, among other areas. Of course, with everything there are still existing and new challenges to address through this plan.
  - **A:** Key lessons: This plan should align departments and sustain coordinated staffing to maintain momentum and accountability. Accountability and stewardship are two big values we bring to this plan. We want to keep a continuous community engagement

process as COVID has shown you can't plan for the next 5-10 years without the ability to pivot and react appropriately.

- **Q:** I'm curious about policies from the original plan - what are the outcomes we can see and what new actions will be able to see? Policy helps to drive outcomes.
  - **A:** Programs and policies are the two prongs of action/outcomes in the plan. When considering strategies and actions, we have talked about which would require new or updated policy and which are programmatic. We are considering this at local, state, and federal levels. One example is exploring Good Food Purchasing policies that can impact municipal and school district policies and possibly initiate support programs.
  - **A:** There are a variety of policies that came out of the original FAP: Seattle minimum wage standards in 2015 wasn't listed but it is interconnected to food security and access. The SBT in 2018 that provides a new, dedicated revenue source to support food work. The SBT ordinance explicitly names the Food Action Plan and dedicates funds to priority programs/services featured in the 2012 Plan. Recently a state level policy around food waste and food reduction that aligns with city priorities was passed. The state and city also have goals around zero waste which is the most impactful things we can do locally to impact climate change. Program level policy example: Fresh Bucks being a pilot project in 2012 to get major, sustained investment and then Fresh Bucks expanded eligibility (used to only be accessible to those that use SNAP and now folks that make up to 80% median income).
  - **A:** Land access is an emerging theme that will likely require policy action.
- **Q:** Where do you see opportunities for the CAB to support and inform? Will the EJC also have the same opportunity?
  - **A:** We would like to come back to the CAB for further engagement and input on key priorities to include in an update Plan. Additionally, we will be identifying success measures to assess implementation of the Plan and progress, so it would be good to have the CAB weigh in on those. We also plan to do a workshop with the EJC in January, and the EJC and the CAB will have an opportunities to cross-pollinate. The EJC is also leading and guiding some of the community engagement.

## 2022 Retreat Planning

J. Moss proposed cancelling the December meeting and doing a virtual team building and planning workshop/retreat in January.

- **\*\*\*CAB Decision Point\*\*\*** All CAB members agreed with these meeting changes using fist to five voting.

A. Patrick provided [context setting](#) to help CAB generate ideas for topics at their 2022 planning retreat and areas of focus for the upcoming year. Since several CAB members had to leave before the end of the meeting, the remaining group decided to ask for input on what to cover at the retreat, date and time for the retreat, and interest in becoming a co-chair via email.