

Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB)

MEETING SUMMARY	Date: May 22, 2026 Time: 9am – 11am Location: Virtual (MS Teams)
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Joey Lu (Food Access, #1), Barbara Baquero (Food Access, #2), Tanika Thompson Bird (Community, #5), Angie S. Wood (Public Health, #6), Yamila Sterling (Public Health, #7), Dan Torres (Early Learning, #10), Laura Nicholson (Early Learning, #11)
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Nurhazila Mohamath (Food Access, #3), Jen Moss (Public Health, #8)
VACANT SEATS:	Community Representative, Position #4 Public Health, Position #9
GUESTS:	Bridget Igoe, Office of Sustainability & Environment Hannah Pascual, Office of Sustainability & Environment Sean Walsh, Human Services Department
VOTES AND DECISIONS:	CAB approves budget recommendations memo for transmittal to the Mayor's Office and City Council.

Welcome and Introductions

T. Thompson Bird, CAB Co-Chair, opened the meeting, facilitated introductions, and reviewed the agenda.

CAB Discussion on 2027 Budget Recommendations

- Tanika provided a summary of last month's meeting, including an overview of the April revenue forecast, before directing members to review before directing members to review the draft memo.
- After individually reviewing the memo, Bridget facilitated a discussion to receive feedback and determine what edits are needed.
 - Bridget asked if there are any concerns about the recommendations or clarifications needed, and received the following feedback:
 - Include clarification about budgeting for the pre-natal-3 program and that it would be helpful to articulate budget for new grants.
 - Confirmed that while recommendations indicate funding for food banks to move to General Fund, but default will be SBT funding it is not revised.
 - Include rationale for swapped funding – to be discussed later in the meeting.
 - Bridget provided some information for why the recommendations were created this way. CAB provided additional thoughts to consider:
 - Increased food prices: Relates to clients and food banks/programs that purchase food. Noted Federal impacts and declining SNAP participation.
 - Connect increased demands to how Seattle is heavily investing in low-income housing, but there has to be investments in other essential basic needs.
 - Consider operational and equipment needs that is essential for supporting food distribution (refrigeration, general equipment, vehicles, pallet jacks, industrial shelving, carts, etc.)

- Funds invested in infrastructure during COVID are reaching the end of the useful life due to natural depreciation and can lead to food supply issues to the communities that need it most.
- Bridget discusses each recommendation with the CAB.
 - First recommendation: Reverse the \$7.4M SBT–General Fund Swap
 - Strengthen the argument of this recommendation: Essential funds shouldn't be subject to volatility
 - Food banks and food access is necessary and needs to be stable
 - SBT funds should be used to create and expand programs, never about things in GF – purpose is to strengthen and add.
 - Second recommendation: Maintain the Fresh Bucks Expansion as an Ongoing Investment
 - Consider how increasing FreshBucks has downstream economic impacts (ex. floods in Western WA).
 - X Recommendation: Maintain the \$4M Food Bank and Meal Program Added in 2026 (Added after discussion)
 - Third recommendation: Continue Funding the Prenatal-to-Three Community Grant Program
 - FEPP Levy: Discussed but not included in recommendation.
 - Fourth recommendation (to be fifth when adding maintaining food banks): Reinstate the “No Supplantation” Clause
 - Add how this connects City government to community and that relationship is at risk without this clause.
 - Provide context for previous attempts to remove clause
 - Follow-up question: Are these recommendations in the right order?
 - Suggested moving the fourth recommendation to be first to set the tone of the message.
- CAB conducted a vote and unanimously approved the 2027 Budget Recommendations memo.
- Outreach and Communications
 - Bridget presented a table with outreach and communication strategies for CAB to consider for follow-up after the 2027 budget recommendations are transmitted. The below was discussed in consideration on how best to navigate and proceed:
 - Create a one-pager on funding situation on meal banks/food programs with the following considerations:
 - Determine where funding comes from
 - Meeting with City Council is beneficial, either before or after recommendations – could do so at a Farmer's Market to see impact of FreshBucks/hear directly from community members.
 - Potentially connecting with Prenatal-3 grantees to talk about City access and have an opportunity to have meetings with CAB on why these funds matter
 - Advisor/staff level? DEEL
 - Staffing w/ HSD or Bridget?
 - Notes could include Communications Subcommittee - thought not exactly related.
 - CAB confirmed that OSE staff can set-up meetings.
 - Executive Committee typically attends these meeting can often include other CAB members if available (below quorum)

- Bridget: Based on the previous discussion, should we get FreshBucks involved? Or the Farmers Market Alliance?
 - Agrees that this would be great thing to do this year/summer.
 - Angie: Can help arrange these meetings/tours/visits at a food bank/meal program at Pike Place Market.

Calendar Review: Upcoming Meetings

- Hannah provided a recruitment status updated and overview of what timing of next steps and appointees are expected.
- Suggested that instead of meeting in October, like normally planned, the CAB can have an informal meeting in September to connect and onboard new Members.
- CAB Members are receptive to this idea and are open to scheduling a time in September, once ready.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Bridget provided timeline for next steps and confirmed that it works for everyone. Notes that ETA for memo transmittal will be on the week of June 8th

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