

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council
Wednesday, March 15, 2012
City Hall, Room 333
3:00-4:30 pm

Minutes

Present (90% attendance): Patty Bowler, Beth Dooley, Cam Gordon, Russ Henry, Kristine Igo, Tim Jenkins, Eric Larsen, Bob Lind, June Mathiowetz, Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer, Neil Oxendale, Gayle Prest, Erica Prosser, Rebecca Reed, Aaron Reser, Julie Ristau, Alison Rotel, Kurt Schreck, Tracy Singleton, Rhys Williams

Homegrown Youth Leaders Present: LaToya Balogun, second Youth Congress Member

Not Present: Deborah Ramos, Mustafa Sundiata

Guests: Robin Garwood, Lewis Kuhlman, Sarah Strickland, Amanda Sue Watson

Homegrown Updates

Chair Beth Dooley opened the meeting and the following updates were provided:

- June Mathiowetz reported that only two Food Council members yet need to take the ethics training.
- June also noted the Met Council's 2040 Regional Development Framework process is soon to begin and she is checking on details about how the Food Council might effectively engage. Alison Rotel, Russ Henry and Beth Dooley noted particular interest in the topic.
- Aaron Reser volunteered to serve as the Food Council's representative on Northside Fresh.
- Julie Ristau, Mustafa Sundiata and Robin Garwood volunteered to speak on a food council panel with at Gardening Matters' Spring Resource Fair. Homegrown will also have a table at the event.
- Patty Bowler provided an update on the Homegrown staffing transition occurring. June Mathiowetz is departing as the Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator in early April and Jane Shey has been hired on as a part-time consultant through the end of the year to fill the role. Colin Cureton is also coming onboard as a part-time Homegrown Administrative Analyst through State Health Improvement Program funding. Efforts are continuing around securing additional funding for Homegrown's work.
- Bob Lind reported briefly on the first Minnesota Grocery Store Task Force meeting convened by The Food Trust, noting that three more meetings are scheduled. There was a high level of interest in the topic and Neil Oxendale volunteered to lead a Grocery Stores Working Group to help further facilitate the conversation and potential actions.
- Bob Lind reported that he is working to further organize an Economic Development Working Group and circulated the current participant contact list, noting anyone interested should sign up or let him know.

Introductions of Homegrown Youth Leaders

The Food Council paused for introductions of two of three new Homegrown Youth Leaders that will be joining the Food Council for a minimum of six months and reporting back to the Youth Congress. The youth are being provided small stipends for their participation through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota's Healthy Eating Minnesota funding. It was noted that the City's Youth Coordinating Board staff was very helpful in connecting Homegrown with the youths.

Adoption of Group Norms

The Food Council unanimously adopted its Group Norms document.

Policy Progress

Chair Dooley congratulated the Food Council and Council Member Gordon on the City's recent passage of the new composting ordinance updates. The updates were heard in the Regulatory, Energy and Environment Committee on February 27, 2012 and passed full City Council on March 8, 2012.

To view the Council Action, visit www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/council/WCMS1P-087946

She also noted that a copy of the Food Council's letter of support as submitted to the City Council was included as an attachment in the agenda packet.

Chair Dooley reminded everyone that at the March 1st Zoning and Planning Committee, City Council members put their amendments to the Urban Ag Text Amendments on the table and post-poned full debate until March 22, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. She noted that copies of these amendments were included in the agenda packet. Robin Garwood circulated handouts of the amendments and new substitute language proposed by Council Member Gordon for feedback.

A draft letter of support for the substitute amendments was presented to the Food Council for forwarding on to the City Council. Gayle Prest moved that the "The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council support Council Member Gordon's amendments because they're a reasonable middle ground between staff recommendations and council member concerns and requests that the draft letter be sent to City Council members." It was seconded, and the motion carried. Chair Dooley noted that if the Urban Ag Text Amendments pass out of Zoning and Planning tomorrow, they will most likely be headed to the full City Council for a final vote on March 30, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

To view the staff report and various proposed amendments in the Zoning and Planning Committee, visit www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/zp/WCMS1P-087668

Strategic Planning

Chair Dooley drew everyone's attention to the working draft of the strategic planning document. She noted that June Mathiowetz had compiled all the recommendations that had been submitted by Food Council members into a list, identified remaining work from the phase one recommendations and added those to the list, and then edited the overall list of strategies to eliminate repetition and overlap as much as possible. She then separated the more than 90 proposed strategies into the five food system areas and noted five common themes that seemed to run through the set.

Sarah Strickland facilitated the next layer of discussion by inviting everyone to choose one of the five areas of the food system – growing, processing, distribution, eating and composting - and separate into those groups. Each group was then advised to work at identifying the highest priority strategies for the

Food Council. After 45 minutes of discussion, the group was brought back together to share their top five priorities identified with the full group (See attached). The group asked questions and themes were noted.

Local Food Resource Hubs Network

Sarah Stewart and Meredith Schonfeld-Hicks presented results of the first year of the Local Food Resource Hubs Network's project and evaluation efforts. This is a project funded by federal stimulus dollars through Communities Putting Prevention to Work through the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support and in contract with Gardening Matters. (See detailed handouts from the presentation in the March 2012 agenda packet.)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Food Council Priorities as Identified at March 2012 Meeting

GROWING	PROCESSING	DISTRIBUTING	EATING	COMPOSTING
<p>Increase food producing gardens (1,2,3)</p> <p>Increase food growing and purchasing of healthy, sustainable, local food at schools (7,8)</p> <p>Increase healthy, sustainable, local food growing at public housing (9)</p> <p>Expand edible landscaping in public realm (6,10-13)</p> <p>Make and monitor policy changes supporting food growing (14, 21, 22, 24)</p>	<p>Identify gaps and develop specific economic development goals and strategies (including analysis of facilities in mpls and 1st ring suburbs and what's preventing us from using available space)</p> <p>Develop an urban farmer aggregation facility in a distressed area (could be part of above) (34)</p> <p>Complete a thorough investigation into processing for seconds (32)</p> <p>Expand the concept and use of community kitchens (26,27,28) (...micro-macro balance, better ed and facilities, make more sustainable and broad-based)</p> <p>Engage MN Dpts of Health and Ag on policies that impact local foods (35,37) F2S and rural connections- where do these fit?</p>	<p>Expand efforts around farmers markets drive up sales and support farmers (EBT, promotion, coordination) (39, 49, 53)</p> <p>Increase fruit and vegetable access by expanding the concept and use of the corner stores as a distribution point (42,43)</p> <p>Research coordinated distribution systems (to explore current sites, underutilized sites (malls) and more localized levels down to bike delivery) (48)</p> <p>Increase healthy, sustainable, local food options at food shelves and shelters (41)</p> <p>Begin development of a bike delivery co-op to help with fresh produce delivery (33, 51) Concerned about F2S/farmer support</p>	<p>Increase healthy, sustainable, local food served at schools (59)</p> <p>Identify gaps in the farmer-to-consumer supply chain and develop the connections and relationships to address them (62)</p> <p>Develop systems to track, report and monitor food system sales and waste (63, 64)</p> <p>Increase awareness about the importance of eating sustainably grown food and using sustainable food growing methods (71)</p> <p>Increase multicultural engagement (79)</p> <p>Also local festival (69) Bldg relationships with region/rural (76)</p>	<p>Make and monitor policy changes to increase composting (81,89,92,93,94)</p> <p>Increase analysis and implement strategies to increase compost stream, incubate small scale businesses and reverse export of compost resources out of the city (82, 91)</p> <p>Permits and licensing (92,95)</p>