

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, June 20, 2012
Minneapolis Public Schools Nutrition Center
3:00 – 4:30 pm

Attendance: Rhys Williams, Gayle Prest, Deborah Ramos, Aaron Reser, Beth Dooley, Tim Jenkins, Tracy Singleton, Bob Lind, Patty Bowler, Cam Gordon, Mustafa Sundiata, Eric Larsen, Julie Ristau, Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer, Rebecca Reed

Absent: Kristine Igo, Alison Rotel, Kurt Schreck, Neil Oxendale, Russ Henry, Erica Prosser

Others in Attendance: Homegrown Minneapolis Consultant Jane Shey, Megan O’Hara, Karen Korslund, Anita Davis, Siri Simons, Nora Hoeft, Kristen Klinger, Health Department, Bryna Godar, Jared Walhowe, Collin Motschult, Katie Lampi, Minneapolis Department of Health, Dan Huff, Minneapolis Division of Environmental Management and Safety, Greg Stubbs, Minneapolis Department of Regulatory Services, Katie Lampi, Minneapolis Environmental Health, Starr Carpenter and Rick Mantley

Welcome, Introduction of Guests and Approval of Minutes (attachment 1)

- Co-Chair Sundiata opened the meeting and welcomed the guests.
- Greg Stubbs, Director, Department of Regulatory Services and Dan Huff, Manager, Regulatory Services, Division of Environmental Management and Safety, and Katie Lampi, Environmental Health Inspector introduced themselves and explained their roles in relation to Homegrown Minneapolis and local food.
- Bob Lind moved to approve the May Food Council Minutes which was seconded by Patty Bowler and approved.

Homegrown Coordinator Updates

- Jane Shey gave an update on the Farm Bill which was approved by the Senate. The House of Representatives is scheduled to take the bill up this summer. There was some discussion on why Senators Klobuchar and Franken voted against the Gillibrand Amendment that would have restore some of the funding cut from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Several Food Council members expressed interest in meeting with the Minnesota delegation on food issues. Jane will schedule a meeting for interested Food Council members. The web links to organizations following the farm bill will also be resent to all members.
- Jane gave an explanation of the draft Grant Tracking Chart (attachment 2) which shows grants applied for in the last year that provide funding for Homegrown activities. This chart will be updated as grants are applied for. The Executive Committee is developing draft grant guidelines and members of the Food Council are welcome to provide input.

- Patty Bowler distributed a copy of the Homegrown Minneapolis Report written by Lara Tiedes which provides a good history of the Homegrown Minneapolis process and was used as a part of a grant application.

Approval of Letter Supporting Bees on the Roof of City Hall (attachment 3)

- A motion was made to send the letter to the Municipal Building Commission. Cam Gordon asked if a sentence should be added to the letter stating that the Food Council would be willing to help with any questions or issues pertaining to the bee hives on City Hall. The letter was amended with this additional sentence. Gayle Prest offered the motion and it was seconded by Aaron Reser. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Member Updates

- Beth Dooley discussed some of the ideas for Food Day, October 24.
 - Food Day would kick off with the “Food and Film” Fest. Oct. 18 running through 20 or 21. The University of Minnesota would continue the activities the following week with Healthy Food Healthy Lives bringing in a nationally known speaker, films, and workshops.
 - Proceeds from the Film Festival go to the Twin Cities Film Council
 - The Food Council would not provide any funding for this event.
 - Jane – maybe we can branch out into more community engagement activities besides just staying in the St. Anthony area.
- Mustafa – IATP “Food + Justice = Democracy” event
 - Sept. 24-26, he would like the Food Council to have a role welcoming the participants to the city and the conference.
- Rebecca – Village Reclamation Festival – June 23-30, 2012
 - 3 major events and other workshops
 - 2nd event = permaculture installation in Phillips neighborhood
 - See a block in transition
 - Build greenhouse, install rain garden, worm composting
- Deborah Ramos – Indigenous food and food culture talk by Valorie Segress (Northwest Coast Indigenous Person) June 25th, 5:30-7:00, IATP.
- Jane Update – Grant request for General Mills which provides public relations assistance to organizations that are already receiving a grant from General Mills.

Working Group Development and Updates

Food Safety Working Group

- Tim Jenkins – Food protection is built to support the large scale food system so we need a dialog with them to increase demand for smaller scale food systems. Regulators being reactive but want to be proactive. Gayle, Kristine and Tim are discussing the University of Minnesota taking a role in leading collaboration on food safety issues and other interested parties are the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Department of

Health. Katie Lampi, food safety inspector, talked about wild mushroom regulations and the State food code committee she participated on.

- Jane told the group that under the Economic Development Working Group, a grant was submitted to the Office of Refugee Resettlement to offer microenterprise loans for refugees.

Working Group Sign-up (attachment 4)

- After some explanation and discussion on the working groups, Jane asked each Food Council member to sign up for at least one group. Council members were also asked to identify members of the community who may be interest in one of the working groups.
- The Healthy Food Options under Food Safety was dropped as the Department of Health is handling this issue.

Draft Strategic Action Plan Presentation and Discussion

- Jane gave an overview of the Homegrown Minneapolis process and the draft Strategic Action Plan. (See Slides and Attachment 5)
- During the discussion the following suggestions were made: 1) Patty Bowler – move the Urban Agriculture Policy Plan into “Growing”. 2) Rebecca Reed - Healthy Corner Stores should be in Communications
- There was some discussion on what were people’s thoughts/expectations on regulatory issues including food trucks, pop-up stores and duplication of licensing. Most agreed it is easier to consider regulatory flexibility if there is a request is made by a potential business.
- Star Carpenter said she knew the Food Council was forming but did not have enough information on what was happening. A discussion followed on the benefit of listening sessions and one suggestion was that they could be a part of the monthly meeting.
- Julie Ristau asked about setting benchmarks to gauge the success of the group.
- Rys Williams gave the example of his one-on-one conversation with a woman and her two friends who were working at a community garden.
 - One had heard of Homegrown but the other two had not. They had no access to local food (corner of Franklin/Portland) and struggle even to garden. Food shelves are hit and miss as far as quality. We have a vibrant food community in Minneapolis but a lot of people still don’t have food access.

Rebecca Reed made a motion to accept the Strategic Action Plan with the discussed changes and Cam Gordon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There was some discussion of holding a listening session at the end of the next Food Council meeting. The Community Engagement Working Group will take the lead on setting up listening sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 pm.