

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, July 18, 2012
St. Olaf's Lutheran Church
3:00 – 4:30 pm

Attendance: Aaron Reser, Sara Nelson-Palmeyer, Rhys Williams, Kristine Igo, Patty Bowler, Neil Oxendale, Rebecca Reed, Alison Rotel, Bob Lind, Gayle Prest, Deborah Ramos, Tracy Singleton, Eric Larson, Kurt Schreck, Beth Dooley, Cam Gordon, Tim Jenkins.

Others in Attendance: Homegrown Minneapolis Consultant Jane Shey, Colin Cureton, JonBree Wright-Bridges, Megan O'Hara, Jesse Titus, Princess Titus, Tasha Powell, Michelle Horowitz, Aliyah Ali, Evan Barnett, Karen Korslund.

Absent: Mustafa Sundiata, Julie Ristau, Russ Henry, Erica Prosser

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

- Co-Chair Beth Dooley opened the meeting
- Bob Lind moved to approve the June Food Council Minutes, (with some minor edits suggested by Alison Rotel) which was seconded by Tim Jenkins and approved.

Homegrown Coordinator Updates

- Jane Shey explained the 6 handouts that were distributed to Food Council members at the start of the meeting. This included:
 - The Grant Tracking Chart - The Blue Cross/Blue Shield \$20,000 grant was denied and yesterday the Good Works grant was submitted to General Mills.
 - The community kitchen list was updated and a farmers market flyer was created that is printer ready.
 - Karen Korslund drafted a handout summarizing the urban agriculture regulations for bees and fowl/small animals.
 - A copy of the final 2012 Strategic Action Plan was included along with the Working Group Membership List.
- The House of Representatives recently approved the Farm Bill but it is uncertain if they will get time on the floor of the House. Even if the bill does pass the House, it needs to continue to conference committee to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate bill. In an election year, time is running out to complete the legislation.

Member Updates

- Rhys Williams said that he volunteers at the Hope Community Center garden which has 20 gardens. He offered to arrange a meeting with a couple of Food Council members and some of the gardeners who would be interested in meeting Food Council members. Megan O'Hara suggested connecting with Little Earth since they are in the same area and members of the Food Council agreed.
- Kris Igo said that the University of Minnesota is planning a two day event, around Food Day October 23rd and 24th.
- Beth Dooley is still looking for an opportunity to work with the Film Board and the farmers market on Food Day events.

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- Kris Igo suggested that the guests introduce themselves to the Food Council members.
- Jane Shey mentioned that her last handout is an events calendar that she will update monthly with any items suggested by Food Council members.

Discussion of Letter Supporting (attachment 2)

- This letter is in support of providing local foods in various public venues like sports stadiums. This letter would include serving local food, composting and donating excess food to food shelves. Discussion followed with some changes to the letter and a question about sending this letter to the organizers of large public events with the same request. Gayle Prest explained that events recycling ordinance is in process but at this point; we don't have sufficient systems in place for composting. We can start with recycling and be on record as supporting the 20 or so larger (+2,000 people) events. Language will also be included to include a these requirements in request for proposals that are sent out to potential managers of public venues and events. Jane will revise the draft and provide a list of potential public venues to send the letter for the August Food Council meeting.

Working Group Discussion

- Jane Shey provided some background on how working groups will interact at Food Council meetings. At the monthly meetings, there will be an update from each group and if groups are interested, they can meet immediately after the Food Council meetings. Beth Dooley suggested that the Council could move to a 90 minute meeting schedule, which would give an extra half-hour for some groups to meet. Gayle Prest explained that there are many groups in the City that have a similar structure. It is the sub-committees that typically meet separately and bring issues and action items to the larger Council. It is good to have a basic structure in place.

Future Meeting Agenda Items

- Alison Rotel asked if we could meet with the Ramsey County Food & Nutrition Commission for an event, presentation, happy hour, etc. Kris Igo suggested that a class at the University could prepare a meal for the two Food Councils with time for informal conversation. After some discussion, it was decided to invite them to meet with the Council in September and then to look for another date for an informal get together.
- Jane Shey said the November Council meeting is scheduled for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Maybe that month, the Council would want to meet at another time and have a potluck.
- Deborah Ramos suggested Little Earth or Dream of Wild Health as presenters.
- Cam Gordon suggested establishing benchmarks to gauge the success of the Urban Agriculture Law. Jane Shey said that she is working on setting benchmarks to establish what we can track, or measure. The community gardens list is also being updated, Colin is working on that. We are also looking at how to measure urban farms vs. community gardens. Eric Larson said that there is an informal group of urban farmers that meet occasionally, especially in the Fall who might be interested in talking about their experiences.
- Aaron Reser said that various people at the University of Minnesota are also doing some research on this.

The formal Food Council meeting ended and the Council divided into working groups to discuss how to structure the groups and identify a meeting time.