

**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 15, 2012**  
**Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38<sup>th</sup> St., Minneapolis**  
**3:30 – 4:45 pm**

**Attendance:** Aaron Reser, Alison Rotel, Beth Dooley, Bob Lind, Cam Gordon, Deborah Ramos, Eric Larsen, Erica Prosser, Kristine Igo, Kurt Schreck, Mustafa Sundiata, Neil Oxendale, Patty Bowler, Rebecca Reed, Rhys Williams, Russ Henry, Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer, Tim Jenkins, Tracy Singleton.

**Others in Attendance:** Homegrown Minneapolis Consultant Jane Shey, Colin Cureton, JonBree Wright-Bridges, Evan Barnett, Megan O’Hara, Theresa Nelson, Joshua Rudlong, Emily Moore, Kirstan Saylor, Mallory Morken, Nadja Berneche

**Absent:** Julie Ristau and Gayle Prest

**2013 City Legislative Agenda for the State, Melissa Reed (Attachment 3)**

(Due to time constraints, Melissa Reed, Office of Intergovernmental Relations was the first presenter at the meeting.)

Melissa explained the city’s legislative process and timeline. Her office would like any recommendations pertaining to local food submitted by the end of August with clear objectives and proposals in place by the end of September. She provided a worksheet that could be filled out explaining the policy request. The City’s agenda is divided into “priority items” and “support items.”

Local food was just added last year and it is a great issue which cuts across party lines and geographic boundaries (rural, urban, etc.). Members of the Food Council may have legislative ideas because of their contacts with farmers, advocates, practitioners, etc.

The city works hand in glove with the League of Cities. The relationship with the Met Council is a little different, because they are appointed, not elected. The work with them fluctuates based on who is appointed.

Patty Bowler explained that for the health department, the main priority is the re-funding of SHIP, which has fueled much of the local food work. Tim Jenkins mentioned that the State is reforming the food code and we may want to watch that issue.

Russ Henry said that there is a rule change at Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) on composting, but it may not occur for two years. Cam Gordon suggested that perhaps part of the Food Council agenda is to ask agencies to speed up releasing regulations.

Kristine Igo suggested that any legislative request needs to match with transit and development which could include more points on RFP’s for a proposal that includes community garden or green space, underutilized space for farmers market, etc. Rebecca Reed added that there could also be incentive programs or tax credits for urban edibles.

Chair Mustafa Sundiata suggested that the working groups bring forward legislative agenda items which met with agreement.

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

- Co-Chair Mustafa Sundiata opened the meeting and asked the guests to introduce themselves.
- Beth Dooley moved to approve the July Food Council Minutes and the motion was seconded by Cam Gordon and approved.

### **Homegrown Coordinator Updates**

Jane Shey mentioned some of her activities this past month:

- There are several potential intern projects: 1) A survey of urban farms including a review of policies that either help or hurt the development of urban farms. 2) A Harvard Kennedy School graduate student wants to conduct a major research project looking at local food economic development and barriers to the processing sector.
- Jane: Health was awarded not one but two Prevention Specialists from CDC. HGM submitted General Mills proposals re: EBT and farmers markets.

### **Discussion of Letter Supporting Local Food in Public Venues (attachment 2)**

There was discussion of the Food Council letter to increase local foods in public venues. The letter would be sent to the management companies for the Vikings Stadium, the Target Center and three venues at the University of Minnesota. Tim Jenkins reminded the Council that Regulatory Services has a copy of the food service licensing contracts so we know who to contact. Alison Rotel asked if the words “reuse food” be changed to “donate surplus food.”

Cam Gordon made a motion to approve the letter and Beth Dooley seconded it. The motion was approved.

### **Member Updates**

- Megan O’Hara said there is a farm to school community BBQ at the Minneapolis Public School Nutrition Center September 21.
- Beth: We still have opportunity to participate in Twin Cities Film Group to promote Homegrown, offer reduced price or free tickets.
- Cam Gordon suggested that the Food Council be involved with the University of Minnesota’s Food Day activities and see if City wants to make a proclamation.
- Kris Igo said the University of Minnesota is having a 2 day event. The 23<sup>rd</sup> of October is the Expo event. Last year we participated, Cam made a presentation and Homegrown had a table. The St. Paul Food and Nutrition Commission also attended. On October 24th we have 2 hour slots set up.
- Rebecca Reed suggested that the Communications and Community Engagement working groups work with Night to Unite in late September.

### **Working Group Updates**

- Communications: Working on Food Day and with the Twin Cities Film Organizations.
- Community Engagement: Working on a comprehensive engagement plan, listening session targeting, translation of materials and a handout toolkit. Want to develop a plan where people can plug themselves in.
- Economic Development: (Bob Lind needed to leave since the meeting ran over.)
- Food Safety: Just finished the working group strategic plan and working on the Food Code and legislative agenda.
- Growing: Working with Jane's and a possible graduate student to conduct a survey of urban farms in Minneapolis.
- Composting: The MPCA is releasing the new composting regulations shortly and this working group will have some comments and recommendations for the Food Council to consider.

Robin Garwood reminded the Council that the Working Groups need to submit proposed Food Council action items to the Executive Committee before their monthly meeting. Cam Gordon said that the effort to have local food served at the Target Center has been revived, to encourage people to eat local food even if it costs a little more. The other issue to track is the California Street Urban Farm's chicken and urban agriculture work- keep an eye on it. (Chickens are not currently allowed on urban farms.)

Alison Rotel reminded everyone that the Ramsey County St. Paul Food and Nutrition Commission happy hour is at 5:30 at Ngong Bistro in St. Paul.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.