

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, September 19, 2012
Room 333, Minneapolis City Hall, 350 S. 5th St., Minneapolis
3:00 – 4:30 pm

Attendance: Alison Rotel, Beth Dooley, Bob Lind, Cam Gordon, Eric Larsen, Gayle Prest, Julie Ristau, Kristine Igo, 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, Robin Garwood, Sarah Eichberger, Janna Hottinger

Absent: Aaron Reser, Deborah Ramos, Kurt Schreck, Mustafa Sundiata

Environmental Health Inspectors Presentation: Food Inspection Principles

A presentation was made by Dan Huff, Regulatory Services of the need for additional food safety inspectors. There was a discussion on the fee scale for different levels of risk. Another discussion centered on the language of the draft food principles, Food Council members were instructed to submit suggested language to Jane Shey.

Introduction of Guests and Approval of the Minutes:

There were two guests present, Sarah Eichberger: Extension Community Food Systems Educator and Janna Hottinger, the Mayor's office is will attend meetings while Erica Prosser is out on maternity leave.

Beth Dooley asked for a motion to approve the September minutes. Alison Rotel made a motion and Bob Lind seconded.

Update on Homegrown Minneapolis activities

Jane Shey gave an update on her activities of the month.

- Efforts to secure a General Mills Good Works in-kind grant are continuing. The hope is that if accept assistance from General Mills will help increase EBT use at Farmers Markets.
- Efforts are being made to identify more space at the Minneapolis Farmers Market for new vendors.
- During a trip to Washington, DC met with Baltimore Sustainability Director.
- The Minneapolis Park Board is looking to include an urban agriculture component, and Jane Shey will be serving on technical committee.
- Attended the Will Allen weekend training session at the Women's Environmental Institute.

Discussion of the Food Council Legislative Recommendations

Alison Rotel suggested a statement in support of rooftop farming and Robin suggested a broader statement to include in the section on composting. Cam Gordon made a motion to accept the legislative agenda and Tracy Singleton seconded.

Farm Bill Update

With the expiration of the 2008 Farm Bill the legislation reverts to the 1949 Act. The programs that the Food Council supports expire at the end of September and would require an additional \$500 million to include in the next farm bill. Some programs have permanent funding such as

the Food Stamps program. Russ Henry makes a motion to approve the letter and all the members agreed.

Member Updates

- The Minneapolis Farm to School BBQ event on September 21st is sponsored in part by the Health Department.
- Patty Bowler said the Health Department is working with Minneapolis Park Board to establish a healthy food policy.
- Gayle Prest discussed the Hennepin County 'Master Recycling program.
- Kris Igo announced the Healthy Food, Healthy Living Community-University Partnerships. These are one-year long, with up to \$50,000 with the possibility for an additional year of support.
- Gayle discussed the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan including a section on waste and organics collection and using compostable bags for yard waste. Also will be single stream composting by spring 2013. Source separated organic waste is currently happening in Linden Hills, East Calhoun, Seward, Longfellow.
- The Local Food Resource Hub members have workshops now on compost bin-building and composting workshops. Cam Gordon hopes that the MPCA has a faster timeline for composting (i.e. 2013, not 2014).

Working Group Updates

- Communications - The Twin Cities Film Society is planning a Film Festival entitled "Feast for the Eyes".
- Community Engagement - Translation of Homegrown materials into Spanish, Hmong and Somali is a priority. There is a proposed December Open House and a program sometime this winter on culturally-appropriate foods.
- Economic Development - Bob Lind and Jane Shey are working with several food system entrepreneurs.
- Food Safety - There are two sub-groups and they want to look at several different issues such as why is the MN Food Code different than FDA regulations, what are the regulatory barriers to local food entrepreneurs/businesses and what is the State doing with the Hospitality Fee.
- Growing - Ann Cioffi with the Land Stewardship Program is organizing a discussion with urban farmers around to gather feedback and data around the urban agriculture law. The Twin Cities Urban Agricultural Land Trust is working on establishing a land trust for urban and peri-urban agriculture.

Next Meeting:

October 17th, looking at Midtown Global Market

After the meeting was adjourned, Julie Seiber with the St. Paul/Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission gave an update on the Commission and their activities.