

## Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Open House\_Small Group Discussion Results\_December 5, 2012

|  | <b>Qualitative Comments</b>  |
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| 1. General Comments  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is really cool that Homegrown is <u>community-led</u>. I hope it stays that way and doesn't become top down.</li> <li>- I heard about the event on Facebook. Organizations having a Facebook page are helpful.</li> <li>- What I like about urban agriculture is the connections it makes. You meet people you normally wouldn't encounter. Starting dialogues between neighbors is really, awesome.</li> <li>- This movement needs to involve everyone from all levels.</li> <li>- Here [at event] because I wanted to hear more about different organizations that are connected to HGM.</li> </ul>  |
| 2. What would you like to do when it comes to strengthening and growing the local food economy? What projects or activities would <i>excite</i> you? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting small businesses [and bringing down agribusiness – ex: Monsanto]</li> <li>- Excited about being a part of the growing community through the CSA that I own – want to know how to do more for people in terms of convening and connecting</li> <li>- Updates on hoop houses that were included in the zoning amendments, and compost ordinance that was passed as well</li> <li>- The City did an inventory on community kitchens and there is a kitchen + the market project for established businesses and it is one relatively new food processing resource – food trucks are using it, the soup CSA uses it; but, we need an incubator</li> <li>- My company is forming a relationship with MPS District to have gardens on all public schools</li> <li>- Fresh produce in corner stores and access to fresh foods in convenience stores is really exciting</li> <li>- Interest in a year-round approach</li> <li>- Churches are interested in citizen/backyard gardens</li> <li>- Want to work with school based clinics and churches to determine how kids can take healthy foods home to their families</li> <li>- Turning yards into gardens</li> </ul> |
| NEED:  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To find out what the people actually want through a comprehensive survey</li> <li>- More fulltime farmers, positions: elicit through marketing</li> <li>- Land access: schools that have land &amp; park land for community garden; vacant resident lots → functional</li> <li>- More interconnection – get rid of overlap and work together</li> <li>- More youth involvement: word of mouth promotion, paid work opportunities, link with sports; this will help create a sense of ownership and responsibility among youth</li> <li>- Education about food so that it becomes a lifestyle</li> <li>- A community kitchen that serves the whole community – ex: canning/cooking classes to involve people</li> <li>- Pickle Bill – people can sell their own food</li> <li>- Corporate partners</li> </ul>  |
| 3. What role do you think the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council can play in   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Getting the community together to start gardens because it may take some money</li> <li>- Text amendments for urban agriculture provide no secure land to do farming</li> <li>- Share the word about this movement – tell people that they <u>could</u> take action</li> <li>- Ability for community members and community partners to <u>network with</u> the Council</li> </ul>   |

making this happen/How can the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council help?

- Education: movement, urban agriculture, value of locally, sustainably grown food to increase consumer demand, seed saving, food storage, food growing, cooking, processing, canning, etc.
- Access to available land
- Use of 807 in NE: 5 football fields of space, grow food indoors [aquaponics], unusable space → usable; high tunnels – urban lot use
- Pass a new ordinance to allow Mobile Green Grocers
- Publicize urban agriculture law and new text amendments
- Hearing and learning more about processing, and especially distribution
- Finding space to process because homes are too small
- Create a new food system at the local and regional level to support farmers, local economics [re-circulation of local money], community building, health, and learning of new cultures and experiences
- Ordinances re. chickens and selling eggs [on growing lots]; renewing permits for chickens yearly is a hassle - make this process user-friendly; city is slow getting back to chicken owners on inspection, approval, etc.; frustration with permit process when need to get signatures from apartment buildings
- Policy to facilitate more healthy, local food in food shelves – ex: every food shelf must have ‘x’ amount of fresh produce as an annual average % of inventory
- Access to children to local, sustainable food
- Compost is difficult to find in the cities – would like several sites where compost could be picked up in the cities [currently unprofitable to make and sell compost in the cities]
- Greenhouses are more valuable than land space due to seasonal constraints
- To help with season extension: contract growing year round [Katie Knott], greenhouse space, teaching benefits of eating seasonal food, canning + freezing, community greenhouses, community kitchens + food storage places
- Partnerships with other growers
- Concerns about over-saturation at Farmers Markets --- people see FMs as entertainment and less about buying groceries so people start buying non-essentials; customer education at FMs; keeping FMs sustainable
- Youth violence focus at the Food Council table
- Council help connect people – connector/organizer
- Goats
- Tell people what the Council does\*\*
- Add growing food into the landscaping design
- Help create a food network among neighbors so everyone is growing different things to process and share amongst one another
- City is scared of “reaching” out to its neighbors
- You can grow food on property and sell it to a restaurant, but not to neighbors?
- Help with liability issues
- Permit for food trucks
- Work with students to build gardens
- Incentives for people to use land for local gardens