

**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 16, 2013**  
**Minneapolis City Hall**  
**3:00 – 4:30 pm**

**Attendance:** Beth Dooley, Bob Lind, Gayle Prest, Julie Ristau, Kristine Igo, Kurt Schreck, Mustafa Sundiata, Patty Bowler, Rhys Williams, Russ Henry, Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer, Katie Lampi, Alison Rotel, Tracy Singleton, Neil Oxendale, Erica Prosser, Cam Gordon, Deborah Ramos

**Others in Attendance:** Jane Shey (Homegrown Minneapolis Consultant), Vish Vasani (Prevention Specialist), John Parker (Humphrey School of Public Affairs student), Charley Underwood, Elliot Altbaum, Latoya Balogun, Tim Jenkins, Cherry Flowers, Heidi Coe,

**Absent:** Rebecca Reed, Aaron Reser, and Eric Larsen.

**Introductions and Minutes:** The meeting opened with introductions and minutes approved with no changes.

**Latoya Balogun, Youth Congress Member's Reflection:** Hennepin County provided funding to pay a stipend to up to three Youth Congress Members to attend and participate in the Minneapolis Homegrown Food Council during 2012 – Latoya provided a handout and gave an overview on what worked and areas to consider for improvement in the future. Overall the invitation to engage and the consistency of the meeting dates and time worked well. It was also helpful to have a City staff point of contact. It would have been helpful if there was a better understanding of how their input would inform the goals and direction of HGM, and to also be mindful of language and acronyms that the youth might not know. If there is funding in future it would be helpful to have more preparation before a meeting to help ensure their full engagement and to also provide follow-up after the meeting to see how their role contributed to the work. Beth Dooley thanked Latoya and the group for their participation.

**Karen Francois Director of Employment Equity, Minneapolis Office of Civil Rights, Employment Equity in Minneapolis:** Karen gave a PowerPoint presentation on the City's recent efforts on employment equity. In June 2010, "Uneven Pain" report by Algernon Austin ranked the Twin Cities #1 in the nation in employment gap between whites and blacks. In September 2011, "Everybody In" report by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Reducing Racial Employment Disparities laid out strategies and action steps the region needs to take to reduce the gap. In October 2011, "One Minneapolis" report by the Wilder Foundation and the Minneapolis Foundation highlighted gaps between whites and non-whites in many different economic and social indicators. The Employment Equity program started in 2012 and is expanding in 2013. The group discussed the equity gap in the city and some of the programs taking place including Urban Scholars. Karen led a discussion about what this means for Food Council and Homegrown work including emphasis in neighborhoods with greatest need and Food Desserts. Rhys mentioned the problem of no food co-ops in North Minneapolis. Kurt talked about the City's Healthy Corner Store initiative as one example of trying to establish a more equitable food system. Karen encouraged the group to continue its thoughtful approach. Her group is developing a racial equity assessment toolkit in early 2014 – this would be a systematic examination of how different racial and ethnic groups will likely be affected by a proposed action or decision. They are used to reduce, eliminate and prevent racial discrimination and

inequities. Karen mentioned that an upcoming report indicates that job-generating land use decisions has one of strongest impacts on public health (not housing or parks as many expected). Karen discussed some of the findings of the Economic Policy Institute report and the reasons Algernon Austin states are the three key factors for employment disparity: high school drop- out rate, relative experience of people of color in the work force (i.e. last in first out when layoffs) and discrimination. Karen encouraged the group to continue its thoughtful approach and to be intentional in its efforts to address the “inequitable access to healthy foods across Minneapolis communities” as outlined in the 2009 Homegrown Minneapolis Report.

#### **Food Council Annual Elections**

- Chair: Mustafa Sundiata was unanimously re- elected as co-chair for one year.
- Executive Committee: Kris Igo, Patty Bowler and Julie Ristau were unanimously re- elected.
- 2013 Food Council Meeting Calendar: Meetings will be 3rd Wednesday from 3:00-5:00 for 2013.

#### **Homegrown Minneapolis Update**

- Bob Lind gave an overview of the “Potential Food Related Business Pipeline” list that was distributed. It included a list of businesses and info about potential food (not restaurants) businesses wanting to move to Minneapolis
- Jane passed out the Updated Voting Procedures draft. She is interested in comments in next few weeks and to have the group formally vote on it at the February Meeting
- Urban Farmers Meeting met last week – survey going out working with Twin Cities Land Trust.
- The Ramsey County – Saint Paul Food and Nutrition Commission is interested in sending a joint letter with HGM Food Council to the Met Council supporting urban food interests as it relates to the Met Council’s ThriveMSP2040 comprehensive regional planning work. Russ volunteered to take the lead in editing the draft letter and bringing it to February meeting of the Food Council.
- Jane Shey and the Co-chairs will be giving the Food Council’s 2012 Annual Report to the City Council’s Public Safety Civil Rights and Health Committee on January 30. The meeting starts at 1:30.

#### **Food Council Evaluation:**

Vish has been doing evaluation work regarding the first year of the Food Council and reviewed preliminary findings from:

- 19 Food Council members who took the on line survey
- Results from small group discussions and dot survey from Open House
- 12 surveys with community members

The majority of FC members who took the survey appeared to think the strategic plan was good but just too broad and overreaching and it was unclear what the group’s basic function is.

Vish proposed breaking up into small groups to discuss three basic questions [1] Moving forward in 2013, how should we define the role of the food council as a unit, and our role as members to the community? [2] Moving forward in 2013, what should be the food council’s focus/focus area? [3] Based on our roles and focus, how do we operationalize what it is we want to do in

2013? Please provide SMART [specific, measurable, actionable, realistic, and time-oriented] and concrete examples of projects to pursue this year. By the end of the question, each group should have at least two well-thought out examples of “projects.”

Deb raised the issue of how to come up with a stronger vision for the group while others wanted to get into project work. Cam felt that branding of Food Council wasn't necessary and the role of FC was to steer Homegrown Minneapolis. Many in the group expressed interest in working on economic equity. Some ideas and topics included North Minneapolis food coop, and reducing food waste. Terry encouraged the group not to duplicate efforts of others. Julie raised the issue of who was doing the work – staff, partners, members? She also talked about the need for a conversation within the Food Council of whether the primary role was advisory, convening or project oriented. Kris added to the list “trouble shooting.” There appeared to be consensus that we didn't need to ask the community again – that the findings pointed to economic equity. Tim pointed out that much of the easy, local fixes have been or are being worked on at the local level and that work was needed at state and regional level in order to positively impact Minneapolis such as food safety rules. Alison recommended expanding next meeting by one hour to look at what the group would do and how to do it. Deb thought that economic projects needed to be balanced with food security through food justice issues. Gayle talked about how it typically takes 2-4 years for teams to really form and that the first few years of new advisory committees were typically some of the most challenging.

It was agreed that the primary focus of the February meeting would be to focus on 2013 plan and that the meeting would go until 5:30.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.