

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, June 19, 2013
The little Kitchen Food Shelf
3:00 – 5:00 pm

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

Others in Attendance: Jane Shey (Homegrown Minneapolis Consultant), Robin Garwood, Tim Jenkins, Megan O’Hara, Jennifer Schultz

Absent: Aaron Reser, Deb Ramos, Rebecca Reed

Note there was an optional tour of the Little Kitchen Food Shelf and garden prior to the meeting.

1. **Approval of May Food Council meeting minutes:** The minutes were approved after a motion was made by Erica Prosser and seconded by Russ Henry.

2. **Little Kitchen Food Shelf:** Jennifer Schultz, the administrator at NE Community Church and also co-founder and manager of the Little Kitchen Food Shelf welcomed the group and briefly describe the program.

3. **Upcoming SHP grant ideas – Patty Bowler:**

The Minneapolis Health Department will be submitting a State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant proposal later this summer and is seeking input. SHIP seeks to reduce obesity and tobacco use and exposure through policy, systems and changes to the broader environment. Individual behavior change strategies won’t be funded. The previous SHIP funds have helped plan a North Minneapolis Greenway, improved health options at food shelves, the local foods resources network and Homegrown Minneapolis. These are just a few examples from the 14 strategies that MHD is undertaking with current SHIP funding. We are waiting for the RFP from the state health department and then we will have a better understanding of grant amounts. One suggestion was to consider some City CPED financing assistance related to the Staple Foods Ordinance implementation. If you have ideas please contact Patty Bowler and Laura Pratt in the Minneapolis Health Department.

4. **2014 Legislative Agenda Opportunity – Gayle Prest:**

The Food Council has an opportunity to make recommendations for the City’s 2015 Legislative Agenda. Copies of the 2013 agenda related to food were in the agenda packet. Topics briefly discussed were changes related to pressurized sinks at farmers markets, raising the threshold for Cottage Food Bill, adding composting to the first bullet and GMO language. If you have ideas please send to Gayle Prest prior to the next Food Council Meeting.

5. **Update on Food Council Committees:**

The group discussed the Food Council bylaws about committee structure and the Food Council Co-Chairs will be appointing committee chairs shortly.

Staple Foods Ordinance – Robin Garwood: The City’s Business Licensing staff are doing more research and after that a second meeting with industry will be scheduled. City staff proposes amending the current ordinance in order to promote increased access to healthy foods and ensure that all stores selling food items are appropriately licensed and held to consistent standards. The proposed revisions would ensure that retail outlets

selling a certain amount of food are offering a reasonable selection of high quality, healthy options based on current WIC standards with some additional flexibility.

Wirth Coop Group – Rys Williams: The tour of the proposed space has been postponed, another investment group Praxis is also proposing a grocery store that would include local food and value added food. The group is trying to understand the issues better.

Urban Ag and Land Access – Russ Henry: A second meeting inviting many in the community was recently held. The next meeting will hopefully take place in July. The water access issue has been resolved and some research has been done by volunteers related to the farm stand limits in the City's current zoning laws.

Recruitment – Kris Igo: First meeting is Thursday with the goal to have a great candidate pool for the 2014-2015 Food Council. It's expected that the City will start taking applications later this summer through the beginning of October – the City Clerk's Office is finalizing the dates. The actual selection will be up to the City Council and Mayor and Council Member Cam Gordon mentioned that there are many other ways for the community to be involved.

6. Consideration of Revised Vision and Mission Statement - Beth Dooley

The first draft of the vision and mission were presented in February 2013 to the Food Council. The draft before the group today was based on work of the subcommittee consisting of Beth Dooley, Rhys Williams and Deb Ramos. The group reviewed and a motion was made and seconded to approve - it was approved unanimously.

7. Member Updates:

Cam Gordon: There has been an interest in community ovens and a new one was recently installed at a church in south Minneapolis. Ordinance changes at the city and Park Board level may be needed.

Julie Ristau: Walker Art Center's Edible Estates event on July 6, the opening is August 8. Food Council volunteers are needed for tabling. Julie also asked if the group wanted to participate in Food Week in October – possibly partnering with others.

Jane Shey: A General Mills grant was issued to West Broadway farmers market that will focus on educating the Hmong community on the use of EBT at farmers markets in north Minneapolis. Jane assisted in the drafting of the grant application.

Alison Rotel: Blue Cross Blue Shield recently announced 13 equity grants including Appetite for Change, Waite House and Hope Community.

Tim Jenkins: there are at least 65 Minnesota Food Charter events. A new tool for non-English speakers and youth was recently added.

Mustafa Sundiata: Minneapolis Food Charter Event: Reminder of upcoming Food Council sponsored Minneapolis Food Charter events.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m. and some committees are meeting afterwards.