

**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 15, 2013**  
**University of Minnesota Humphrey School, Room 180**  
**3:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Attendance:** Aaron Reser, Beth Dooley, Eric Larsen, Erica Prosser, Gayle Prest, Julie Ristau, Kristine Igo, Deborah Ramos, Kurt Schreck, Patty Bowler, Rhys Williams, Katie Lampi, Tracy Singleton

**Others in Attendance:** Jane Shey (Homegrown Minneapolis Consultant), John Parker (Humphrey School of Public Affairs student), Robin Garwood, Charlie Underwood, Kristen Klingler, Karen Korslund, Donald Warneke, Chris Aleman, Tracey Foytik

**Absent:** Alison Rotel, Bob Lind, Neil Oxendale, Rebecca Reed, Mustafa Sundiata, Russ Henry, Sara Nelson –Pallmeyer, Cam Gordon

**1. Introductions of guests**

**2. Approval of April Food Council meeting minutes:** The minutes were approved after a motion was made by Kris Igo and seconded by Tracy Singleton.

**3. Urban Farming Survey Presentation:**

University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs students (Christine Durand, Dylan Flunker, and Meghan Lindblom) provided a summary of their qualitative research which examined the state of urban farming through 11 surveys and 4 interviews with farmers and nonprofits serving the farming community. Common areas of concern were long term land access, water access, value added products, structures (hoop houses), animal commercialization and organizational support. A comparative analysis of urban agriculture policies in various cities was also conducted. The three recommended areas of improvement as it relates to the City of Minneapolis are: water access, long term land access and lack of focused direction for future urban agriculture policy. Overall, Minneapolis had more progressive policies than some, but less progressive than others. Most cities seem to struggle with the balance of supporting both urban gardening and urban farming. The presentation was followed by questions and answers and discussion. Beth Dooley thanked the students for their work.

**4. Minneapolis Food Charter Event:**

Jane Shey provided a quick update on the idea of the Minneapolis Food Council hosting a Minnesota Food Charter event. The deadline for hosting is end of August. Kris Igo mentioned that her students hosted an event last year and it is very easy to do. Vish Vasani and Mustafa Sundiata agreed to take the lead and a sign-up sheet was passed around for those interested in assisting.

**5. Staple Food Ordinance Revisions:**

Robin Garwood (Council Member Cam Gordon's Office) and Kristen Klingler (Minneapolis Health Department) gave an update on the proposed Staple Food ordinance changes and the results of the corner grocery store survey conducted by volunteers, including some Food Council members, last month. Aaron Reser was thanked for all of her work in bringing this item forward. 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.

Patty Bowler made a motion, which was seconded by Julie Ristau for the Food Council to pass a resolution in support of revising the staple food ordinance (draft was distributed to the group). The group discussed the ordinance revisions and draft resolution. Changes were made to the draft resolution adding recommendations that 1) It include establishments that currently sell a considerable amount of food like full service gas stations, Dollar Stores, drug stores, etc. and 2) The City explore opportunities to support local farmers. The group also discussed the need to add language in the draft resolution that supports flexibility from WIC based on Minneapolis communities' needs although the exact language was not brought forward with the thought that a Food Council member could develop the language after the meeting. Motion as amended passed with all those in favor except Deborah Ramos who abstained. Gayle Prest and Deborah Ramos volunteered to write up the additional clause.

#### **6. Workgroup Updates:**

- **Urban Ag./Land Access:** XXX gave an update. The next meeting is a potluck on Wednesday, May 22nd from 5:30-7p.m. at Pillsbury Lutheran Church. This is to figure out the second meeting of the community working group.
- **Wirth Coop:** Kurt Schreck and Rhys Williams gave an update. There was a recent exploratory meeting with Katya Pillings of the Landon Group. Katya is a project manager, working on behalf of the north-side co-op group. Jane, Rhys and Kurt were in attendance. Next is to look more closely at competition and collaborative opportunities.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.