

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, April 17, 2013
City Hall, Room 333
3:00 – 5:00 pm

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

Others in Attendance: Jane Shey (Homegrown Minneapolis Consultant), Vish Vasani (Prevention Specialist), John Parker (Humphrey School of Public Affairs student), Robin Garwood, Nissa Tupper, Julie Casey (Licensing), Liza Guerra O'Reilly (on behalf of Deborah Ramos)

Absent: Deborah Ramos, Julie Ristau, Neil Oxendale, Rebecca Reed

1. Introductions of guests

2. Approval of March Food Council meeting minutes - Beth moved to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Eric and Erica simultaneously. Minutes were approved.

Review of Food Council Procedures:

3. **Susan Trammel, City Attorney – City Conflict of Interest policy and declaration of Conflict of Interest:** Discussed ordinance of Ethics in Government, Section 15.40 Conflicts of interest. *As a local official on the food council, you shouldn't participate in any matter that comes to the food council if you have a financial interest in that matter.* For example, if a nonprofit who is your employer has business before the food council, you cannot participate. This extends from you to your spouse/domestic partner and any dependent(s) as well – their employers or associated businesses shall also be considered a financial interest of the local official or employee. Exception: When the matter of business before the food council impacts not only your nonprofit, but nonprofits in all other categories, you can still participate. For example, if the matter of business is licensing for small corner store markets, and you work for someone who owns a corner market, there is no conflict of interest because the discussion impacts the entire classification of corner markets, not just your employer. Err on the side of caution when there is a conflict of interest, or you suspect a conflict of interest –you don't have to leave a room, but remain silent. You can choose to recuse yourself due to a conflict of interest and fill out a "Potential Conflict of Interest Notice" form – City employees must fill out the employee-specific form. There are two types of "affiliation" that generate/don't generate a conflict of interest:

(1) If you serve on the board of another nonprofit, for example, and you are not receiving compensation for your service, you are able to participate and vote.

(2) However, if your affiliation with an organization, nonprofit, etc. is that of an employee, then it is no longer an "affiliation" but rather an employee-employer relationship. As a result, you cannot participate.

There is an online training, designed for citizens who serve on boards and commissions, that focuses largely on conflict of interest. This training can be viewed by City employees, but it does not satisfy employee ethics requirements. Contact Susan Trammel (612) 673-3230 regarding Conflict of Interest questions.

Member Updates:

4. Workgroup Updates:

- **Urban Ag./Land Access:** 22 people met on 4/17 from 1-2:30pm to brainstorm key outcomes related to key issues, discuss additional organizations and stakeholders to engage and how to engage them, 3 non-food council individuals planning next meeting. Russ and Jim Bovino introduced 2 proposed policy positions that has been approved by the workgroup and will be brought forth to the food council to vote.
- **Wirth Coop:** Wirth coop group meeting today and workgroup will be meeting next week. They are interested in food council participation so the council can plan out our involvement.
- **Staple Foods Ordinance:** Volunteer training 4/17 from 5-6pm – 20 volunteers have signed up to help survey stores and assess how close/far they are from current State of Minnesota WIC standards. Four of the ~20 volunteers are food council members.

5. **Lyndale Market Meeting:** Erica convened a meeting, which Aaron and Beth attended, regarding the Lyndale Market and lifting up local farmers as processors. Aaron is researching historical process/documents on creating a “label.”

6. **Mayor R.T. Rybak:** Meeting to discuss how to define Homegrown vendors and how to standardize the term – “Homegrown Vendor” at markets, especially on Nicollet Mall.

7. **Kurt – Healthy Corner Store work idea:** Look for a sponsor, who has similar interests as us, to underwrite cost. Given healthy corner stores items at a particular price where capitalistic instinct should take over – if it is a high margin item for a merchant, they will be motivated to sell something.

8. **Eric – Twin Cities Agricultural Land Trust:** Hosting annual gathering on July 11; looking for more board members to submit their interest; forward to those that may be interested.

9. **Jane – Additional Community Events:** April 19th: Urban Ag. Expo at Sabathani; April 20th/21st: Earth Day

10. **Bee Ordinance:** City Council passed the bee ordinance – there is no fee for second year of any bee permit; potential press event on the City Hall rooftop.

Review of Food Council Procedures:

11. Discussion on Council endorsements and Letters of Support

- First step is to research any topic prior to bringing it to the food council for discussion.
- 2 options follow:
 - Formal Endorsement of an issue where the council takes a policy position on an issue they don’t plan to directly work on, issues that it plans to lead, and issues that require a letter of support immediately or sometime in the future. The Executive Committee recommended that the food council approve a policy that allows for food council endorsements of policy positions.
 - Letter(s) of Support: As an entity, if the food council does not have some direct involvement/relationship with individual/organization requesting letter of support, value of letter of support decreases to funders. Funders look more for *letters of commitment*. Council also discussed scenario: if multiple individuals/organizations

applying for a grant, what criteria would the council use to pick? The Council discussed doing letters of support for all organizations or none. Cam motion, Gayle second.

- Amended to say that time sensitive matters, or matters that come from the workgroups may be presented ad hoc to the council [internal food council procedure] – Cam okay proposed amendment

12. **Statements of Endorsement from Urban Ag./Land Access Work Group:**

- 1: “The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council supports allowing farmstands at urban farms and market gardens for more than 15 days per year. Farmstands should be allowed on any day of the growing season without a temporary use permit, and should be allowed to sell produce aggregated from multiple sites within Minneapolis controlled by the same entity.”
- 2: “The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council supports increasing access to water spigots and hydrants for urban farms and market gardens, as well as the development of a storm water credit program for urban farms, market gardens, and community gardens.”
- Russ motioned to adopt these statements and Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer seconded the motion, followed by a discussion.
- Erica motioned to separate the two statements prior to voting. Council members voted in favor of statement 1, while 1 member abstained. All council members voted in favor of statement 2.

13. Minneapolis **Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) update:** The Minneapolis Health Department has been working with MPRB since 2009 to procure, sell, and distribute healthier food options. The initial policy and procedure document was refocused to resemble a 3 tiered policy: healthiest, healthier, and healthy. Beverages and 3rd party vendors will be discussed and addressed in the future. This revised policy will be voted on by the Recreation Committee on May 22, 2013 prior to being presented to the MPRB. If approved, the policy could take effect as early as fall 2013. There is room for the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council to support the healthy food policy and take action. Gayle presented a 3-part motion: (1) the Food Council support the policy recommendation; (2) the Food Council write a letter of support to the Park Board Committee; (3) Jane send out a timely call to action on the Homegrown Minneapolis listserv. Russ seconded that motion. Cam supports writing letter of support as well. A discussion followed regarding the inclusion of culturally appropriate diets, which will be reflected in the letter of support. Tracy presented another amendment, seconded by Beth, to include a recommendation for beverages along the lines of “applying standards to all food and beverage contracts in the future.” Final endorsement statement reads along the lines of: “The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council supports the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Healthy Food Policy Components. In implementing the policy, the food council encourages the Minneapolis PRB to consider the culturally appropriate diets of the constituents it serves at Minneapolis PRB facilities, and to apply this policy to all food and beverage contracts in the future.” Food council members vote in favor.

After further discussion with Health Department staff, it was decided not to send an action alert to the HGM listserv in that this level of advocacy might be counterproductive.

Bob motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Cam. Meeting adjourned at 4:35pm and food council members met with their working groups.