

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, August 19 2013
Hope Community Center
3:00 –4:45pm

Attendance: Aaron Reser, Alison Rotel, Bob Lind, Eric Larsen, Gayle Prest, Kristine Igo, Mustafa Sundiata, Neil Oxendale, Patty Bowler, Rebecca Reed, Rhys Williams, Russ Henry, , Katie Lampi, Beth Dooley, Erica Prosser, Kurt Schreck, Tracy Singleton

Others in Attendance: Jane Shey (Homegrown Minneapolis Consultant), Vish Vasani (Prevention Specialist), Megan O’Hara, Casey Dzieweczynski (CPED), Robin Garwood (City Council Member Cam Gordon’s Office), Anna Cioffi (Land Stewardship Project), Betsy Sohn (Hope Community)

Absent: Cam Gordon, Julie Ristau, Deborah Ramos, Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer

There was a 2:30 presentation and tour on the activities of Hope Community by Betsy Sohn.

1. Chair Beth Dooley called the meeting to order. Betsy Sohn gave opening remarks. Approval of July Food Council meeting minutes with no changes was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Land Access and Urban Agriculture Committee Updates: Co-Chair of the committee Alison Rotel discussed their July 24 meeting in which about 20 people attended. The group is starting to put into action their two focus areas: 1) City owned land and privately owned land, and 2) Revisions needed to City’s urban ag text amendments. The group now has a standing meeting on second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 pm -8:00 pm with locations TBD. The next meeting will be on September 11th. Alison asked that Food Council members please help get the word out.

3. Guests were introduced.

4. Approval of draft 2014 Legislative Agenda: Jane Shey directed members to the draft legislative agenda related to food in attachment 2. The Food Council has discussed this item for the last few months. Patty Bowler explained the new City process that vets items with multiple departments prior to recommending to the City Council. It is expected to be a relatively short legislative session with a focus on bonding not policy. After further discussion it was moved for approval by Russ Henry, seconded by Kris Igo and the Food Council passed unanimously.

5. Support for ordinance changes related to community ovens: Robin Garwood reviewed the item. Neighborhoods and others are interested in organizing and building community ovens fueled by wood for communal baking in outdoor, sometimes public spaces -similar to structures already in many of our parks and at least one church. The current ordinance prohibits fires in the street and it could be interpreted to include prohibiting ovens in the “right of way” (publicly owned land along streets and sidewalks). It was clarified that this is not a zoning amendment and it is not clear if a change is needed to allow community ovens in community gardens. Alison Rotel moved to approve support as written, Mustafa Sundiata seconded and the motion passed.

6. Support for ordinance changes related to mobile grocery stores: Robin Garwood reviewed the item. At this point the City is aware of two different groups wanting to operate mobile grocery stores, including a nonprofit organization targeting low income areas. Mobile groceries are operating in nearby towns. The current city

ordinance only allows “groceries and portable stores” in senior apartment parking lots. This proposed change would allow mobile groceries in more locations although still on private property only with limits on how close to “brick and mortar” grocery store. The proposed ordinance also would require the mobile grocery stores to carry a substantial quantity of at least seven varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables. The Food Council discussed how the proposed ordinance would affect farmers markets/farm stands, how close they should be allowed to standing grocery stores, how large grocery chains might respond, how to encourage sourcing local foods, potential problems with truck idling to keep coolers operating and how to encourage the mobile groceries to accept EBT and/or WIC. Gayle Prest made a motion to approve the draft, but striking “and mobile farmers markets” from the title and resolution text, it was seconded and the motion passed.

7. Applications for 2014-2015 Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council: Jane Shey and Kris Igo reviewed. Applications will be accepted until October 18 and all 15 community seats are technically open. Current members wishing to continue on the Food Council must reapply. If you do not plan on reapplying, please contact Jane Shey by September 17. There is an interest in recruiting more communities of color, youth and older adults. A flyer advertising the openings along with three recruitment meetings was distributed and discussed. The hope is that at least three Food Council members will be at each meeting to talk about their experience. The application is being translated into Spanish and should be completed soon. Kris Igo encouraged the group to distribute the flyer to their networks and try to track where you sent it.

8. Member Updates:

- It was mentioned that there is a meeting for organizations that work with youth, September 5, St. Olaf’s Community Campus and September 12, Sabathani Center
- If members attend the September 26, Minneapolis Public School Nutrition Center BBQ, at 6:00 pm could they also table a short while for Food Council recruitment?
- Russ Henry explained more about the all-day September 27, Urban Agriculture Tour sponsored by Hennepin County Extension. There will be two buses and you must register in advance.
- Erica Prosser updated the group on the Homegrown Minneapolis logo program. The Mayor launched it on August 15 at Nicollet Mall Farmers Market with the goal of highlighting Minneapolis grown produce, Minneapolis based owners and/or value added offerings made in the City in an effort to highlight the economic development opportunities related to food in Minneapolis. An intern from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, Katie Deutsh-Nelson, has been working with Jane Shey to develop a logo, tents, stickers and other related items. This is a pilot and it could potentially expand to other farmers markets and restaurants. At this point, criteria have not been finalized. Concerns were raised about the criteria and Food Council’s role. Beth Dooley stated that it was great that Homegrown was being branded, that this needs a longer discussion and a committee should be formed to work with the Mayor/city.
- December 5 is the annual Food Council Open House and it will be at the Walker Art Center. Beth Dooley, Russ Henry, Erica Prosser and Alison Rotel volunteered to be part of the planning committee
- Rebecca Reed updated the group on the 70th anniversary of Dowling Garden celebration and the upcoming Chicken Coop Tour.
- Kurt Scheck mentioned that his employer had 35 acres in Blaine that might be used for an organic coop and they are looking at potential for aggregation site.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.