

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council

Land Access/Urban Agriculture Working Group

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**Minutes of Meeting
May 22, 2013
Lutheran Pilgrim Church
5:30 – 7:00 PM**

Members Present/Miembros Presente: Jim Bovino; Laura Goetch; Russ Henry; Rudy Alvares Isaac Martin; John Parker; Deborah Ramos; Art Serotoff; Charley Underwood, and Pakou Hang

1. **Introductions/Presentaciones** – Isaac welcomed people to the meeting and encouraged everyone to enjoy the pot luck. Members present introduced themselves and Rudy welcomed us on behalf of the Pilgrim Lutheran Church.
2. **Overview of Last Meeting/Resumen de la reunion anterior** – Art provided an overview. The group was productive in that we offered 21 outcomes and many sources for community input on the survey through alternative organizations and community based media. These were written on newsprint and sent to members prior to the meeting. As we, who were charged with planning and facilitating the next meeting, came to realize, the working group did not seem to have any foundation goals, principles, core values or an agreed upon decision making process to guide and do its work. We felt that we needed to use this meeting to take a step back and establish these critical guideposts so that we could move forward with outcomes, projects and operations that contributed to the mission of Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council. The work we did last meeting would then be seen in the light of these overarching goals and values. We could also proceed with committee work using the decision making process we establish.
3. **Group Principles/Principios del Grupo** – Laura facilitated this section. The first step in establishing common purpose and solid foundations for this group is to agree on a set of values or core principles. Laura suggested that we begin by looking at the “Design Principles” listed on last month’s agenda. These were:
 - Equitable
 - Inclusive
 - Transparent
 - Effective
 - Productive

The group discussed the need to define each value and decided that we all had valid interpretations of these and that we could adopt these using our individual interpretations. It was suggested that we add the value of “Accountability” and “Respect”. The group accepted this.

The group agreed to recommend these to the working group for adoption.

4. **Decision Making and Accountability Process/Proceso de Decisiones y Contabilidad** – Isaac facilitated this section. By agreeing on how decisions are made, the working group will avoid disagreements about what was decided and gain credibility with the community and the Food Council. Russ pointed out that there were certain rules and/or protocols that the City follows at any of its meetings. At a minimum, we need to know:

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- What constitutes a quorum
- Who is a member (who can vote)
- What type of vote qualifies to consider a decision made (e.g. majority, 2/3 members present, consensus)

Charley Underwood proposed that:

- A quorum equals 51% of the members
- Membership occurs when a person attends at least 3 meetings within 12 months
- Decisions are made by majority vote
- Any member of the Food Council is an ex-officio member of this working group

We realized that since we had a small fraction of the total group that met in April, we would not make decisions for the whole working group but make recommendations to be taken up on the next agenda in June.

In preparation for the next meeting:

- Russ will bring the City requirements
- Charley will write up his proposal

At this point, we ran out of time since another group was scheduled for the room at 7 PM.

Items for the next meeting agenda include;

- **Final decision on values**
- **Final agreement on decision making and accountability**
- **Decision on group purpose (from newsprint done in April and summaries developed for this meeting)**
- **Create a written protocol for coordinating and facilitating the working group meetings, so that we can make sure logistics are covered, like interpretation, translator, accessible meeting space, note-taker, timeline for rotating facilitator to take care of logistics, send out agenda, etc.**

Next meeting will be facilitated by Russ Henry @ 1 PM in City Hall on June 26.