

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Meeting
Notes related to Urban Ag and Land Access Working Group(s)

Notes from meeting on 3/21/13:

- There was discussion about whether or not to combine the two groups, since there are at least four people who are very interested in both topics. Since there is significant overlap in interested individuals, the group agreed to keep them combined until we further define the work and structure of the group(s).
- There is consensus that the wording of the objectives (see below) does not fully represent the interests of the group. For example, Sara is interested in increasing land available for food production for individuals and groups other than urban farmers (such as low-income residents living in public housing, etc.) We will word smith the goals as part of our planning process.

Agreed upon next steps:

1. Type up notes from the large group discussion for both topics – Gayle Prest, DONE
2. Find available times for the meeting room at the Division of Indian Work – Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer, DONE
3. Set up a Doodle poll to identify a meeting time – Alison Rotel, DONE
4. Facilitate first meeting (purpose is to flesh out all the various aspects of the two objectives) – Alison Rotel
5. Based on the results of the first meeting, create and administer a survey to identify where there is the greatest energy on these issues and to identify stakeholders who would like to be engaged in the process – TBD
6. Recruit interested community members to be engaged in the planning process (We want to be intentional about reaching out to stakeholders that have not been engaged in Homegrown work previously) – Everyone
7. Facilitate a second large group planning meeting – TBD

Objectives (as described in the survey of Homegrown Food Council members):

Evaluation of the Urban Agriculture plan, including strengthening the zoning code and proposing zoning code amendments or other regulatory changes as needed.

Land Access: Program for leasing land to urban farmers, i.e. identify other sources of land at the State level, Minnesota Veterans Home or at the local level.

NOTES regarding the chart below:

- The lists of interested individuals (as well as those willing to serve in a leadership role) is based on:
 - the results of the online survey of Homegrown Food Council members (the updated version that Jane sent after the meeting)
 - Marked with an X, unless they picked it as one of their top two priorities during the dot activity

- the results of the dot activity during the meeting
 - I used green to highlight individuals who expressed the topics was their 1st choice (because we used green dots to do so).
 - I used orange to highlight individuals who expressed the topics was their 1st choice (because we used orange dots to do so).
- individuals who joined us for the brief discussion at the end of the Council meeting (including people not on the Council)
 - Marked with an X
 - John and Charly, I listed you as interested in both because I am not totally clear of where your interests lie.
- There are likely others who are interested and/or willing to play a leadership role, which we will assess as we move through the next part of the planning process.

Name	Urban Ag	Land Access
Alison Rotel	1 st (Willing to help lead)	2 nd
Bob Lind		2 nd
Cam Gordon	2 nd (Willing to help lead)	X
Robin Garwood	X	X
Charly Underwood	X	X
Deborah Ramos	X (Willing to help lead)	1 st
Eric Larsen	2 nd	1 st (Willing to help lead)
Erica Prosser	X	
Gayle Prest	1 st	
John Parker	X	X
Julie Ristau	1 st	2 nd
Katie Lampi		2 nd
Kris Igo	2 nd	
Megan O'Hara	1 st	
Mustafa Sundiata		
Patty Bowler	X	
Rhys Williams		2 nd
Russ Henry	1 st	2 nd (Willing to help lead)
Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer		1 st (Willing to help lead)
Tracy Singleton		2 nd

Access to Land and Water - Food Council Brainstorming:

1. Focus on urban farmers and food growers
2. How to increase amount of land available (public and private)
3. How to increase water at affordable price
4. How to access additional land for community gardens, farmers and individual growers
5. Conduct economic analysis for private landowners as to what are tax incentives, stormwater credits, good neighbor benefits in other cities.
6. Concern about displacement issues related to race/ethnicity and economic status

7. Review findings of policy scan by HH students (May)
8. Review findings of joint Homegrown Minneapolis and Twin Cities Ag Land Trust survey (May)
9. Think about possible FC role in pilot project
10. Phase I (2013): Change city policy to allow for-profit farmers the same city land as offered to community gardeners that remains unspoken for after a certain period of time
11. Phase II (2014+): much broader campaign
12. Community organize to encourage public response that urban farming is a public good in order to drive policy change
13. Partner with Twin Cities Ag Land Trust
14. Create opportunities, case studies etc. to increase public housing clients to use public land for food production.

Evaluate Urban Ag Plan – Food Council Brainstorming:

1. How to get media attention
2. Link to land access
3. 2013 Revise Bee Animal Care and Control Ordinance (underway, should be completed in April) <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-105485.pdf>
4. 2013: Revise current zoning ordinance related to farmstands to increase number of farmstand days from current 15 days, permit fees, and where goods are from (Cam Gordon to formally issue “notice of intent” to change ordinance at upcoming City Council meeting
5. 2014: Revise chicken related zoning and animal care ordinances as needed)
6. Evaluate both Urban Ag Policy Plan and Urban Ag Zoning Code Text Amendment
7. Improve water access for urban farmers and stormwater issues
8. 2014: Change zoning code for small company vehicle parking (this may affect taxis and others as well)
9. Get different interpretation of State Fire Code to allow for plastic sheeting hoop houses (Alison suggested asking Public Health Law Center to review)
10. Education

Resources:

- Minneapolis Urban Ag Policy Plan (April 2011): http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/planning/plans/cped_urban_ag_plan
- Current Farmstand Ordinance 535.360 (8): Farmstands may be allowed as a temporary use provided that such temporary farmstand shall only sell products grown onsite and shall not exceed a duration of fifteen (15) days in one (1) calendar year. Such sales shall be limited to between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Farmstands shall be allowed only accessory to a lawfully established market garden, urban farm or community garden. Farmstands must be removed from the premises or stored inside a structure when not in operation. Only one (1) farmstand is permitted per zoning lot. One (1) temporary sign advertising only products grown on-site may be displayed during sales but must be removed from the premises or stored inside a structure when the farmstand is not in operation. Temporary farmstands shall not be located in the I3 zoning district.