

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Tuesday, September 17, 2013
Little Earth, LERA Conference Room – 2495 18th Avenue South, Minneapolis
3:00 – 4:45 pm

Attendance: Katie Lampi, Erica Prosser, Alison Rotel, Kurt Schreck, Kris Igo, Russ Henry, Julie Ristau, Tracy Singleton, Bob Lind, Rhys Williams, Patty Bowler, Deborah Ramos, Rebecca Reed

Others in Attendance: Jane Shey (Homegrown Minneapolis Consultant), Vish Vasani (Prevention Specialist), Lindsay Dean (Student/National Urban Fellow), Laura Matson (Community Member), Chris Aleman (Rochester Alternative Learning Center), Charley Underwood (Minneapolis Tree Commission/Gardening Matters)

Absent: Aaron Reser, Eric Larsen, Gayle Prest, Mustafa Sundiata, Beth Dooley, Neil Oxendale, Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer, Cam Gordon

There was a 2:30pm presentation on the activities of Little Earth by Susen Fagrelus, Little Earth Community Health Initiative Coordinator.

1. **Executive Committee member Kris Igo called the meeting to order.** Introduction of guests. Rebecca moved to approve the August meeting minutes, seconded by Erica, and passed unanimously.

2. Food Council Work Group updates and activities

- Land Access and Urban Agriculture: This workgroup had a meeting on 9/11 and finalized their goals and objectives (1. Increase the number of acres of public and privately owned land for urban agriculture use; 2. Remove policy barriers to urban agriculture thriving in the city). Identified next steps include: learning about the different categories of land and research models from other cities and see how they line up with this work groups values. This work group expressed a strong desire for more social opportunities to bring the community together around food, in addition to the large annual open house event. These could be smaller scale gatherings like potlucks. Food council member feedback includes partnering with Hubs or other organizations in different neighborhoods, or looking into the City's Annual Neighborhood Conference. This workgroup has no deadline to complete their work; however, the main goal is to increase amount of available land for the 2014 growing season. Next meeting will be on 10/9 at Sabathani from 6:30-8:00pm, followed by a networking session till 9:00pm.

- Food Council Community Engagement: Jane and Vish facilitated two youth information sessions on 9/5 (St. Olaf Community Campus) and 9/12 (Sabathani). In total, 18 individuals attended the sessions. There was an expressed interest from youth and their respective youth leaders to have a seat on the Food Council. Patty, Kris, and Deborah attended the information session on 9/10 at St. Olaf Community Campus. One individual attended who was interested in the Food Council. There are two upcoming information sessions: 9/26 and 10/2. The application is also available in Spanish now. The application is due on 10/18 and new food council members will be selected in November. Thus far, seven applications have been submitted online. Existing members were reminded to fill out an application if they were interested in serving on the food council for a second term. Rebecca stated that she distributed flyers at the Dowling Community Garden

event and made connections with older adults. The group discussed how food council members will be selected. Traditionally, because the Food Council is an official city board, by ordinance, City Council members and the Mayor selects and approves members. Sometimes, outgoing members are invited to help make recommendations, but Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee (PSC&H) makes the executive decision. Some Food Council members expressed an interest in allowing community member feedback, especially since last year, community members were involved in some capacity to make recommendations to the City Council and Mayor. Jane will follow up with Don Samuels, Chair of PSC&H about the process for selecting members this year.

3. Discussion of revised Food Council by-laws. Jane provided background on the by-laws and why they were being revised. Discussed potential changes regarding how the food council should respond to time sensitive issues, and how to make online approval of documents an equitable and accessible process for all members. Jane will draft a proposed process for Food Council members to react to. In the meantime, Food Council members will review the revised bylaws and send Jane any thoughts regarding changes prior to October's meeting.

4. Member Updates

- 9/26, 5:00-7:30pm: Farm to School BBW at Minneapolis Public School (MPS) Nutrition Center: The Food Council will be sharing a table with the Minneapolis Health Department. Jane will follow up with volunteers who signed up.
- 9/27, 9:30-5:30pm: Urban Ag. Bus Tour: If you are interested in the all day tour of 6 urban ag. sites in the city, and have not signed up, contact Russ Henry. Russ will also circulate the day's schedule for those who would like to attend part of the tour. Representative Keith Ellison will be attending the tour, along with staff of other Congressmen as well. Food Council members suggested following up with staff from Senator Franken's office and Klobuchar's office.
- 10/3, 7:00pm: Mayoral Forum at Sabathani: Approximately five candidates are confirmed to attend the forum. If you are interested in helping plan this forum, contact Russ Henry. Deborah offered to help translate future flyers into Spanish.
- 10/24: Food Day: The Food Council will help promote an MPS project – "Prepare and Eat a Meal with your Family" – at the City of Minneapolis-level. Jane will send this information out to the Homegrown Minneapolis listserv, and contact communications regarding Facebook and other communication channels/outlets. Kris stated that the University of Minnesota will also be hosting a Food Day event at Coffman Hall from 10:00-2:00pm.
- 12/5, 6:00-9:00pm: Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Annual Open House: Meeting with planning committee on 9/19 from 4:00-5:00pm at the Walker Art Center Garden Café. Planning committee consists of Alison Rotel, Aaron Reser, Russ Henry, Erica Prosser, Beth Dooley, Katie Lampi, Tracy Singleton, Julie Ristau, and Rhys Williams.
- Jane passed around a sign-in sheet for individuals interested in assisting with the Homegrown Minneapolis branding process. This is a Mayor's initiative and he is interested in gleaning feedback from Food Council members.

- Community outreach/engagement: Kris discussed additional ways to promote not only the recruitment of new Food Council members, but Food Council activities, etc. The City of Minneapolis has a Facebook page that the Food Council can use, and it would be something a potential youth member could manage. Communications will post the Food Council information sessions onto Facebook and has drafted a Press Release as well. Food Council members interested in advertising Food Council-related activities can follow up with Jane, who will then follow up with communications (Note: announcements have to come through City staff).
- 10/12: March Against Monsanto: Deborah will check on details and will circulate information.
- Farm to School month in Minnesota: MPS received funding from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Blue Cross Blue Shield to purchase equipment to help them be able to serve more locally sourced food.
- True Food Chefs Council: Chefs and restaurateurs are partnering with MPS to increase awareness of positive changes in schools. 24 restaurants will do recipe development with MPS next year. Restaurants will also put common school food items on their menu, with their personal take on it. Fundraising for schools will begin in October. There was a press release and article in the business journal. Food Council members preliminarily discussed how they could support this partnership.
- Praxis development updates: Currently, there are no updates.
- National Farmers Union in Hennepin County: Through her work regarding support for GMO labeling, Tracy learned that there is no Farmers Union in Hennepin County. Farmers Union membership costs \$75/per person. These unions hold different county level convening's, discuss resolutions around GMO labeling, and the plan is to go up to the State level and present it there for a vote. How can the Food Council help organize or support that? Russ stated that he may be interested. Tracy will follow up with Russ. Deborah also offered to help connect them to African American and Latino growers. Alison noted that Betsy Wieland hired an Urban Ag. Extension Agent (dedicated urban ag. educator) for Hennepin County.
- Guest announcement: 100 honey crisp apple trees have been sold in the city.

5. **Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.** Bob motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Patty.