

**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 14, 2014**  
**Seward Community Coop –2823 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis**  
**5:00-7:00pm**

**Attendance:** Aaron Reser, Alison Rotel, Andrew Dahl, Bob Lind, Cam Gordon, DeVon Nolen, Gayle Prest, Jillia Pessenda-Bovino, Katie Lampi, Kris Igo, Omari Chatman, Pakou Hang, Patty Bowler, Rhys Williams, Russ Henry, Sammie Ardito-Rivera,

**Others in Attendance:** Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Vish Vasani (Prevention Specialist), Casey Dzieweczynski (CPED), Allison Meyer, Shalini Gupta (CEED), Abby Rogosheske, Pete Huff (IATP), Karl Hakanson (Minnesota Extension), Robin Garwood (City Council Member Cam Gordon's policy aide)

**Absent:** Beth Dooley, Hashep Seka, Mustafa Sundiata, Zoe Hollomon

**Optional 4:30-5:00pm:** Aaron Reser shared numbers about the local economic impact Seward and other food co-ops have in terms of supporting local producers and providing jobs. LaDonna Redmond shared project updates about the new Seward Co-op Friendship Store, the outreach and community organizing done in the Bryant-Central neighborhood, and new programs focused on staff diversity and on healthy food access and affordability.

1. **Meeting called to order.** Omari Chatman, co-chair, called the meeting to order. Introductions of guests were made. Russ Henry made a motion to accept and approve April 2014 meeting minutes, seconded by Cam Gordon, and passed unanimously.

2. **How to support Seward Co-op Friendship Store.** Ways Food Council can support friendship store: attendance at public hearing regarding zoning (LaDonna will keep Food Council informed in terms of date), letter of support, think of Seward as a partner in own individual work, and create opportunities to discuss co-op economics.

3. **MPRB Urban Ag. Activity Plan.** Prior to the MPRB Urban Ag. draft activity plan, the Food Council had submitted a letter of support. Following the development of the draft, the Food Council submitted another letter of support with comments. The final activity plan was released earlier this week in preparation for the public hearing on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm at MPRB headquarters. Individual food council member support will be crucial at the public hearing. Russ Henry distributed a packet of tips and strategies for speaking at such hearings. The deadline to sign up to speak is May 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:15pm at the location itself. Link to plan and public hearing information:

[www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1399](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1399)

4. **Discussion of Working Group/Task Force Expectations.** Vish recapped the current Work Plan, which was finalized at the April 2014 meeting. In addition, she reviewed key working group and/or task force expectations, which include: (1) each food council member will actively participate in at least one working group and/or task force; (2) each working group and/or task force must be able to complete or make significant progress on their established goals/objectives by the end of the term, December 2015; (3) each working group and/or task force must be ready to provide an update to the food council during each monthly meeting; (4) a given working group and/or task force may briefly and temporarily be

placed on hold to accommodate a new priority; and (5) each working group and/or task force is expected to do some form of community engagement.

**5. Working Group Breakout Sessions.** Groups had an opportunity to meet during the meeting. Breakout session 1 included the following working groups: Homegrown Minneapolis Hub/Incubator and Land Access. Breakout session 2 included the following working groups: Animals, and Outreach and Engagement.

**6. Future Agenda items.** Should you have future agenda items, please email co-chairs Russ Henry and Omari Chatman, Tamara Downs Schwei, and Vish Vasani.

**7. Food Council Member and Guest updates.**

- There was a public hearing on May 13<sup>th</sup> with the City Council's Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee regarding the Mobile Grocery Store Ordinance. It passed out of the committee unanimously and will go to the full City Council for approval on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- In order to provide food council members with an opportunity to demonstrate leadership and showcase their sector of the food system, Vish passed around a sign-up sheet that allowed members to take the lead on securing future food council meeting locations.
- In the past, food council members have appreciated an optional 30 minutes prior to the meeting to learn about the City's on goings as it relates to food. To provide food council members with such educational opportunities, Vish passed around a draft list of potential educational topics for future food council meetings; food council members added in their suggestions.
- Food code work is being moved to Environmental Services of the Health Department (vs. Licensing), providing a new pathway for Staple Foods Ordinance work.
- Nexus Community Partners has a program called Nexus' Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute, which is a 7-mo. leadership program that trains and places people of color and other underrepresented community members on publicly appointed boards and commissions. Deadline to apply is July 18<sup>th</sup>. Sammie was in the first cohort and she is available to answer questions. Website: [www.nexuscp.org/nexus-is-now-accepting-bcli-applications-for-2014-2015/](http://www.nexuscp.org/nexus-is-now-accepting-bcli-applications-for-2014-2015/)
- DeVon stated that the West Broadway Farmers Market is still accepting vendors for this season.
- Alison's colleagues at BCBS are involved in a pop up park to be built at Hennepin and 10<sup>th</sup> St. downtown. They are looking for a Homegrown-affiliated volunteer to help select edibles to be planted in raised beds and containers and possibly design/create signage that identifies the plants. The planting and maintenance will be done by another entity. Rhys agreed to learn more about the project and considered volunteering. No final decisions have been made yet.
- A Fruit and Veggie Rx program has launched and the Minneapolis recruitment site is NorthPoint. Vouchers will be redeemed at the West Broadway Farmers Market. Website: <http://www.centerforpreventionmn.com/what-we-do/our-current-initiatives/fruit-and-vegetable-prescription-program>
- The 2014 EBT at Farmers Markets and Market Bucks season is underway – all Minneapolis markets are participating except Augsburg (who felt they didn't have enough traffic to justify continuing to participate). Shaina Brassard of West Broadway Farmers Market will coordinate the metro-wide promotional strategy. Website: <http://www.centerforpreventionmn.com/newsroom/news-articles/farmers-markets-are-sprouting-up-statewide>

**8. Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.** Pakou made a motion, seconded by Kris, and passed unanimously.