



Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Wednesday, September 9, 2015

5:00-5:25 pm Pre-meeting optional presentation from FOOD BUILDING

5:30-7:30 pm Food Council meeting

7:30-8:00 Food Council info session

FOOD BUILDING- home of Red Table Meat Co. and The Lone Grazer Creamery
1401 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis

Draft Agenda

- 5:30 pm 1) Introduction of guests, approval of the agenda and August meeting minutes (Attachment 1)
- 5:35 pm 2) Empowerment activity (Zoe Hollomon and Omari Chatman)
- 5:40 pm 3) Presentation and discussion: Minneapolis comprehensive planning process (Kjersti Monson, Jack Byers, Minneapolis Community Planning & Economic Development Department)
- 6:05 pm 4) Recommendation: comprehensive planning process participation (Robin Garwood, Tamara Downs Schwei, Patty Bowler)
- 6:10 pm 5) Discussion and update: Urban Agriculture and Food Hub legislation (Paul Hugunin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture) (Attachment 2)
- 6:40 pm 6) Discussion and update: Food Council empowerment and engagement goals and next steps (Russ Henry, DeVon Nolen, Tamara Downs Schwei) (Attachments 3, 4)
- 7:00 pm 7) Working group breakout: Community Outreach and Engagement; Animals; Empowerment (TBD)
- 7:20 pm 8) Working group and task force updates:
- Land access
 - Community Outreach and engagement
 - Organics
 - Animals
 - Hubs/Aggregation
 - MPRB Urban Agriculture Implementation Team
- 7:25 pm 9) Food Council member and guest updates; future agenda items
- Community Garden Day: September 19
 - Minneapolis Public Schools Farm to School Barbecue: September 24
 - Food Council applications accepted through October 2nd
- 7:30 pm 10) Meeting adjourns



Next Food Council Meeting:

Wednesday, October 14, 2015 from 5:30-7:30 pm at Gardening Matters, Sabathani Center, Room J, 310 E 38th Street, Minneapolis

About Homegrown Minneapolis and the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council

Homegrown Minneapolis is a citywide initiative expanding our community's ability to grow, process, distribute, eat and compost more healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods.

Homegrown Minneapolis brings together key partners from local government, area businesses, community organizations, non-profits, and residents to build a healthy, local food system.

The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council envisions a vibrant local food system that enhances the health of all residents, protects the earth, increases economic vitality, expands social connectedness, and improves food security. To continue to advance Homegrown Minneapolis, the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council works to support all Minneapolis residents and increase access to quality food, address hunger and food insecurity, connect sectors of the food system, influence policy and decision making, and ensure an environmentally sustainable and socially just food system. To accomplish this, the food council:

1. fosters City-community partnerships;
2. convenes and engages diverse stakeholders to identify and propose innovative solutions to improve the local food system;
3. provides ongoing guidance to the City on local food issues; and
4. serves as a platform for collaborative, coordinated action.

For more information, visit

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/homegrown>

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, August 12, 2015, 5:30-7:30 pm meeting
Appetite for Change
1200 West Broadway Ave, Minneapolis

Attendance: Andrew Dahl, Aaron Reser, Alison Babb, Bob Lind, Cam Gordon, DeVon Nolen, Erick Garcia Luna, Gayle Prest, Katie Lampi, Kris Igo, Omari Chatman, Patty Bowler, Russ Henry, Rhys Williams, Zoe Hollomon

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Laura Roberts (MPRB), Terri Hay (MPRB), Donald Warneke (U of MN Extension), Bertrand Weber (Minneapolis Public Schools), Karlie Cole, Magdalena Kaluza, Ieshia Dabbs, Mitch Grace, Jared Staley, Lizzi Whittlesey, Princess Titus, Michelle Horovitz, Caroline Devaney

Absent: Andrea Northrup, Beth Dooley, Ginger Cannon, Jesus Perez, Jillia Pessenda, Pakou Hang

Pre-meeting presentation: Michelle Horovitz of Appetite for Change gave an overview of its history and current activities, including Kindred Kitchen and Breaking Bread Cafe. She also introduced some of their youth members and encouraged them to consider applying to the Food Council.

1. Introductions of Food Council Members and guests. Russ Henry, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order. The members and visitors each made introductions.

2. Meeting Agenda and Minutes: The Approval of July meeting minutes and the August agenda was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

3. SNAP/EBT Funding for Inmates presentation. Donald Warneke talked about the benefits if SNAP/EBT use was allowed for food for inmates and answered questions. If anyone is interested in working to change these rules so that prison inmates may receive health and nutrition education prior to their release as well as providing a resource for the prisons to provide healthier food, please contact Donald directly.

4. Proposed Farmers Market Project/Grant. Tamara Downs Schwei and Devon Nolen talked about a draft SNAP-Ed funding proposal they are working on in support of farmers markets in Minneapolis, with the West Broadway Business Association acting as the applicant agency.

5. Food Council Empowerment and Engagement. Led by Devon Nolen, the Executive Committee is delving into opportunities/training for the Food Council to build greater member empowerment, taking into consideration member suggestions from previous discussions, timing (during or addition to Food Council meetings and what can

be accomplished in 2015 and in 2016 as part of orientation), resources and possible consultants.

6. Update on Proposed Health Department SHIP Work Plan. Patty Bowler invited the group to attend an input session on the Minneapolis Health Department's Healthy Living work - including the application for the department's upcoming State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant which has historically provided funding for healthy food initiatives. The session is scheduled for August 20, 9:30-11:30 at the North Regional Library. The Minneapolis Health Department conducted a strategic planning process in 2015 to establish a 5-year year strategic plan for its obesity and tobacco prevention activities. After talking with dozens of other community stakeholders, City departments and current partners, they want input on the findings and the implications for the Health Department's roles, projects and partnerships for reducing chronic disease in Minneapolis. They are applying for the next round of SHIP 4 funding from the MN Department of Health and would like assistance in designing two projects: 1) Improving access to physical activity opportunities and 2) Supporting community-driven ideas for achieving healthy weight and tobacco-free living.

7. Presentation on US Conference of Mayors (USCM) Food Policy Advisors and Food Policy Task Force Meeting. Tamara Downs Schwei gave an update on her recent participation in a meeting with other cities' food policy staff in San Francisco. It was helpful in sharing food system learnings with peers about many of the same issues our City and Food Council are addressing. Tamara also shared the resolutions that were promoted by Mayoral Food Policy Task Force members and approved by the USCM.

8. Real Food Challenge Letter to University of Minnesota. At the last Food Council meeting, City Council Member Cam Gordon introduced the "Real Food Challenge" a national organization of universities and students organizing to shift campus dining budgets in support of "Real Food." Real Food Challenge representatives at the University of Minnesota (U of MN) invited the Food Council to consider submitting a letter of support for their efforts. U of MN uses Aramark as the food service provider and the goal is 20% local food. The U of MN Morris campus has made positive changes. Some issues for uniform asks across the country include different universities having different goals, which makes it harder for a food service provider. The contract at U of MN is based out of the business office – where low cost is often the primary driver in contract awards. Kris Igo quickly overviewed other similar initiatives such as IATP's Good Food Pledge. A draft letter to the University of Minnesota will be discussed at next Food Council meeting.

9. Farewell to Sammie Ardito Rivera, Hashep Seka and Laurelyn Sandkamp. Thank you cards for outgoing members Sammie Ardito Rivera and Hashep Seka were distributed and their contributions to the Food Council recognized. It is not expected that these Food Council seats will be filled since the current term ends in a few months. Sustainability Office intern Laurelyn Sandkamp has also completed her internship term.

She provided substantial support for the Homegrown Minneapolis website, e-newsletter and website maps, including recent food access mapping.

10. Working Group Break Outs. The Animals Working Group and Community Outreach and Engagement Working Group met for about 30 minutes.

11. Working group & task force updates.

- Land Access. Andrew Dahl mentioned that the CPED report to the City Council's CDRS committee regarding policy recommendations related to the land access goals for community gardens and commercial agriculture will likely be moving through City Council later this fall.
- Community Outreach and Engagement. Food Council applications for 2016-2017 term are open until October 2.
- Organics. The City is exploring revision to their rules in light of new state composting rules. Also the residential organics recycling program will soon be rolling out.
- Animals. The pollinator-friendly resolution focusing on city owned buildings is passing through City Council. Animal Care and Control also met with working group representatives to discuss draft changes to the fowl ordinance. One issue they are looking at is potential fair treatment evaluations for fowl on urban farms.
- Hubs/Aggregation. No major changes.
- MPRB Urban Ag Implementation Team. This team has been put on hiatus due to other current MPRB priorities.

12. Member and guest updates.

- Gardening Matters is looking for volunteers to help with re-envisioning local food resource hubs.
- Devon Nolen mentioned that through West Broadway's work with Union of Concerned Scientists there may be an opportunity for her to go to the White House.
- Donald Warneke mentioned that a land access survey may be coming soon from the MFAN land access group.
- Cam Gordon requested feedback on the City's proposed new Community Indicators.

13. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Next Food Council Meeting:

Wednesday, September 9, 2015 from 5:30-7:30 pm at FOOD BUILDING in Northeast Minneapolis.

Minnesota Laws 2015 First Special Session Chapter 4 Article 2 Section 85

URBAN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The commissioner of agriculture must convene interested stakeholders and develop a proposal to effectively and efficiently promote urban agriculture in Minnesota cities. For purposes of this section, "urban agriculture" means producing agricultural plants, poultry, or livestock on public or private property within city limits. No later than January 15, 2016, the commissioner must report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over agriculture policy and finance and submit proposed legislation that includes a new definition of urban agriculture if the commissioner and stakeholders determine that a different definition more accurately defines urban agriculture.

Draft Goals

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council member equity and empowerment

- a. Develop sense of equity, inclusion and empowerment for all members
- b. Build relationships among team members
- c. Increase understandings of people's historical experience in the food system
 - i. Examples of possible strategies: viewing & discussing films like Food Chains; distribute resource list for people to learn more
- d. Discuss, develop and modify meeting norms & ground rules
- e. Develop deeper understanding of City and Board/Commission processes

See also Attachment 4: Food Policy Networks *FAQS: Inclusivity in FPCs*

Food Policy Networks FAQs

Inclusivity in FPCs

FPN Listserv Question: Has anybody developed outreach and evaluation plans to ensure your FPC is actively involving a broad base of people from diverse economic, gender, age, racial/ethnic etc. backgrounds? i.e. How do you know your group is truly representative of the population your FPC is meant to serve, and has a truly diverse group involved?

Resources on this topic:

- [Food Policy For All: Inclusion of Diverse Community Residents on Food Policy Councils](#). Molly McCullagh. Tufts University, Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, 2014. The report is based on interviews conducted with FPC council members to capture methods they have used to diversify their council or include more diverse voices in their policy and action processes. There is some great work that has happened since the interviews - including examples highlighted by listserv members on this thread.
- [Achieving Diversity in the Nonprofit Workplace: A Step-by-Step Guide](#). Third Sector New England.
- [Race Forward](#) (formerly the Applied Research Center) has helpful resources for policy impact analysis around racial equity.
- ["Changing the Text": Modeling Council Capacity to Produce Institutionalized Change](#). Nicole E. Allen, Shabnam Jaydani, Amy L. Lehmer, Angela L. Walden. American Journal of Community Psychology, 2012, 49 (3-4): 317-331.
- [King County Equity and Social Justice Tools and Resources](#).
- [The Creative Forces of Self Organization](#). John A. Buck and Gerard Endenburg. Sociocratic Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Abbreviated Responses on the Thread Describing Individual Council Efforts

Worcester Food & Active Living Policy Council, Liz Sheehan Castro

We've made inclusivity and eliminating inequity explicit goals of our Policy Council but even still it's tough for us to keep an eye on it. We don't have an evaluation plan component, but our outreach strategy includes partnering with youth-serving agencies and organizations run by people of color as well as those that represent people of color.

We had a youth caucus off and on over the past few years. Working closely with youth workers and youth has been helpful in understanding that to involve people outside of the obvious and "comfortable" circle you have to bring your work to them and give them authentic voice. We had a group of youth give a presentation to our Policy Council on "how to work with youth" which was so helpful. We also just had our Policy Council members go through a diversity/cultural competency training which was a good starting point for many folks. We hope our next step is more like an anti-racism training.

Also, as the staff person for the Policy Council my outreach strategy is to act like a community organizer and go out and meet with people at their meetings, at their organizations, in their neighborhoods because I quickly realized that just inviting folks to our meetings and events wasn't working. For the first couple years in my position I just worked on building trust with people and communities that I knew had been ignored or underrepresented in our city. I attended their coalition meetings, their events, helped out on projects and grants wherever I could so that they knew I was invested and wanted to really build connections. That's made all the difference. We still struggle with being truly representative and reflecting the diversity of our city, and one reason for that is that the people of color that are leaders in the community are tapped for so many things. So those are just my thoughts and some of our outreach strategies. I would love to hear about what others are doing.

Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, Heather Mikulas

It remains a challenge in the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, too. We are hiring a new Director, and part of their prioritized task is to relationship build with diverse stakeholders that the Council has nascent communication with, but has lacked the human resource and fiscal capacity to fully engage. Our council takes a systems level view of community needs and engagement, and this has resulted in applied projects very specific to one piece of the food system, and a degree of opportunism in those applied projects. We hope to substantially address these issues moving forward in the short term.

Philadelphia, Amy Laura Cahn

In Philadelphia, we went through a very conscious process of stepping back to be able to move forward. Through our membership and governance subcommittee, we developed a values statement that was adopted as part of our [bylaws](#). Then, we revamped our recruitment process and developed a matrix that was aimed at understanding the diversity of the council – in terms of demographics, as well as sector. We did a mandatory confidential survey through which we ask members to tell us about themselves, so we could understand who was missing. Since then the council has engaged in strategic recruitment to fill the gaps. There are still obvious gaps – e.g. no seniors, no representatives of the disability communities. However, our last meeting was our largest and most diverse. And the work and accountability of the council has expanded and deepened as a result of this work. We've also talked about engaging a youth caucus (I think Toronto has one), but started by focusing on recruiting members to the council who are in their early 20s, which was a definite gap. Alison Hastings, from Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, chairs our membership and governance subcommittee and really took leadership on this process. She is a great resource!

Georgia Food Policy Council, Kwabena Nkromo

We are wrestling with these thorny issues in my state as well with the Georgia Food Policy Council, for which I serve as Secretary. There was a recent decision making process that revealed some stark weaknesses in our diversity and tolerance in terms of cultural perspectives and activism temperance. I reached out to Mark Winne for guidance in a process of addressing this, after being appointed to lead a task force on the issue by our Chair. Having yet to completely follow through, the values statement document you shared

Amy was inspiring as I think it reflects the kind of supplemental tool we need to compliment our official bylaws.

North Carolina, Christy Shi (Engagement Strategist - Community Food Strategies, Center for Environmental Farming Systems, North Carolina State University)

I am working with about two dozen councils across North Carolina, in different degrees, each council at varying stages in its development. What follows may seem a little theoretical compared to some of the more hands-on examples, but I'll share it nonetheless, in the hopes it is helpful in some way.

I have attached a summary of work by Allen (2012) which has really helped shape how we approach issues such as this. Specifically, we are looking at the *culture of inclusivity* and the *breadth of membership*. The desire for diversity intersects both of these.

This thread seems to speak to the breadth of membership - ("Are we engaging all types of voices across the system?") The underlying rationale being that people support what they help create...and to allow people autonomy in decisions that affect them.

But there is another *vital benefit to diversity*. When a creative tension can be held between differing world views, innovation is sparked.

Unfortunately, most of our ways of working together do not include a setting for 'creative tension.' In fact, we often don't even know how to hear each other, let alone foster a climate in which opposing ideas can be held as equally vital to the solution.

An example: City staff were working with grassroots leaders to form a food council in an urban area. The grassroots leader spoke at a public meeting about the food council being developed and mentioned the involvement of city staff.

At the next food council organizing meeting, tempers flared. City staff were outraged that the grassroots leader was speaking for the group - no one had agreed to what could be communicated or couldn't. The grassroots leader was shocked at what he perceived as a lack of transparency on the part of city staff.

The room started to get heated. People began to mentally check out of the meeting. We were in the throes of either/or thinking - the default setting for most groups. Here's what happened next - we shifted to both/and thinking.

As an outside observer, I raised the question of cultural values. The group discovered several differences that they didn't realize existed between their cultures.

They learned that city staff are cautious about what they say because of the invisible power that comes with it - they don't want to be held to account in the media for something they didn't themselves say. They also learned that grassroots leaders take advantage of any opportunity to get their message out - because they typically don't have a lot of power to make the media or others listen.

The group left with a better understanding of each others' perspective - which built social capital. In addition, they weathered a difficult situation and BOTH sides came out being right and heard. This developed more trust, which further developed social capital. And this...this social capital...this IS what makes it possible for these groups to work through future difficulties in a way that builds momentum, that is infinitely positive and healthy. *The more deliberate about bringing together diversity, the more important it is for us to cultivate an inclusive climate within the structure where these diverse individuals interact.*

In NC, we have been looking at dynamic self-governance as a model for *inclusive, consent-based decision-making* in our food councils. In this way, we build a structure that expects everyone to speak, and ensures that everyone is behind the decisions that are made; no decision goes forward without 100% buy-in. It has at its core the premise of 'both/and' thinking. I've attached the resource we've been using to guide our thinking.

Yes, this means we expect to toss out Robert's Rules of Order. Shocking! But from what we've seen in our testing of the waters, this approach really seems to resonate with people. The councils are really getting excited about hearing from the quiet voices - the people who don't 'take the floor' without this type of infrastructure to support their being heard. AND, the power of group genius begins to emerge when everyone commits to answering the needs of the whole in any decision they make.

Yavapai Food Council, Arizona, Harvey Grady

The Yavapai Food Council views "inclusivity" as related to our mission and goals. In the first year, we focused on mobilizing community resources to build public awareness about the prevalence of hunger. We built relationships with local community leaders and media reporters and added a few to our board and most to our resource list.

In the second year, we focused more on increasing the capacity of emergency food providers (food banks, etc.) so we built relationships with them and with organizations that could help them serve the rising number of hungry folks. We created a Voice of the Hungry Action Plan by engaging 10 hungry and homeless persons and 10 front-line food bank, hot meal, and senior center workers. They identified hunger relief resources, service gaps, and action steps to improve the hunger-relief network.

In the third year, we focused on identifying and promoting sustainable agriculture resources, including school and community gardens, farmers markets, CSAs, coalitions, etc.

In the fourth year, we focused on identifying meal gaps in schools and childcare centers, then assisting them to apply for federal meals programs.

We're now in the fifth year and still mobilizing community resources in all those areas. Our board members represent various sectors of our food system. We want people who are knowledgeable about at least one sector, and each member educates the other members.

All along we've included our county health department so we can engage in food-related health policies and safe food requirements in different settings.

We use different ways to include stakeholders – project groups, planning groups, resource list, community education classes, and board membership. We give priority to knowledge and commitment of those we include. In our rural county, it isn't feasible to give priority to age, gender, race, ethnicity, etc.

Interaction Institute for Social Change, Curtis Ogden, Senior Associate

We are on our own journey at the regional level in New England to develop a deeper commitment and skill set around food justice and racial equity. [Food Solutions New England](#) (FSNE) is in the process of intentionally weaving a network of local food and food justice advocates to realize a more just and sustainable vision for our region.

Very eager to learn from and about the success of others, including those working in domains beyond food systems, including the good work of [King County](#), [Idaho Community Action Networks](#), and [Education Equity Organizing Collaborative](#) in Minnesota.

Jeffrey Piestrak, Community Outreach & Engagement Specialist, Mann Library, Cornell University

What a great thread! This gets at the heart of many challenges I see and face. Many thanks to those who've shared their useful insights.

Something I think about more and more in relation to this topic is how I frame my work from the get go. And I find what I practice in my garden increasingly relevant. In order for it to be productive and resilient, I need to cultivate health founded on diversity and interdependence. This is based largely on an unseen web of mutually beneficial relationships both above and below ground, supporting the emergent potential of each plant and the garden as a whole. Building/restoring the soil is a critical step -one theme of a [Foundations of Food in Community programming series](#) I organized last year.

I increasingly see healthy community food systems in this same light, and that Community Food Policy Councils and their like should be as much (or more so) something that emerges from a web of relationships built on trust and mutual understanding. So it becomes less about inclusivity (trying to pull people in to something not created by or of them), and more about relationship and capacity building.

In looking through what folks have shared, I see several great examples of that. Where I work, cultivating diverse, networked leadership, where a greater number of community members are informed and committed to bring about the change they want to see in their food system is key. [The Six Steps of Nonviolent Change](#) developed by the King Center are particularly relevant, as well as programs like the [Extension Natural Leaders Initiative](#).

Mark had a nice [blog post](#) about the poetry of community food systems assessment, and I see evaluating inclusivity in a similar light. As a compliment to analysis and objectivity, how can we also create a tapestry of subjectivity that truly reflects diversity, and difference? What are the stories wanting to emerge, and how can we help? When people feel their story is being told, and heard, they'll be much more likely to participate in collective sense-making and governing.