

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, November 12, 2014
Open Arms of Minnesota – 2500 Bloomington Ave S
***Optional educational session 4:30-4:50pm**
Meeting 5:00-7:00pm

Attendance: Aaron Reser, Alison Rotel, Andrew Dahl, Beth Dooley, Bob Lind, DeVon Nolen, Gayle Prest, Hashep Seka, Jesus Perez, Katie Lampi, Kristine Igo, Patty Bowler, Rhys Williams, Russ Henry, Zoe Hollomon

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Vish Vasani (Minneapolis Health Department), Robin Garwood (Aide to Council Member Gordon), Casey Dziejewczynski (Minneapolis Community Planning & Economic Development Department), Donald Warneke, Molly Gaeckle, Karl Hakanson, Peggy Clark, Brian Noy

Absent: Cam Gordon, Erick Garcia Luna, Jillia Pessenda Bovino, Omari Chatman, Pakou Hang, Sammie Ardito Rivera

Optional 4:30-4:50pm educational session: Open Arms gave an informative overview of their organization and their work. They are the only nonprofit organization in Minnesota that cooks and delivers free meals specifically tailored to meet the nutrition needs of individuals living with cancer, HIV/AIDS, MS, and ALS. They also work internationally with communities in sub-Saharan Africa, providing food and technical assistance for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

1. **Meeting called to order.** Russ Henry, co-chair, called the meeting to order and guests were given an opportunity to introduce themselves.
2. **Food Council – 2015 meeting schedule poll.** Tamara had sent out a survey to all food council members re: the meeting schedule for next year, 2015. Several Food Council members prefer a later time, such as 6:00-8:00 pm or 5:30-7:30 pm. Food Council members who were present for the meeting were okay with moving the meeting to a later time and Tamara will check with members who were absent to confirm if that would be feasible for them.
3. **Open House Update.** Vish and Tamara provided updates about the Annual Open House including organizations tabling during Informational Resource Fair, the activity to encourage attendees to visit different informational tables, the program, and the food. In addition, Andrew Dahl discussed the “dot survey activity,” which will be used to gather feedback from attendees/community members. Lastly, promotion for the event was discussed (e.g. listservs, newsletters, local community journals, etc.), and Food Council members signed up to volunteer during different parts of the event (e.g. set up and clean up).
4. **Working Group/Task Force breakout session.** The following two working groups had breakout sessions: Hubs/Aggregation Facilities and Land Access.
5. **Working Group/Task Force updates.**

a. **Community Outreach and Engagement.** Zoe stated that members of this group attended various community meetings where they presented information about the Food Council and its work, and promoted the Annual Open House. Outreach has also been done in communities regarding recruitment for Term 3 of the Food Council (2015-2016). The hope is to continue such meetings to help raise awareness and reduce intimidation for some community members associated with serving on City boards/commissions/councils. The *Friends of Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council* Facebook page is up and running and next steps include thinking strategically about how to make the page active (e.g. editorial calendar can allow for steady flow of content).

b. **Organics.** Data is available on compost experiments conducted by the University of St. Thomas; to learn more, visit their table at the Annual Open House. Minneapolis will likely roll out curbside compost collection next year; the entire City will likely be reached around 2016. The Food Council can examine how to effectively do community engagement since it will be an opt-in model.

c. **Land Access.** Hashep Seka will be leading work around hoop houses and hoop house policy initiative (in partnership with parks, schools, etc.). Sammie Ardito Rivera will be working on developing an equity plan to help ensure that City owned lots are distributed/utilized equitably. This work may possibly include a research component where data is collected on how lots are used, and their economic, health, and environmental impact. Zoe Hollomon also discussed the creation of a blog page where community members can access all City-related information (e.g. ordinances, policies, etc.) and stated she received some interest from Public Health Law Center in collaborating.

d. **Food Hub/Aggregation.** Interviews have been/are being conducted with existing food hubs (~13 in the area), but speaking with about 21 people. Aaron Reser will help synthesize the information from all interviews after which the Food Council will explore next steps/their role in this work.

e. **Animals.** Work re: animals will involve more stakeholders including Animal Care and Control, though this work is not the highest priority for them right now. However, Council Member Andrew Johnson has already introduced the subject matter of chickens to the City Council; potential changes to ordinances re: animals would include removing the signature requirement for chickens, allowing chickens at market gardens and urban farms (not just backyards), decreasing fees associated with chickens, and legalizing/decriminalizing the sale and possession of goats.

f. **Staple Foods Ordinance.** The Staple Foods Ordinance passed unanimously at City Council on October 31. Zoe Hollomon discussed exploring the idea of providing technical assistance to smaller number of stores with increased investment versus more corner stores with less investment. The Health Department, who has been implementing the Minneapolis Corner Store Program will be involved in future conversations.

6. Food Council Member and Guest Updates.

- a. **MN Food Charter.** Kris Igo distributed copies of the MN Food Charter, which was released and presented during this year's Food Access Summit in October. The development of the Food

Charter was a 2-year community input process, in which the Food Council participated. The three main categories covered in the charter include food skills, food infrastructure, and food environment (e.g. food access, availability, and affordability). The Food Council will potentially discuss the MN Food Charter in more depth in early 2015 and Food Council members were asked to review the Food Charter in the meantime.

- b. **2014 Homegrown Highlights Draft.** Tamara Downs Schwei distributed a draft of 2014 Homegrown Minneapolis highlights and asked for Food Council member feedback by Tuesday, November 18.
- c. **Friends of Homegrown Food Council Page.** Kris Igo and DeVon Nolen reminded Food Council members to “Like” the page, “Join” the Annual Open House event, and invite others to “Like” the page as well.
- d. **West Broadway Pop Ups.** DeVon passed out flyers for West Broadway’s Pop Up Holiday Boutiques on Friday December 12 (4:00-8:00pm) and Saturday December 13 (10:00-6:00pm) at 1101 West Broadway, Old Credit Union Space. Pop Up Boutiques will offer affordable, unique, locally-produced gifts for purchase.
- e. **Julie Ristau’s Farmers Market work.** Beth Dooley gave an update on behalf of Julie Ristau re: her Farmers Market work. Both Julie and Beth will be presenting their work to the property management team and will explore opportunities to increase markets by light rail stops and improve the Nicollet Mall market as well. Beth Dooley made an ask to have time on the January agenda to present their work and give an update; Russ Henry stated that a good place to start would be at the Executive Committee meeting.

7. **October Meeting Minutes.** A quorum was present. Motions were made, seconded and passed unanimously approving the agenda and October meeting minutes as presented.

8. **Meeting adjourned** at 7:10pm.