

**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 8, 2014**  
**Textile Center – 3000 University Ave SE**  
**\*Optional educational session 4:30-4:50pm**  
**Meeting 5:00-7:00pm**

**Attendance:** Aaron Reser, Andrew Dahl, Cam Gordon, DeVon Nolen, Hashep Seka, , Katie Lampi, Patty Bowler, Russ Henry, Sammie Ardito Rivera, Zoe Hollomon, Beth Dooley, Gayle Prest, Pakou Hang, Rhys Williams

**Others in Attendance:** Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Vish Vasani (Minneapolis Health Department), Laurelyn Sandkamp (Sustainability Office intern), Robin Garwood (Aide to Council Member Gordon), Melissa Lesch (Minneapolis Intergovernmental Relations Department), Jesus Perez (incoming Food Council Member), Leah Prudent (Gardening Matters Green Corps Volunteer), Alissa Barthel (Punk Rawk Labs) and Julie Morgan Wellman (Punk Rawk Labs)

**Absent:** Alison Rotel, Kristine Igo, Omari Chatman, Jillia Pessenda Bovino, Bob Lind, Erick Garcia Luna

**Optional 4:30-4:50pm educational session:** Cedar Phillips of the Textile Center gave an informative overview of the Textile Center focusing on their gardens and natural dyed materials.

**1. Meeting called to order.** Russ Henry, co-chair, called the meeting to order.

**2. Presentation by Punk Rawk Labs.** Punk Rawk Labs is a Minneapolis based company which specializes in handmade nut cheeses for retailers across the country. Alissa Barthel and Julie Morgan Wellman discussed their history and business model. One challenge they are having is working with the state regarding lab tests.

**3. Minneapolis Draft Environmental Policy Legislative Agenda.** Melissa Lesch of the City's Intergovernmental Relations Department gave an overview of the City's process and the draft environmental policy agenda for the 2015 legislative session. In 2014 the City assisted in passing the pollinator bills and the legislation reducing regulatory barriers for farmers market's food demonstrations. It is expected that the upcoming Minnesota Food Charter will outline possible legislative changes but the details are not yet available. Members are encouraged to get recommended changes to Tamara by October 15.

**4. New Executive Committee Member.** Following up from discussion at the last Food Council meeting, a motion was made and seconded to add DeVon Nolen to the Food Council's Executive Committee (replacing Alison Rotel who recently resigned). Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Agenda and September Meeting Minutes.** A quorum was present. Motions were made, seconded and passed unanimously approving the agenda and September meeting minutes as presented. Jesus Perez was introduced. On October 17, the City Council is expected to confirm the Mayoral appointment of Jesus Perez to the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council for a term to expire December 21, 2015 (filling the unexpired term of Mustafa Sundiata). Jesus Perez was the recommended choice from the Food Council.

**6. Working Group Breakout Session.** The following two groups had breakout sessions: Hubs/Aggregation Facilities and Community Outreach and Engagement.

**7. Working Group and Task Force Updates.**

**a. Staple Foods Ordinance Update.** Minneapolis is working to strengthen the City's Staple Foods Ordinance to increase healthy food access and choices for all residents regardless of where they shop for groceries. Amendments to the existing ordinance are inspired by the standards adopted by the Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) program, but have been modified to reflect feedback from business owners and to allow for greater flexibility in stocking culturally appropriate foods. Stores will be required to abide by the ordinance standards if they accept any form of government assistance such as EBT and/or SNAP. The public hearing is scheduled for Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm to the Health, Environment & Community Engagement Committee. Support for the ordinance can be demonstrated by writing a letter of support to the City Council, speaking at the public hearing, talking to store owners in your neighborhood about the importance of and need for healthy food options, and connecting with your Council Member. Kristen Klingler (Minneapolis Health Department) and Robin Garwood (Aide to Council Member Gordon) are coordinating those interested in testifying.

**b. Community Outreach and Engagement.** Vish Vasani provided Food Council Open House updates. The Open House has been set for December 3 at Cedars Hall from 6-8 pm. Emails have been sent to organizations that may be interested in hosting information tables and it is being advertised on the newsletter and other lists as well. Food Council members were invited to complete the registration form at the meeting. The Annual Homegrown Heroes Awards nomination applications are available on the Homegrown Minneapolis webpage and are being advertised by the newsletter and on multiple lists. Tamara Downs Schwei mentioned that Youth Farm will be helping with food for the event, and as well that Perennial Plate will be presenting video and speaking and the rest of the program is still being finalized. Please contact Zoe Hollomon if you are interested in assisting with Food Council outreach at various meetings in next few months. Kris Igo has created a "Friends of Minneapolis Homegrown Food Council" page. This will be used to help promote the "Minne-Apple Crunch" event on Food Day, October 24.

**c. Land Access Update.** Andrew Dahl brought forward proposed changes to the Food Council's previously approved three land access policy positions. A motion was made by Gayle Prest and seconded by Zoe Hollomon to approve; this passed unanimously. The changes are underlined below:

1. Extend the lease terms for City-owned parcels to greater than one year, with a preferred minimum of five years.
2. Allow commercial growers to lease City-owned parcels, with the understanding that community gardeners would have priority access.
3. Expand the total number of City-owned lots available for urban agriculture leases or sale.

**d. Food Hub Aggregation.** The working group has finalized the baseline and feasibility survey to the various planned or existing hubs in the area. The plan is to complete the interviews by the end of the month and then to plan next steps – which could be some sort of convening if the parties are interested.

**8. Meeting adjourned.** After the meeting, there was a quick picture taken of the group eating apples that will be posted on Facebook on October 24 as part of Food Day's Minne-Apple Crunch event.

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