

**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 10, 2014**  
**Beez Kneez – 2204 Minnehaha Ave S., Minneapolis 55404**  
**\*Optional educational session 4:30-4:50pm**  
**Meeting 5:00-7:00pm**

**Attendance:** Aaron Reser, Andrew Dahl, Bob Lind, Cam Gordon, DeVon Nolen, Erick Garcia Luna, Hashep Seka, Jillia Pessenda Bovino, Katie Lampi, Patty Bowler, Russ Henry, Sammie Ardito Rivera, Zoe Hollomon

**Others in Attendance:** Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Vish Vasani (Minneapolis Health Department), Casey Dzieweczynski (CPED), Karl Hakanson (University of Minnesota Extension), Laurelyn Sandkamp (Sustainability Office intern), Karen Clark (Women's Environmental Institute), Olivia Lavecchia, Donald Warneke, Liana Schreiber

**Absent:** Alison Rotel, Beth Dooley, Gayle Prest, Kristine Igo, Omari Chatman, Pakou Hang, Rhys Williams

**Optional 4:30-4:50pm educational session:** Kristy Allen and Erin Rupp talked about the history of Beez Kneez, LLC. They work to raise awareness around the health and protection of pollinators. In addition, they keep bees, deliver raw, local honey by bicycle, and teach in-hive education classes at Twin Cities' community gardens, parks, schools, museums, and urban farms. They also operate the first ever community beekeeping center – the Beez Kneez Honey House on 2204 Minnehaha Ave S.

**1. Meeting called to order.** Russ Henry, co-chair, called the meeting to order, thanked Kristy and Erin, and allowed guests to introduce themselves.

**2. 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 based on 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 (Health Department) and Robin Garwood (Aide to Council Member Gordon) passed around sign-up sheets for food council members and guests interested in testifying at the public hearing. Robin Garwood stated that he will share specific talking points with food council members.

**3. Approval of subcommittee recommendation for new Food Council member.** Food Council Co-Chairs, Russ Henry and Omari Chatman, recruited two additional Food Council members, DeVon Nolen and Sammie Ardito Rivera, to assist in developing a recommendation for a new Food Council member to fill the vacancy left by Mustafa Sundiata's departure, a Mayorally appointed Food Council position. This committee reviewed the nearly 70 applications that were submitted last year to serve on Term 2 of the council and selected three individuals including a primary individual and two alternates to recommend that the Mayor appoint to the currently open position for the remainder of the 2014-2015 term, and

that be referenced in the event of any other members departing during the current term. Aaron Reser made a motion to approve and draft the submission of a recommendation letter to the Mayor's office, seconded by Bob Lind, and approved by the Food Council unanimously.

**4. Vote for new Executive Committee member replacement.** Alison Rotel will no longer be able to serve on the Executive Committee. DeVon Nolen volunteered to replace Alison Rotel provided the time of the meeting can be moved from 3:30-5:00pm to 12:00-1:30pm or another time that could work for everyone. The Executive Committee will discuss viability of this time change and move forward accordingly.

**5. Working Group Breakout Session.** The following two groups had breakout sessions: Land Access (working group) and Staple Foods Ordinance (task force).

**6. Working Group and Task Force updates.**

- Community Outreach and Engagement: Cedars Hall was selected as the location for this year's Annual Open House, which will be scheduled for Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Open House sub-group will begin planning for this event. The Events sub-group has created two documents: a Google doc of all of the neighborhood associations and a Google calendar of all community events where outreach/education can be provided. In addition, Zoe and Sammie convened the Twin Cities Growers of Color and their second meeting was on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Thus far, there are 20 growers who are participating including Hmong American Farmers Association and Tamales y Bicicletas. Currently, they are exploring a good point of contact that can serve as a knowledgeable resource to City/State policies, etc.
- Organics: No update.
- Land Access: Meetings have been scheduled with Council Members and the Mayor's Office, a tour is being scheduled of commercial farms with the Mayor's Office, and this working group is also looking at increasing access to City-owned lots for community gardens. This group also discussed ways in which to do outreach and gather feedback during this year's annual open house. Lastly, they discussed how best to coordinate efforts with the other organizations in the city doing land access work.
- Food hub/aggregation: Pakou Hang will work to send out an updated survey to this working group soon.
- Animals: This week, Russ Henry met with two people who are interested in pursuing policy changes as it relates to chickens. He recommended they organize a larger meeting to discuss this issue.
- Staple Foods Ordinance: already covered above in item #2.

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

- September 11 at 9:30am, the amended Farmstand Ordinance will be going forward to the Zoning and Planning Committee.
- September 25 is the Minneapolis Public Schools BBQ. Russ Henry has volunteered some of his time to table at the Homegrown Minneapolis table. If you are interested in helping Russ Henry table, please contact Tamara Downs Schwei.
- October 24 is Food Day. A small group is working to coordinate activities across the City.
- September 27-28 is the Growing Power with Will Allen 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Training. The fee is \$275 and some scholarships are being made available. Fees for attending only one day can be worked out.

- September 11, 10am is a conversation around proposed urban agriculture legislation convened by the Council on Black Minnesotans.

**8. Minutes approved and Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.** August 2014 meeting minutes were approved unanimously. Motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

DRAFT