

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, August 13, 2014
Eastside Neighborhood Services – 1700 2nd Street NE Minneapolis

5:00-7:00pm

Attendance: Andrew Dahl, Cam Gordon, DeVon Nolen, Gayle Prest, Katie Lampi, Mustafa Sundiata, Pakou Hang, Patty Bowler, Russ Henry, Sammie Ardito Rivera, Jillia Pessenda-Bovino, Kris Igo, Aaron Reser

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

Absent: Omari Chatman, Beth Dooley, Bob Lind, Erick Garcia Luna, Hashep Seka, Alison Rotel, Rhys Williams, Zoe Hollomon

Optional 4:15-4:45pm Tour: Jillia Pessenda-Bovino gave a tour of California Street Farm (2205 California Street NE) that is owned by Jillia and her husband. The Farm previously operated under a CSA model. It now sells produce to area restaurants and through a weekly farm stand.

1. Meeting called to order. Russ Henry, co-chair, called the meeting to order and thanked Jillia for the tour. Introductions of guests were made.

2. Growing Power with Will Allen 5th Annual Training Sept 27-28. Karen Clark distributed information on the upcoming Will Allen Growing Power Training sponsored by the Women's Environmental Institute and encouraged everyone to attend and/or consider sponsoring an attendee. There was also a brief conversation about the opportunity to partner better on food related legislation.

3. Working Group and Task Force Updates.

a. Land Access: Andrew Dahl gave the update. There is a meeting scheduled with Council Member Cano to discuss opportunities related to city owned lots. Recently 2 of the South Minneapolis lots available for gardening were sold to nearby property owners. There has also been interest indicated in leasing 10 of the North Minneapolis lots for gardening, but this has not been finalized.

Casey Dziejewczynski updated the group on insurance liability requirements. State statute 466.04 – Maximum liability: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=466.04>. Subsection 1 states that the "Liability of any municipality on any claim within the scope of sections 466.01 to 466.15 shall not exceed... "(7) \$1,500,000 for any number of claims arising out of a single occurrence, for claims arising on or after July 1, 2009"

According to City Attorney Office, it is standard practice for the City to require \$2M policies across its various contracts due to the fact that insurers typically don't underwrite \$1.5M policies (i.e. they are typically in \$1M increments) and we therefore set the minimum at \$2M to fully cover the City's potential liability. Some groups like Gardening Matters serve as the formal lease for other community gardens to overcome the insurance barrier.

Attachment 1

State Statute Section 9 states that the maximum liability is: “ \$1,000,000 for any number of claims arising out of a single occurrence, if the claim involves a nonprofit organization engaged in or administering outdoor recreational activities funded in whole or in part by a municipality or operating under the authorization of a permit issued by a municipality” The City attorney felt that “recreational activities” would encompass things like rec sports, but if a claim arose a community garden may not be considered a recreational activity and that a lease may not be considered a “permit”; and therefore the City would still be liable at \$1.5M not \$1M.

Pakou Hang mentioned that Minnesota Farmers Market Association and the Farmers Union also offer insurance for a fee.

b. Food Hubs: Pakou Hang gave the update. The group is gathering information through a survey of the 16 planned aggregation hubs in the area. The next steps are to conduct the survey and then facilitate a possible convening.

c. Community Outreach: DeVon Nolen gave the update. The group is gathering neighborhood and other group contact and event info. One goal is to have a “Friends of Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council” Facebook page up later this fall that will include calendar of events, etc. Kris Igo mentioned that October 24 is Food Day; the Minneapolis Public Schools is interested in aligning with City and University of Minnesota on an event and the Facebook page could be launched in coordination with this event to generate activity and then could be used to promote the open house. The Food Council also talked about options for different venues for the annual open house.

d. Animals. Council Member Andrew Johnson has introduced an ordinance amending Title 4, Chapter 70 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Animals and Fowl: Fowl, Pigeons, and Other Small Animals. It has been referred to the City Council’s Health, Environment & Community Engagement (HECE) Committee and is focused on repealing the requirement for written consent from nearby property owners for raising chickens. Patty Bowler requested that the Health Department be involved in any discussion, and so did Russ Henry.

e. Proposed Staple Foods Ordinance. There was an industry meeting in July, and there will be one more in August on the proposed ordinance changes which would be enforced through the Minneapolis Health Department. It continues to move forward.

f. Other Updates. The Homegrown Minneapolis website is being updated. If you have suggestions for changes please let Tamara know ASAP.

4. Honoring Mustafa Sundiata for his work on the Minneapolis Food Council. Food Council member and 2012-2013 Food Council Co-Chair Mustafa Sundiata has resigned effective the end of August. He and his wife will be moving to Dubai and anticipate returning to Minneapolis in 4-5 years. A card and Minnesota shaped cutting board were presented to Mustafa honoring his work and giving thanks. Members had an opportunity to express their appreciation for his work in launching the Food Council and the local food movement in general. Mustafa spoke about the amazing changes he has seen and also about his high expectations for the Food Council in the future.

Mustafa is a Mayoral Appointee. Sammie and DeVon volunteered to assist Russ, Omari and City staff in reviewing previous Food Council applications and making a recommendation for replacement.

5. Future Agenda items. Should you have future agenda items, please email co-chairs Russ Henry and Omari Chatman, Tamara Downs Schwei, and Vish Vasani. Julie Ristau will be giving an update on the Lyndale Farmers Market study that she has been working on at the September meeting. The December meeting is typically a social gathering and a suggestion is that it be held at the Birchwood Café (the owner, Tracy Singleton was a previous active Food Council member and very active in the local, healthy food movement).

6. Minutes approved and Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm. Motion was made and seconded to approve July meeting meetings, motion passed. Motion was made and seconded to adjourn with the understanding that the Food Hub and Community Outreach Committees would be meeting afterwards. Motion passed.

DRAFT