

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, July 9, 2014
Minneapolis Nutrition Center – 812 Plymouth Avenue N, Minneapolis 55411
5:00-7:00pm

Attendance: Aaron Reser, Alison Rotel, Andrew Dahl, Beth Dooley, Bob Lind, DeVon Nolen, Gayle Prest, Jillia Pessenda Bovino, Kris Igo, Omari Chatman, Rhys Williams, Russ Henry, Zoe Hollomon

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Vish Vasani (Minneapolis Health Department, Prevention Specialist), Casey Dziejewczynski (CPED), Robin Garwood (City Council Member Cam Gordon's policy aide), Karl Hakanson (University of Minnesota Extension)

Absent: Council Member Gordon, Erick Garcia Luna (Mayor's Office), Hashep Seka, Katie Lampi, Mustafa Sundiata, Pakou Hang, Patty Bowler, Sammie Ardito Rivera

Optional 4:30-5:00pm: Andrea Northup (Farm to School Coordinator) and Bertrand Weber (Director of Culinary and Nutrition Services) gave a presentation on their work to increase access to healthy food for children attending Minneapolis Public Schools.

1. **Meeting called to order.** Russ Henry, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 5:12. Introductions of guests were made. Gayle Prest made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Kris Igo. In addition, Gayle Prest made a motion to accept and approve June 2014 meeting minutes, seconded by Andrew Dahl and passed unanimously.

2. **Review Homegrown Minneapolis and Food Council protocol and resources.** Tamara Downs Schwei is serving as the new Homegrown Minneapolis/Food Policy Coordinator, which is a new full-time position allocated in the previous Mayor's budget. All City policies were followed during the hiring process, Food Council members were used to promote the job posting, and 2 different Food Council members sat on each interview panel in addition to Gayle Prest and the Deputy City Coordinator. There is no separate Homegrown Minneapolis budget; however, in 2014 there are limited funds available for food during meetings, parking reimbursements (Haaf Parking Ramp), the annual open house, and printing costs. In addition, there is a one-time \$10,000 to support Vish Vasani's position through the end of 2014.

The group also reviewed the current bylaws about communications. When speaking to the general public, a Food Council member can say they are a Food Council member but cannot speak on behalf of the Food Council unless the activity/action/etc. has been voted on by the full council. After speaking with the City's Communications Department about the social media policy, city staff should not be involved in administering social media; however, the City's Facebook page is available to share content, if appropriate and applicable. The Food Council could create a Facebook page as long as it was not administered by city staff. It can be publicized via the Homegrown Minneapolis Newsletter and staff can send content to be posted on the Facebook page as well. The Roberts Rules Cheat Sheet, provided in January 2014 during Food Council orientation, was also reviewed.

3. **Resolution of support for farmstand regulation changes.** In the city's current regulations, there are several limitations to the use of farm stands at market gardens or urban farms (e.g. temporary use permit; 15 selling days a year, which you had to indicate in advance; farm stands are allowed to only sell at the site where produce was grown). It was discovered last year that the current limitations are in

violation of the Minnesota Constitution. The following changes are being proposed by Council Member Andrew Johnson: (a) no need for a temporary use permit because a farm stand is an accessory structure; (b) allow up to 75 selling days per year; and (c) produce from multiple sites can be aggregated and sold at any one site. These changes will be discussed by the Planning Commission, and the City Council's Zoning and Planning Committee in the near future.

A motion was made by Gayle Prest and seconded by Alison Rotel for the Food Council to adopt a resolution that supports these ordinance amendments with the following additional proposed changes: (a) Extend the allowable closing time of farm stands to 8:00pm; (b) allow more than one sign and (c) allow signage throughout the growing season as opposed to only during farmstand operation. The Resolution of Support statement passed unanimously.

4. Working Groups Breakout Session. The Land Access and Community Outreach and Engagement Working Groups met.

5. Working Group and Task Force Updates.

- Organics: Robin Garwood joined Russ Henry on a compost ride-around in the City to learn about compost pickups. This group will work with Council Member Bender to discuss how to pursue policy changes to allow for organic recycling in the City.
- Land Access: This group is focusing on three main goals: (a) longer leases for the 29 North Minneapolis City-owned lots that are currently on 1-year lease terms; (b) allowing market gardens as a use on City lots; and (c) expanding the number of total City lots that are available for growing. Gayle made a motion to accept these goals as the goals of the larger Food Council, seconded by Alison. In addition, Council Member Cano is interested in championing this cause and taking on bigger issues regarding City-owned lots.
- Food hub/aggregation: There are 13-14 hub plans in the metro. Members of this group will find the appropriate point of contacts and examine the existing landscape, funding sources, and more.
- Community Outreach and Engagement: This working group self-selected into three sub-groups – planning the annual open house, planning community outreach activity(s), and creating a Friends of Homegrown Facebook page. The annual open house sub-group is meeting on July 22nd, 5pm at Common Roots and the community outreach activities group is meeting on July 29th, 6pm at the Mayday Café.
- Animals: The Bee Ordinance passed unanimously through the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee and will move forward to the full City Council. Council Member Andrew Johnson will begin to pursue a similar ordinance regarding chickens.
- Staple Foods: Industry meetings are being scheduled for late July/early August in North and South Minneapolis. Invitations to industry meetings will be sent to all individuals who have grocery store licenses. This work is being carried out with the Health Department.
- Farmers Markets: No updates at this time.

6. Food Council Member and Guest Updates

- July 15th is the All Star Game and the Mayor has announced the “best week of bragging ever” to coincide with this. There will be a national audience and reporters present; if you have ideas on what to share about Minneapolis, especially around food, please indicate it on the sheet that is being passed around the room.
- Karl Hakanson is seeking to provide some farm training and will provide updates as available.

- The West Broadway Farmers Market runs every Friday from 3-7pm during June 20 – October 17. It also hosts the community aggregation table.
- FLOW Fest Art Festival occurs in the Northside on July 25-26. Fresh Corners and Appetite for Change will be present and have a photo installation of black farmers. <http://flownorthside.org/>
- Last day to vote for Hmong American Farmers Association (HAFA) as a finalist for the 2014 Twins All Star “Fans Choose” grant program is July 10 at 4pm CST. The winner of this program will be awarded a \$500,000 grant.

7. **Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.** Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by DeVon Nolen, seconded by Zoe Hollomon, and passed unanimously.

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