

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, April 9, 2014
Hope Community Center –611 E. Lake Street, Minneapolis
5:00-7:00pm

Attendance: Patty Bowler, Omari Chatman, Andrew Dahl, Pakou Hang, Russ Henry , Zoe Hollomon, Kristine Igo, Gayle Prest, Aaron Reser, Alison Rotel, Hashep Seka, Mustafa Sundiata, Rhys Williams, Beth Dooley, Bob Lind

Others in Attendance: Jane Shey (Homegrown Minneapolis Consultant), Vish Vasani (Prevention Specialist), Casey Dzieweczynski (CPED), Karl Hakanson (Minnesota Extension), Robin Garwood (City Council Member Cam Gordon’s policy aide), Tamara Downs Schwei

Absent: Cam Gordon, Katie Lampi, DeVon Nolen, Sammie Ardito Rivera, Jillia Pessenda Bovino

1. **Meeting called to order.** Omari Chatman, co-chair, called the meeting to order. Introductions were made. Approval of meeting agenda was moved, seconded and passed. Alison Rotel had a minor change to the March minutes regarding the Executive Committee meeting time then moved to approve, it was seconded by Patty Bowler and passed.

2. **Staple Foods Ordinance Letter of Support.** Vish reviewed the draft, time-sensitive letter in support of a federal Center for Disease Control grant application to evaluate the impact of the Minneapolis Staple Foods Ordinance on small food stores in the city. Alison Rotel made a motion to send the letter from the Food Council in support which was seconded by Pakou Hang and passed unanimously as presented.

3. **Met Council Thrive 2040 comments.** Jane Shey provided an overview of the Met Council’s draft Thrive 2040 Plan which is intended to serve as a comprehensive guide to regional development. The policies that will be adopted will be influential on issues including; transportation, economic development, housing, wastewater, and water supply planning. Thrive MSP 2040 will have direct influence on Met Council policy plans that will follow. It includes a limited amount of language about food and wellness. Jane encouraged members to submit comments by the April 28 deadline. The City will be submitting comments, but because of the short timeframe it is not feasible for the Food Council to submit comments. Jane will be sending more details after the meeting on Thrive 2040 and steps for submitting comments.

4. **Continuation of Planning Discussion.** Kris Igo and Vish Vasani reviewed the 2014-2015 strategic planning work from the last meeting and the comments that were submitted after that meeting. SMART was also reviewed. The activities fell into 8 major categories. It was decided that Community Outreach and Engagement category was important to incorporate throughout the remaining work. The categories were reviewed, possible action items were listed. The Council members then individually listed their names for those groups that they wanted to participate. This is an ambitious agenda and it was suggested that it be reviewed in six months. Karl Hakanson offered up University of Minnesota Extension Service as a resource. See below for final working groups:

- Assess feasibility of Homegrown Minneapolis Hub
- Identify process for acquiring City of Minneapolis land
- Animal Ordinances, specifically as they relate to bees, chickens, and goats
- Organics/composting

- Community Outreach and Engagement

The Mobile Grocers work was identified as a task force, as it is more short term. This task force will transition into the Staple Foods Ordinance task force later this year.

5. Food Council Member Updates.

- Patty Bowler mentioned that this is Public Health Week and that Thursday there will be a public event in the City Hall rotunda.
- Zoe Holloman mentioned that there is a Northside Fresh Meeting on Thursday from 2:00-5:00 and it will include a presentation on the vacant lot study.
- Zoe also mentioned that Appetite for Change is looking for an assistant manager.
- Jane Shey mentioned that the Seward Neighborhood Sustainability Fair is on April 26 and passed around a sign-up sheet for those willing to help table.
- Alison Rotel mentioned that a Humphrey graduate student was looking for information related to Farm 2 School etc. and to see Alison if you had information to share.
- Alison also mentioned that the annual Friends School Plant Sale is held Mother's Day weekend at the Minnesota State Fair Grandstand with 2,300 varieties of plants. This year's sale dates are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 9, 10, and 11, 2014.
- Beth Dooley mentioned the Dandelion Honey Pastry Chef Challenge will be on Thursday April 10th at Nicollet Island Pavilion! It will feature tasty treats, live music, and great views to benefit those wonderful insect ladies who need our help, the bees.
- Rys Williams mentioned that food prices are steeply climbing due in part to the California drought.

6. Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.