



**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council
Wednesday, Dec 9th, 2015
5:30-6:30 pm Food Council meeting
Gandhi Mahal Restaurant**

Attendance: Alison Babb, Ginger Cannon, Patty Bowler, Russ Henry, Zoe Hollomon, Jillia Pessenda, Andrew Dahl, Bob Lind, Gayle Prest, Aaron Reser

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Sam Johnson (Homegrown Minneapolis Intern), Donald Warneke, Karl Hakanson, Journey Gosselin, Allison Meyer, Ruhel Islam, Miguel Goebel, Magdalena Kaluza, Rochelle James, Xiongpaoo Lee

Absent: Roe Reinberg, Kris Igo, DeVon Nolen, Jesus Perez, Erick Garcia Luna, Omari Chatman, Cam Gordon, Pakou Hang, Rhys Williams, Andrea Northup, Beth Dooley

1. Meeting Agenda and Minutes: Approval of the minutes for both October and November meetings were deferred until quorum is reached.

2. Right to Know MN (Allison Meyer) Allison Meyer is a board member for the Right to Know MN organization and is also an incoming Food Council member. She spoke in place of Tracy Singleton. Allison described Right to Know MN as a group of concerned citizens pushing for the labelling of genetically modified ingredients at the state level. Other states such as Vermont have successfully passed labelling legislation. However, state efforts to label GMOs are currently being undermined at the Federal level. There is potentially a vote Friday Dec. 11th on federal legislation that could pre-emptively prohibit states from labelling GMOs. Allison came to ask for the Food Council's support for labelling GMOs in Minnesota and against federal pre-emption. Gayle Prest made a motion and Alison Babb seconded the motion in support of recommending the addition of a statement to the City's federal legislative agenda in support of GMO labelling and opposed to federal pre-emption. All present approved. None were against. Due to quorum not met, the issue will be revisited at a future meeting.

3. Open House discussion and debrief: Sam Johnson presented dot survey results from the Open House and results from a survey of organizations participating in the resource fair. 18 of 31 tabling organizations responded to the resource fair survey and about 63 community members participated in the dot survey. Resource fair participation has increased from 10 to 17 to 31 organizations over the past two years. There was a question regarding process for determining participating organizations. Tamara and Russ responded that invitations to table were publicized in the Homegrown Newsletter and local list serves along with emails inviting organizations that represent aspects of the local food scene in Minneapolis. The survey results showed that organizations were very satisfied with their experience at the event. They felt the event was worthwhile and would be interested in returning in coming years. Highlights of feedback on the resource fair included:

- Interaction with attendees and Information received prior to event received the most positive feedback.
 - o Interactions with guests increased. An average of 29 interactions per table.
- Organizations brought people to the event (58 associates over 37 from 2014).
- 'Location of booth' and 'Booth space' had poorer ratings but still positive overall.
- With the resource fair occurring in two places at the event, some tables' locations had higher traffic volume than others.



Feedback on the overall program included:

- MPS Culinary and Nutrition Services Catering and taste tests received very positive reviews.
- Homegrown's management of the event and the facility also received very high reviews.
- The program was also reviewed highly but glitches such as poor sound system, the blue screen staying on, and changing lights were noticed.

Overall, tabling organizations had very positive feedback and 18/18 survey respondents said they would like to return.

The dot survey activity was also discussed. This activity is used to get community feedback regarding food system priorities. The activity had a slight decrease in participation from 2014. 63 people were estimated to have participated as opposed to 78 participants in 2014. New Priorities received the most dots. During discussion, Food Council members who facilitated the dot survey recommended the activity change to encourage more participation. They said the activity was too wordy and that people were less inclined to participate because they encountered the dot survey after the resource fair. Some suggested the boards be placed closer to entrances and guests be incentivized to participate through stickers or other small tokens.

Some of the most popular topics/suggestions on the dot survey were:

- 1) **Building partnerships in underrepresented communities**
- 2) **Making it legal to keep goats in the City**
- 3) **Continuing work on composting policies**
- 4) **Expanding total number of lots available for sale and extending leases remain a priority**
- 5) **Grocery stores/healthy food access**

Other feedback on the Open House was that the program is still a bit too long and that Homegrown Heroes should be moved to a more prominent spot in the program order. Ginger suggested extending an official invitation to MPRB Commissioners. Other members expressed that award winners need to have more direction on what is expected of them at the event so they can better prepare. Lastly, there was comment that language services should be available for those of whom English is not a native language.

4. Honor outgoing and greet incoming Food Council members: Gratitude and recognition was expressed to the outgoing food council members for all their work. Alison Babb, Aaron Reser, and Bob Lind, present at the meeting, were recognized for their efforts and dedication to the food council. The other outgoing members were also recognized for their service.

5. Food Council Member and Guest Updates

- Zoe Hollomon invited everyone to attend the Soul Food Monologues happening after Feed the Roots – A Hope Community Listening Report on Dec. 11th at 5:30 in the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.
- MN State Urban Agriculture Survey: Donald Warneke reminded everyone that the MN Dept. of Agriculture will be having a Listening session at Hope Community from 10am-12pm on Monday 12/14/15. Their online Survey is open until Dec. 31st 2015. Contact Callie Recknagel for more information: 651-201-6260, callie.recknagel@state.mn.us.



- Gardening Matters - Community Garden Coordinator Brown Bag: Magdalena invited all present to spread the word that she is hosting a brown bag on Monday the 14th from 12 pm to 1:30 pm at the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches on Lake Street.
- Russ reported that there are several upcoming fundraisers for city council members: Andrew Johnson, Cam Gordon, and Lisa Bender have been supportive of the efforts of the Food Council and should be recognized for their ongoing support.
- Ruhel announced that the Gandhi Mahal restaurant is hosting a multi-cultural elder session on Dec 27th from 5-6pm. Also, the restaurant is hosting a New Year Party on Dec 31st. The event will have a diverse pot-luck of local foods.

Next Food Council Meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2015, 5:30-7:30 pm at Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Headquarters, Minnehaha Room, 2117 West River Road, Minneapolis

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm. Social time and celebration followed.