



**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council  
Wednesday, November 4, 2015  
5:00-5:25 pm Pre-meeting optional presentation  
5:30-7:30 pm Food Council meeting  
Land Stewardship Project (LSP)  
821 E 35th St, Minneapolis, in the large downstairs conference room**

**Attendance:** Alison Babb, Erick Garcia Luna, Patty Bowler, Robin Garwood, Russ Henry, Kris Igo, DeVon Nolen, Andrea Northup, Jesus Perez, Jillia Pessenda, Roe Reinberg, Rhys Williams

**Others in Attendance:** Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Sam Johnson (Homegrown Mpls Intern), Dylan Bradford Kesti (LSP), Adam Kay (Brightside Produce), Adam Pruitt (Brightside Produce), Demetria (Dede) Fuller (Brightside Produce), Tommy Ostrom (Brightside Produce), Mackenzie Burke (Brightside Produce), Parker Hewes (Brightside Produce), David Hodge (Brightside Produce), Janice Barbee, Madison Tomony, Peggy Clark, Nic Jelinski, Caroline Devany, Andrea Eger

**Absent:** Ginger Cannon, Omari Chatman, Cam Gordon, Pakou Hang, Zoe Hollomon, Beth Dooley, Andrew Dahl, Bob Lind, Aaron Reser, Gayle Prest, Jesus Perez

**Pre-meeting presentation:** Dylan Bradford Kesti gave an overview of LSP's history and current activities including partnership with Hope Community on food access work.

**1. Meeting Agenda and Minutes:** Approval of the minutes and agenda were deferred until quorum reached.

**2. Brightside Presentation (Adam Kay, UST students and young entrepreneurs)** The students and young entrepreneurs of Brightside produce introduced themselves and gave a brief presentation about their business model and future endeavors. Brightside delivers fresh produce to 15 stores in North and South Minneapolis every Saturday. Their produce includes 10-15 common fruits and vegetables and a few local items in-season. The stores have liberty to pick what they want and leftovers go to a CSA group around the University of St. Thomas (UST). Brightside also began staffing a farm-stand one day a week outside a corner store in North Minneapolis. The group originated in part as a solution for corner stores to comply with the updated Staple Food Ordinance in Minneapolis. Demand continues to increase and their only current barrier is the need for another delivery truck and licensed facility for light processing.

**3. Open House Updates.** Flyers are available in paper and electronic formats for Food Council Members to publicize the Open House event. 24 organizations are signed up to table at the event. Applications are still being accepted over the next week. Please spread the word.

**Homegrown Heroes:** 18 nominations were received. A Food Council subcommittee will be deciding the winners. All nominees will be honored on a slide-show during the resource fair at the Open House and also with table tents at each table. Approximately three award winners will be selected and recognized. Devon Nolen asked to reconfirm that Food Council members not nominate themselves or other Food Council members or their organizations for the award.



**Day-of Logistics:** A ‘what is in your salad’ activity will be used again to encourage guests to visit each info table. People who complete the activity will have their card entered in a raffle. Beth will donate cookbooks for the raffle. The program will include remarks by CM Blong Yang, Commissioner Frederickson of MN Department Agriculture, and a presentation by Bertrand Weber and Andrea Northup of the Minneapolis Public Schools. Food Council Co-chair Russ Henry will emcee the event and present information about the Food Council. Fiddles on Fire (a group of MPS students) will be playing during the reception.

Tamara asked for recommendations on anything missing in a draft of Homegrown Highlights. None were suggested.

Food council members were asked to sign up for event tasks and to continue promoting the event.

**4. Land Access Update.** Robin Garwood notified the Food Council that the CPED staff recommendations for land access policy changes will go before the Community Development and Regulatory Services committee of the Minneapolis City Council on November 10. There are many good things in the changes but there are opportunities for the recommended policies to be improved. Discussion on proposed changes to the City’s recommended new policies around the use of City-owned parcels for growing food ensued. The Food Council discussed and subsequently unanimously voted to support the proposed policies with the following suggested improvements:

- **Eliminate the \$250 security deposit for community and market gardens**
- **Reduce the proposed lease fee of 5% of the land’s fair market value, especially for those lots that are being leased on a year-to-year basis.**
- **Reduce the required insurance for market gardens from \$2 million to \$1 million.**
- **Prohibit the use of synthetic pesticides on all City-owned lots being leased for food growing.**

If the proposed policy changes are approved the City will distribute a press release. CPED staff will be at the open house to answer questions about the potential new policy changes.

**5. Food Council Empowerment and Engagement.** Led by facilitator Janice Barbee, the group continued work on understanding and fostering equity in the Food council. Janice distributed the results of a Food Council survey and summary of the discussion at the last meeting. Some of the ideas about equity at the last meeting included: shared power, respect, and ownership in the community. Sharing resources and power are primary ways to express equity. Allowing the focus and paradigm of the group to be changed by all members is another. Equity can manifest at other Homegrown Minneapolis functions outside of Food Council meetings. Activity on rural/suburban/urban divide and short video clip presented and discussed.

**6. Working Group Break-Outs and updates.** Due to time constraints this was removed from agenda.

**7. Member and guest updates.**

- Nick Jelinski: Assistant Professor, Department of Soil, Water and Climate at University of MN. He has begun an urban soils research program which is focused on understanding the distribution of Lead, Cadmium and Arsenic both spatially and with depth in the urban soils of Minneapolis-St. Paul. He has been conducting community engagement events throughout the area and sees a real



need to build a predictive model of soil lead distributions for home and property owners which would also eventually be available as a phone app.

- Meeting space for December Food Council Meeting still pending. Ideas for Restaurants seating 20-30 or free other meeting spaces should be sent to Tamara.
- Roe Reinberg announced that an ordinance change related to food trucks and special event permits is pending consideration. A public hearing for these changes will be scheduled shortly.

**8. Meeting adjourned** at 7:30 p.m.