



**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 5:30-7:30 pm meeting
Gardening Matters
Sabathani Center, 310 38th Street, Minneapolis**

Attendance: Aaron Reser, DeVon Nolen, Gayle Prest, Kris Igo, Patty Bowler, Russ Henry, Rhys Williams, Zoe Hollomon, Andrea Northup, Beth Dooley, Andrew Dahl, Bob Lind, Roe Reinberg, Stephanie Zawistowski (representing Mayor Hodge's Office)

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Sam Johnson (Homegrown Intern), Donald Warneke, Megan O'Hara, Karl Hakanson, Janice Barbee, Kelly Muellman (Sustainability Program Coordinator), Dan Huff (Minneapolis Health Department), Nadja Berneche, Karen Weldon, Evelina Knodel, Shane Stennes, Alyssa Lundberg, Jan Morlock, Scott Pampuch, Kate Seybold, Jackie Billhymer, Heidi Eger

Absent: Jesus Perez, Omari Chatman, Alison Babb, Cam Gordon, Ginger Cannon, Jillia Pessenda, Pakou Hang

Pre-meeting presentation: Nadja Berneche gave an overview of Gardening Matter's history and current activities focusing on community gardens, land access, education and resource hubs.

1. Introductions of Food Council Members and guests. Co-Chair Russ Henry called the meeting to order. The members and visitors each made introductions. Dan Huff introduced Roe Reinberg who will be replacing Katie Lampi as the City of Minneapolis Environmental Services' staff representative on the Food Council, as Katie recently moved to San Diego.

2. Meeting Agenda and Minutes: The approval of September meeting minutes and the October agenda was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

3. Real Food Challenge and University of Minnesota. Karen Weldon and Evelina Knodel gave a brief presentation on Real Food Challenge and requested that the Food Council endorse the campaign in encouraging adoptions by the University of Minnesota. While progress is great, they would like to see performance goals in order to make the University's commitment to local, fair, humane and ecologically sound food more meaningful. Shane Stennes, Director of Sustainability at the University of Minnesota and Alyssa Lundberg, Sustainability Coordinator for Aramark at the University of Minnesota spoke briefly about the work the University has been doing related to elements of the Food Challenge and also outlined some of their concerns including other national certifications, waiting to see results for upcoming Spring 2016 pilot study, and concerns about performance metrics. (Aramark provides retail, catering and dining services throughout the campus.) Zoe Hollomon opened up the Food Council conversation by asking for support for the draft letter that was sent out with the agenda. Don Warneke felt that the Real Food Challenge didn't limit the University from participating in other programs. Patty Bowler suggested that next year the Food Council could look at work related to local healthy food and institutions via a task force since she doesn't understand all the options, but does like some sort of metric approach. Andrea Northup wondered if the University had a perspective on what is attainable and what metrics would be helpful. Scott Pampuch with Aramark and Shane Stennes talked about the



University's metrics via ASHEE Sustainability Track Assessment and Rating System (STARS) along with the issue with the Real Food Calculator not allowing for points for food harvested from Cornucopia – the University's student farm - because of living wage issue. Rhys Williams expressed his desire to work with the University in a partnership to get more local, healthy food in their system. Aaron felt she needed more info. Chair Russ Henry called the vote on the motion to approve the letter in support of the Real Food Challenge. Zoe Hollomon and Russ Henry voted in favor with others voting against. Motion failed. Russ Henry thanked everyone for attending and participating. Zoe Hollomon is willing to examine the issues raised via a task force. This possibility can be considered during Food Council planning in early 2016.

4. Union of Concerned Scientist (UCS) Gathering in Washington DC Update (DeVon Nolen).

DeVon was invited to participate in a recent two-day intense convening with delegates from five cities (Minneapolis, Louisville, Baltimore, Memphis and Oakland) in Washington D.C. The trip developed new/stronger relationships, shared innovations among the group and provided opportunities to influence federal policy.

5. Food Council Empowerment and Engagement. Led by facilitator Janice Barbee, the group reviewed the six draft goals for the multiple meetings exercise, definitions of equity, and levers for change. Two small group discussions were held asking 1) What does equity mean to you and what would equity look like in the work of the Food Council? 2) What barriers do you see for achieving equity in the work of the Food Council and what strategies/opportunities do you see for achieving equity in the work of the Food Council? Main points were shared with the entire group and recorded. Next steps are to engage in another discussion at November Food Council meeting and then as part of Food Council orientation in January or February.

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

7. Member and guest updates.

- People are encouraged to submit and promote the Homegrown Heroes applications and table registration for the Resource Fair at the December 3rd Open House, due by Nov 2.
- The City's new proposed policies for leasing vacant land for community gardens, market gardens and urban farms will likely be coming to the City Council for consideration in November. There will be an open house scheduled shortly to gather community input.
- Minneapolis Animal Care and Control Department (MACC) is updating its animal ordinance and has met with members of the Food Council's Animal Committee. There are three public meetings coming up to get community feedback.
- Good Acre's grand opening is October 30, from 1:00-6:00
- Northside Treasures Bazaar (Flea Market Extraordinaire) is Oct 17 from 12:00-4:00 at Lowry Ave and Penn Ave North.
- Barebones Productions is holding its incredible late October puppet theater in Saint Paul.
- On November 12 there is an Urban Ag Symposium at University of Minnesota's Urban Research Outreach Engagement Center (UROC) in North Minneapolis.

10. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.