



**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes  
Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 5:30-7:30 pm meeting  
FOOD BUILDING  
1401 Marshall St NE, Minneapolis**

**Attendance:** Aaron Reser, Alison Babb, Bob Lind, Cam Gordon, DeVon Nolen, Gayle Prest, Katie Lampi, Kris Igo, Patty Bowler, Russ Henry, Rhys Williams, Zoe Hollomon, Andrea Northup, Beth Dooley, Ginger Cannon, Jillia Pessenda, Pakou Hang

**Others in Attendance:** Tyrone Folliard-Olson, Kieran Folliard, Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Donald Warneke, Robin Garwood, Karen Clark, Megan O'Hara, Gene Ranieri, Michael Chaney, Jack Byers, Bob Patton, Paul Hugunin, Patsy Parker, Caroline Devaney, Ron McConico, Candy Bakion, Lizzi Whittlesey, Karl Hakanson, Ari Baum-Hommes, Grace Borg, Katherine Fines, Linda Rogers, Jason Gottfried, Valentine Cadieux, Catherine Fleming, Janice Barbee, Karen Wells

**Absent:** Andrew Dahl, Jesus Perez, Erick Garcia Luna, Omari Chatman

**Pre-meeting presentation:** Tyrone Folliard-Olson and Kieran Folliard of FOOD BUILDING gave an overview of its history and current activities, including Red Table Meat Company and Lone Grazer Creamery.

**1. Introductions of Food Council Members and guests.** Russ Henry, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order. The members and visitors each made introductions. An ice breaker followed on what is the most interesting food you've tasted.

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

**4. Minneapolis Comprehensive Planning Process.** Jack Byers, Manager of the City's Long Range Planning Division within the Community Planning and Economic Development Department, gave a presentation on the City's process for the development of the City's next Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan), which is due to the Met Council in late 2018. Cities, townships and counties in the seven-county area prepare comprehensive plans as required by the Metropolitan Land Planning Act. The process will include a Steering Committee, Core Staff Team, Technical Committee and a number of Task Force (subject-matter specific) groups that will be the content generators – topics not yet determined. Jack shared a project timeline that showed initial background activities are already in process, and a formal kickoff starting Quarter 1, 2016. The Comp Plan will be a main topic at spring 2016 Community Connections Conference (Neighborhood and Community Relations Dept's annual neighborhood convening). Jack also talked about the issues in thinking about how to accommodate 10-20% population growth in approximately 25 square miles while balancing livability and individual preferences for density versus personal/cultural space, urban ag as well as supporting industrial uses and jobs.



**5. Food Council Recommendation on Comprehensive Planning Process.** After much discussion and friendly amendments, Patty Bowler made a motion, which was seconded that the Food Council recommend that the Comprehensive Plan process include: 1) issues related to food in as many task forces as possible, 2) consider including a task force devoted to food as well, and 3) that the Food Council be kept informed throughout the process. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Discussion on MN Urban Ag and Food Hub legislation.** Paul Hugunin with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) reviewed the recently passed state legislation regarding food hubs and urban agriculture, answered questions and solicited feedback, and reviewed MDA resources.

MDA is required to issue a report related to food hubs and is in the process of issuing an RFP to hire a consultant. There is not a definition of a food hub in the legislation. About \$200,000 is expected to be available for food hubs in the next year.

The urban ag legislation requires MDA to convene stakeholders and report to the state legislature with a plan to promote urban ag. While there is a definition in the legislation, people are free to suggest edits. People gave their comments - sometime conflicting - on what they thought. Comments included whether to include in the definition of urban ag things such as bees, fish, mushrooms, flowers, and/or plants used for clothing/dyes and medicinal uses. Another question/comment was whether to specify in the definition if the plant was for consumption or sale or both and how to include the positive values to the community.

Pakou Hang talked about the conundrum for small Hmong farmers who tend to live in the city but farm in the rural area. As a result they cannot apply for many existing MDA grants and possibly the new urban ag grants. Karen Clark talked about the importance of setting jurisdictional limits such as a city or county since this would be important for possible future incentives and land permanency.

Homegrown Minneapolis and Food Council website and official documents have a variety of urban ag statements and definitions including “The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council envisions a vibrant local food system that enhances the health of all residents, protects the earth, increases economic vitality, expands social connectedness, and improves food security” and “improving the growth, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste management of healthy, locally grown foods within the city.”

If persons are interested in commenting they should contact Paul at (651) 201-6510 or [paul.hugunin@state.mn.us](mailto:paul.hugunin@state.mn.us)

Ron McConico talked about his organization, Youth Resources, which exists for the advancement of urban youth and organizations that serve them to reduce illiteracy, poverty, crime and fatherlessness including through aquaponics and growing vegetables.

**7. Food Council Empowerment and Engagement.** Led by Devon Nolen, Russ Henry and Tamara Downs Schwei, the Executive Committee is delving into opportunities/training for the Food Council to build greater member empowerment. With limited time remaining at the meeting, the group gave feedback on the draft goals (attachment 3) in order to better develop a contract to hire a consultant to



help the Food Council with this work. The Executive Committee will continue to work on and bring back to full Food Council.

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

**9. Member and guest updates.**

- 2015 Growing Food and Justice for All Gathering H.E.A.L Our Food System September 25-27, 2015 in Chicago.
- Community Garden Day: September 19- Check Gardening Matters website for details.
- Minneapolis Public Schools Farm to School Barbecue: September 24 – Food Council will have a table, please volunteer.
- Food Council member applications accepted through October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Jason Gottfried is interested in developing a cooperative greenhouse. Please see him after the meeting for more info.
- 6th Annual WEI/Growing Power Regional Training Weekend: Saturday and Sunday ~ October 3rd & 4th, 2015.
- The 2015 Food Sovereignty Summit will be held October 26-29, 2015 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. This is a forum for sharing and collaboration to build healthy food systems within First Nation communities.
- Please sign up to volunteer to help with Food Council member recruitment.
- Donald Warneke talked about the benefits if SNAP/EBT use was allowed for food for inmates. If anyone is interested in working to change these rules so that prison inmates may receive health and nutrition education prior to their release as well as providing a resource for the prisons to provide healthier food, he is organizing a meeting. Please contact Donald directly.
- On Saturday, Sept 12 celebrate with the Hmong American Farmers Association's Farm Open House in Coates.
- Pollinator resolution focused on city property chemical usage and pollinator plantings passed the Minneapolis City Council and was co-authored by Food Council member Cam Gordon.
- In late October, CPED is expected to bring to the City Council recommendations for revised guidelines for leasing and selling vacant lots for agricultural purposes.
- Come join in an event at Finnegans (non-profit brewery) to help TCALT (Twin Cities Agricultural Land Trust) on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.
- West Broadway Farmers Market will be celebrating its fifth year on Sept 25.

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