

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, August 12, 2015, 5:30-7:30 pm meeting
Appetite for Change
1200 West Broadway Ave, Minneapolis

Attendance: Andrew Dahl, Aaron Reser, Alison Babb, Bob Lind, Cam Gordon, DeVon Nolen, Erick Garcia Luna, Gayle Prest, Katie Lampi, Kris Igo, Omari Chatman, Patty Bowler, Russ Henry, Rhys Williams, Zoe Hollomon

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Laura Roberts (MPRB), Terri Hay (MPRB), Donald Warneke (U of MN Extension), Bertrand Weber (Minneapolis Public Schools), Karlie Cole, Magdalena Kaluza, Ieshia Dabbs, Mitch Grace, Jared Staley, Lizzi Whittlesey, Princess Titus, Michelle Horovitz, Caroline Devaney

Absent: Andrea Northrup, Beth Dooley, Ginger Cannon, Jesus Perez, Jillia Pessenda, Pakou Hang

Pre-meeting presentation: Michelle Horovitz of Appetite for Change gave an overview of its history and current activities, including Kindred Kitchen and Breaking Bread Cafe. She also introduced some of their youth members and encouraged them to consider applying to the Food Council.

1. Introductions of Food Council Members and guests. Russ Henry, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order. The members and visitors each made introductions.

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

3. SNAP/EBT Funding for Inmates presentation. Donald Warneke talked about the benefits if SNAP/EBT use was allowed for food for inmates and answered questions. 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, please contact Donald directly.

4. Proposed Farmers Market Project/Grant. Tamara Downs Schwei and Devon Nolen talked about a draft SNAP-Ed funding proposal they are working on in support of farmers markets in Minneapolis, with the West Broadway Business Association acting as the applicant agency.

5. Food Council Empowerment and Engagement. Led by Devon Nolen, the Executive Committee is delving into opportunities/training for the Food Council to build greater member empowerment, taking into consideration member suggestions from previous discussions, timing (during or addition to Food Council meetings) and what can

be accomplished in 2015 and in 2016 as part of orientation), resources and possible consultants.

6. Update on Proposed Health Department SHIP Work Plan. Patty Bowler invited the group to attend an input session on the Minneapolis Health Department's Healthy Living work - including the application for the department's upcoming State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant which has historically provided funding for healthy food initiatives. The session is scheduled for August 20, 9:30-11:30 at the North Regional Library. The Minneapolis Health Department conducted a strategic planning process in 2015 to establish a 5-year year strategic plan for its obesity and tobacco prevention activities. After talking with dozens of other community stakeholders, City departments and current partners, they want input on the findings and the implications for the Health Department's roles, projects and partnerships for reducing chronic disease in Minneapolis. They are applying for the next round of SHIP 4 funding from the MN Department of Health and would like assistance in designing two projects: 1) Improving access to physical activity opportunities and 2) Supporting community-driven ideas for achieving healthy weight and tobacco-free living.

7. Presentation on US Conference of Mayors (USCM) Food Policy Advisors and Food Policy Task Force Meeting. Tamara Downs Schwei gave an update on her recent participation in a meeting with other cities' food policy staff in San Francisco. It was helpful in sharing food system learnings with peers about many of the same issues our City and Food Council are addressing. Tamara also shared the resolutions that were promoted by Mayoral Food Policy Task Force members and approved by the USCM.

8. Real Food Challenge Letter to University of Minnesota. At the last Food Council meeting, City Council Member Cam Gordon introduced the "Real Food Challenge" a national organization of universities and students organizing to shift campus dining budgets in support of "Real Food." Real Food Challenge representatives at the University of Minnesota (U of MN) invited the Food Council to consider submitting a letter of support for their efforts. U of MN uses Aramark as the food service provider and the goal is 20% local food. The U of MN Morris campus has made positive changes. Some issues for uniform asks across the country include different universities having different goals, which makes it harder for a food service provider. The contract at U of MN is based out of the business office – where low cost is often the primary driver in contract awards. Kris Igo quickly overviewed other similar initiatives such as IATP's Good Food Pledge. A draft letter to the University of Minnesota will be discussed at next Food Council meeting.

9. Farewell to Sammie Ardito Rivera, Hashep Seka and Laurelyn Sandkamp. Thank you cards for outgoing members Sammie Ardito Rivera and Hashep Seka were distributed and their contributions to the Food Council recognized. It is not expected that these Food Council seats will be filled since the current term ends in a few months. Sustainability Office intern Laurelyn Sandkamp has also completed her internship term.

She provided substantial support for the Homegrown Minneapolis website, e-newsletter and website maps, including recent food access mapping.

10. Working Group Break Outs. The Animals Working Group and Community Outreach and Engagement Working Group met for about 30 minutes.

11. Working group & task force updates.

- Land Access. Andrew Dahl mentioned that the CPED report to the City Council's CDRS committee regarding policy recommendations related to the land access goals for community gardens and commercial agriculture will likely be moving through City Council later this fall.
- Community Outreach and Engagement. Food Council applications for 2016-2017 term are open until October 2.
- Organics. The City is exploring revision to their rules in light of new state composting rules. Also the residential organics recycling program will soon be rolling out.
- Animals. The pollinator-friendly resolution focusing on city owned buildings is passing through City Council. Animal Care and Control also met with working group representatives to discuss draft changes to the fowl ordinance. One issue they are looking at is potential fair treatment evaluations for fowl on urban farms.
- Hubs/Aggregation. No major changes.
- MPRB Urban Ag Implementation Team. This team has been put on hiatus due to other current MPRB priorities.

12. Member and guest updates.

- Gardening Matters is looking for volunteers to help with re-envisioning local food resource hubs.
- Devon Nolen mentioned that through West Broadway's work with Union of Concerned Scientists there may be an opportunity for her to go to the White House.
- Donald Warneke mentioned that a land access survey may be coming soon from the MFAN land access group.
- Cam Gordon requested feedback on the City's proposed new Community Indicators.

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

Next Food Council Meeting:

Wednesday, September 9, 2015 from 5:30-7:30 pm at FOOD BUILDING in Northeast Minneapolis.