



Homegrown Minneapolis

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 5:30-7:30 pm meeting
Waite House, Phillips Community Center
2323 11th Ave S Minneapolis, MN

Attendance: Patty Bowler, Russ Henry, Bob Lind, DeVon Nolen, Omari Chatman, Andrea Northup, Beth Dooley, Gayle Prest, Rhys Williams, Jillia Pessenda, Erick Garcia Luna, Pakou Hang, Aaron Reser, Cam Gordon, Zoe Hollomon, Ginger Cannon

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Robin Garwood, Karl Hakanson, Sasha Bergman, Gene Ranieri, Ari Baum-Hommes, Dylan Bradford-Kesti, LaCora Bradford Kesti, Magdalena Kaluza, Donald Warneke, Casey Dzieweczynski, Martin Brown, Rosa Tock, Sarah Johnson

Absent: Alison Babb, Andrew Dahl, Hashep Seka, Jesus Perez, Katie Lampi, Kris Igo Sammie Ardito Rivera

Pre-meeting presentation: Farmer Martin Brown of Waite House gave a tour of their facility and activities.

1. Introductions of Food Council Members and guests. Russ Henry, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order. The members and visitors each made introductions and talked about one of their favorite places to spend time in the summer.

2. Meeting Agenda and minutes. Approval of June meeting minutes and the July agenda as modified was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

3. 2016 Legislative Agenda Policy Positions. Sasha Bergman and Gene Ranieri of the City's Intergovernmental Relations Department gave an overview of their function in crafting the City's federal and state legislative agenda. The 2016 Minnesota Legislature convenes in March and ends in May. Some of the primary issues are expected to be transportation, taxes and bonding. The group reviewed two proposed urban food systems related policies. Pakou Hang made a motion, seconded by Aaron Reser to amend the City's legislative policy position proposed by Katie Lampi to include support for legislation that removes ambiguity in regulations. Motion passed unanimously. Patty Bowler made a motion, seconded by Cam Gordon to amend the City's legislative policy position proposed by Andrea Northup to include support for policies, state staff positions and grant programs that maintain, incentivize and increase opportunities for "farm to school" local food procurement and education to occur at school districts. Motion passed unanimously. Next steps are for these items to be discussed among city staff and then brought forward to City Council for approval.

4. Draft City Pollinator Resolution. Cam Gordon, Robin Garwood and Russ Henry distributed and discussed the draft pollinator resolution, which focuses on city operations and activities related to removal of systemic insecticides and improvements in bee

friendly landscape practices since State law preempts cities from regulating pesticide use. Review and edits are still underway. They have met with many key city departments and the Park Board to discuss the resolution. Currently the City uses very little insecticides. An offer was made to meet with Minneapolis Public Schools as well. After further discussion, including opportunities to implement practices that help wild bees, Pakou Hang made a motion, seconded by Zoe Hollomon to approve the draft realizing edits will be made. Motion carried.

5. Real Food Challenge. City Council Member Cam Gordon introduced “Real Food Challenge” a national organization of universities and students organizing to shift campus dining budgets to “Real Food” (local and community based, sustainable, fair, and humane). Beth Dooley added that the University of Minnesota Morris Campus already has committed to buying more local food. There was a discussion on how local could be defined and the concern of larger industrial agricultural businesses meeting the definition. Rhys Williams, Zoe Hollomon, Beth Dooley, City Council Member Cam Gordon and Andrea Northup agreed to work on drafting a letter to send to area colleges for review at the August meeting, and to connect with Kris Igo about it.

6. Change November 11 Food Council Meeting to November 4 due to Veteran’s Day Holiday. The regular meeting date of the Food Council in November falls on a holiday, so Gayle Prest made a motion, seconded by Pakou Hang to change the date to November 4. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Food Policy Advisors Tour. Presentation was deferred due to time constraints.

8. Food Council Member Engagement. Devon Nolan opened up the discussion about how the Food Council can improve its equity practices. She has had some conversations and emails with members concerned that not all voices and perspectives are being valued and she related her own experience as a Food Council member in building capacity to understand city systems and the broader urban food systems pieces. The Food Council discussed the need to talk about the issue since recruitment for the 2016-2017 term Food Council was coming up soon and they also talked about its importance since diversity in its membership is a goal. Suggestions/comments included:

- Need for annual conversation on race, class as it relates to the history of the country’s food system.
- Encourage those that have felt dismissed to meet and come up with suggestions for improvements.
- Stronger group norms that encourage a more equal power dynamic such as raising hands before speaking
- Roberts Rules training
- Clarity on agenda as to what is expected (action, discussion, etc)
- How can the buddy system be improved
- Accountability for all



Homegrown Minneapolis

- Improvements to orientation manual/training
- Options for facilitation process at meetings
- How to build and preserve space for communicating
- How to do recruitment

The group agreed that there was interested in continuing the conversation in a facilitated manner. Devon and others will develop a draft priority list for review by the Executive Committee.

9. Member and Guest Updates. Donald Warneke shared that he is working on a proposal to enable SNAP funding to be utilized for food for inmates.

10. Working group & task force updates.

- **Land access:** The City Council's Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee's land access-related staff directive is still in progress and moving forward.
- **Community outreach and engagement:** The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Annual Open House will occur December 3 at the Minneapolis Public Schools Davis Center in North Minneapolis. The City will begin accepting applications for new Food Council members in mid-August.
- **Organics:** The Organics Working Group is working on potential composting policy changes, and engaging with composting experts to determine priorities. The City Council recently approved new composting and recycling goals, in support of the zero waste plan.

11. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next Food Council Meeting:

Wednesday, August 12, 2015 from 5:30-7:30 pm at Appetite for Change, 1200 West Broadway Ave #180, Minneapolis