



**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 5:30-7:30 pm meeting
SPARK-Y
4432 Chicago Avenue S Minneapolis, MN**

Attendance: Andrew Dahl, Patty Bowler, Russ Henry, Bob Lind, DeVon Nolen, Omari Chatman, Kris Igo, Andrea Northup, Beth Dooley, Gayle Prest, Alison Babb, Rhys Williams, Jillia Pessenda, Erick Garcia Luna

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Laurelyn Sandkamp (Sustainability Intern), Karl Hakanson, Laura Roberts, Terri Hay, Zach Robinson, Ari Baum-Hommes, Josh Bergeron, Dylan Bradford-Kesti, Sam Menzies

Absent: Jesus Perez, Pakou Hang, Sammie Ardito Rivera, Katie Lampi, Aaron Reser, Cam Gordon, Zoe Hollomon, Ginger Cannon, Hashep Seka

Pre-meeting presentation: Zach Robinson and Sam Menzies of SPARK-Y made a presentation about their youth sustainability education initiatives including aquaponics, hydroponics, sprouts, and mushrooms.

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 what they were growing this year.

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

3. Update Legislative Session. 1) Seed Law Changes: Russ Henry mentioned that this passed the legislature in the agriculture policy omnibus bill. 2) SHIP Funding: Patty Bowler updated the group that it had passed and that an RFP from the State would be released next week. Minneapolis staff was expecting to be allocated slightly lower funding than in past years. 3) Urban Ag: This is tied up in the special session negotiations. Perhaps language will be negotiated stipulating a meeting between urban farmers and the Commissioner of Agriculture. 4) MN Cottage Food Law: This is also tied up in special session negotiations as part of Agriculture bill that was vetoed by Governor, but it looked hopeful to pass.

4. Discussion: Minnesota Food Charter (Kris Igo, DeVon Nolen and Alison Babb). Kris distributed copies of the abbreviated Food Charter with strategies and categories. The group broke out into small groups to discuss how the Food Council and their own personal work aligned with the strategies. There was a report out by groups. It is expected that this is the first of ongoing conversations. Kris and Alison stressed the importance of using the Food Charter to help drive policy changes and to try to document these activities.

5. Member and Guest Updates.

- Andrea mentioned that the Minneapolis Public Schools offer free summer meals for kids at 80 locations in the City.
- DeVon mentioned that last Saturday she helped to host the Union of Concerned Scientists forum that explored how communities are partnering with scientists and researchers to secure food justice and equity for all—including identifying unique assets, barriers, and strategies.
- Tamara mentioned that the City is beginning to draft its 2016 Legislative Agenda on new policy items. Items suggested were to make sure that the agenda included supporting pollinator bee friendly language that was deleted this session and incentives for schools to provide healthy local food. Additional suggestions were requested by June 26 to meet the deadline for the City process.

6. Discussion: Healthy Food Access Indicator and Mapping (Tamara Downs Schwei and Laurelyn Sandkamp). The Food Council advocated for a Healthy Food Access measure as one of the City's proposed new Community Indicators. While the City Council has not adopted the Community Indicators yet, Tamara and Laurelyn developed a draft map of the City to accompany the potential indicator and help illustrate the healthy food access data, that will have overlays of supermarkets and corner stores that meet new healthy food criteria through the City's Staple Food Ordinance, as well as farmers markets, population density and poverty rates. We may also choose to map additional information, such as community garden prevalence and vehicle ownership rates. The group asked questions and gave feedback. It's expected that the map will be published on the Homegrown Minneapolis website at some point this year.

7. Working group breakout sessions. The Land Access and the Community Outreach & Engagement (CO&E) working groups met.

8. Update: MFAN and Food Council Collaborative Planning. (Tamara Downs Schwei) At the last Metro Food Access Network (MFAN), which Tamara, DeVon and Zoe Hollomon attended, there was a discussion on the need for stronger regional collaboration – especially at the legislature. Tamara will keep the Food Council informed as conversations continue. DeVon, Zoe and Tamara made a presentation about the Food Council at this meeting as well.

9. Working group & task force updates.

- **Land access:** Andrew Dahl shared positive progress to date related to the City Council's Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee's land access-related staff directive. On March 3, 2015 the Minneapolis City Council's [Community Development and Regulatory Services \(CDRS\) Committee](#) directed Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Housing and Economic Development staff to review their list of City-owned vacant properties and determine which parcels are developable based on



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- economic conditions and lot size. They will also develop a set of policy recommendations regarding the Food Council's land access policy goals, to present to the Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee no later than July 31, 2015.
- **Community outreach and engagement:** Thanks to support and partnership from Andrea Northup and the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), the Davis Center in North Minneapolis has been reserved for the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Annual Open House to tentatively occur December 3, if approved by the Food Council. We will be able to purchase the food for the event through the catering services of the Minneapolis Public Schools, in partnership with the Nutrition Services team. There will be brief information sessions for prospective Food Council applicants after the next three Food Council meetings, and the application period is expected to run from about mid-August through mid-October.
 - **Organics:** Russ updated the group. The Organics Working Group is working on potential composting policy changes, and engaging with composting experts to determine priorities.
 - **Animals:** Pollinators: Russ, Gayle, Robin Garwood and Erin Rupp have been meeting with City departments to review their current practices related to systemic pesticides and bee friendly plantings. It is expected that Council Member Gordon will introduce a resolution in the near future working to get Minneapolis established as a "Bee Friendly City" in collaboration with City staff and Food Council members.
 - **Hubs:** Rhys reported that the group is not active since they were previously so busy conducting the hub survey and convening this spring.

DeVon encouraged the members to be taking pictures of food work and collecting stories of achievements so that the rush at the end of the year for the Homegrown Highlights and Annual Meeting will be easier.

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

Next Food Council Meeting:

Wednesday, July 8, 2015 from 5:30-7:30 pm at Waite House/Phillips Community Center, 2323 11th Ave South, Minneapolis.