

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 5:30-7:30 pm
Wedge Table Community Room – 2412 Nicollet Ave S Minneapolis

Attendance: Aaron Reser, Andrew Dahl, Hashep Seka, Patty Bowler, Russ Henry, Zoe Hollomon, Beth Dooley, Gayle Prest, Rhys Williams, Cam Gordon, Bob Lind, Erick Garcia Luna, Sammie Ardito Rivera, Jillia Pessenda, DeVon Nolen, Katie Lampi

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Karl Hakanson, Robin Garwood (Aide to Council Member Gordon), Ginger Cannon (MPRB), Karlie Cole, Magdalena Kaluza, Laurelyn Sandkamp (Sustainability Intern), Jane Shey, Vish Vasani (Health Department), Donald Warneke, Emily Larson (Wedge Co-op)

Absent: Alison Babb, Jesus Perez, Kris Igo, Pakou Hang, Omari Chatman

Pre-meeting presentation: Emily Larson, Wedge's Outreach and Education Coordinator, gave a brief PowerPoint presentation and answered questions about the Wedge's history and current activities in retail, aggregation and farming. More info is available on their webpage <http://www.wedge.coop/>

1. Meeting called to order. Russ Henry, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order. Introduction of guests were made. March agenda and February meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Annual Presentation to City Council's Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee (HECE) 2/23/2015. Russ Henry, Omari Chatman and Tamara Downs Schwei gave the annual update to the HECE Committee which is chaired by Food Council member Cam Gordon. Based on the Food Council's recommendations, HECE voted unanimously to:

1) Amended the Minneapolis Food Council enabling resolution to add one staff member each from the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) and the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), and two additional community members appointed by the MPRB and the MPS.

2) Referred to City Council's Community Development & Regulatory Services (CDRS) Committee the following recommendation of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council:

Support the Food Council's land access policy goals related to urban agriculture:

- a) Extend the lease terms for City-owned parcels to greater than one year, with a preferred minimum of five years.
- b) Allow commercial growers to lease or purchase City-owned parcels, with the understanding that community gardeners would have priority access.
- c) Expand total number of City-owned lots available for urban agricultural lease or sale.

Council Member Jacob Frey introduced the conversation at the March 3 City Council Community Development and Regulatory Services (CDRS) Committee which resulted in the Community Planning and Economic Development Department (CPED) staff in the Housing and Economic Development divisions directed to review the vacant property list to determine which parcels are developable based on

economic conditions and lot size and thereupon develop a set of policy recommendations regarding the Food Council's land access policy goals, and to present to the Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee no later than July 31, 2015.

3. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Urban Agriculture Activity Plan Update and

Request: Ginger Cannon of MPRB gave an update on the status of the MPRB's Urban Agriculture Activity Plan. The Park Board supports the establishment of an implementation team to fulfill the goals of the Plan in a 5-7 year timeframe. Ginger described what this team may look like, requested feedback and a Food Council representative to join the Team. The first meeting is tentatively planned for May. Individual comments suggested adding the Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator, more community service providers and more residents since it's been such a community driven process to date. Another suggestion was to make sure that the MPRB's Forestry Division was involved. The April Food Council meeting will include a conversation about who will represent the Food Council on the Team.

4. Legislative Updates.

a. MN Cottage Food Law (Minnesota Statute 28A.15 Subd 9 and 10): Katie Lampi updated the group. The City Council's legislative agenda currently includes support for changes in order to promote local and healthy foods while protecting public health. Katie passed out a draft resolution for Food Council action later in the meeting.

b. MN Seed Law exemptions: Russ Henry updated the group. He testified last week at a Senate hearing for Senate File 949, amending the MN Seed Law to create exemptions to allow for community-based seed sharing and interpersonal sharing of seeds. There is also a House bill (House File 1138) and one also possibly expected out of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's office. If people want to stay informed, they should check Gardening Matters website.

5. Community Indicators Update: Tamara Downs Schwei notified the group that food access and local food economy ideas made it to the top 29 ideas from the community. Staff are looking at various performance measures and have not yet presented to the City Council. Gayle Prest noted that tracking key performance measures is a useful tool for evaluating programs and policies regardless of where it lands on the official Community Indicators.

6. Healthier Beverages Initiative. Vish Vasani distributed and reviewed information on the Minneapolis Department of Health's "ReThink Your Drink. Every sip counts!" – a community driven initiative that encourages people to choose healthier beverages and increases the availability of healthier beverages. They are partnering with five cultural communities to help guide the grassroots effort. They have developed a toolkit and other marketing pieces. Vish asked for members to contact their affiliated organizations to see if they are willing to partner/promote and also for the group to suggest other organizations she should contact.

7. Working group meeting time. Land Access and Food Hubs working groups met.

8. Cottage Food Law Support. After reviewing the draft Katie Lampi distributed earlier, Andrew Dahl made a motion, seconded by Beth Dooley to support the proposed resolution as written that supported nine specific goals related to the Cottage Food law. It passed unanimously.

9. Working group updates

Land Access: The group will be following the direction to CPED staff mentioned earlier in the meeting. Tamara Downs Schwei and Laurelyn Sandkamp are working with City staff on an app to crowdsource info and map Minneapolis urban farms, market gardens and market stand info. They are also working on updating the farmers market map for 2015.

Community Outreach: The group is looking at potential 2015 events including an urban ag tour, annual open house and maybe partnering with others such as a co-op event. They are also available to support other working group's needs. They will be bringing a more detailed list to the Food Council soon. They are interested in engaging in 2016-2017 Food Council member recruitment which last time began in late summer. It would be helpful to learn at some point in the future which Food Council members are not planning on seeking reappointment for 2016-2017. They are also starting to think about ways to improve new member orientation for early 2016.

Tabling opportunities and assistance is requested: 1) Spring Into Green Resource and Craft Fair this Saturday, March 14 at Midtown Global Market from 10 am – 5pm. 2) Sustainability fair on April 11. 3) Neighborhood and Community Relations Community Connections conference on March 21.

Organics: Council Member Lisa Bender organized a stakeholder meeting to begin to look at changes to allow commercial composting in the City.

Animals: Russ Henry and Tamara Downs Schwei attended a meeting organized by Council Member Blong Yang targeting Hmong families interested in growing food. Russ and Tamara discussed chickens, community gardens and land access. There was significant interest from the attendees in these topics, and a large turnout at the gathering. They are looking at opportunities to reach out to Latino residents interested in chickens next as well as other cultural communities.

Hubs/Aggregation: The group is convening a meeting on March 28 at Bottineau Recreation Center in Northeast Minneapolis with representatives from the food hubs that participated in the recent survey they conducted to review the results, allow for networking and see what steps may be next. This is not a public meeting.

10. Updates.

- The Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling Division of Public Works is once again offering a limited supply of compost to community gardens.
- The City is seeking proposals for possibly 1-3 CSA farms to offer a CSA opportunity to City employees. The drop off point would be the City's Public Service Center (downtown).
- The Annual City Trees Program (large trees discounted to \$25 – including a variety of fruit trees) starts city wide on March 23.
- There's been a kick-off for community solar gardens to pledge to protect pollinators.
- Tabling assistance is requested: 1) Spring Into Green Resource and Craft Fair on March 14 2) Sustainability fair on April 11. 3) "Community Connections "conference on March 21.

- Dandelion Honey Pastry Chef Challenge on April 22 info was distributed

11. Meeting adjourned. The meeting adjourned. The next meeting is April 8 from 5:30-7:30pm at the new EMERGE Career and Technology Center.