

**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2015**  
**Gandhi Mahal Restaurant – 3009 27<sup>th</sup> Ave S Minneapolis**  
**Meeting 5:00-7:00pm**

**Attendance:** Aaron Reser, Andrew Dahl, Kristine Igo, DeVon Nolen, Hashep Seka, Katie Lampi, Patty Bowler, Russ Henry, Zoe Hollomon, Beth Dooley, Gayle Prest, Rhys Williams, Cam Gordon, Pakou Hang, Alison Rotel, Omari Chatman, Bob Lind, Jesus Perez

**Others in Attendance:** Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Vish Vasani (Health Department), Karl Hakanson (U of MN Extension), Robin Garwood (Aide to CM Gordon), Ginger Cannon (MPRB), Kim Keller (City Coordinator's office), Karlie Cole, Sean Gosiewski, Jenny Breen, Katie Myhre, Kate Seybold, Lisa Smestad, Magdalena Kaluza, Del Hampton, Marie Eff, Donald Warneke, Brian Noy, Greg Flom, Paul Hannemann, Ted Corling

**Absent:** Erick Garcia Luna, Sammie Ardito Rivera, Jillia Pessenda Bovino

**1. Meeting called to order.** Russ Henry, co-chair, called the meeting to order. Introduction of guests were made. January 2015 meeting minutes were approved.

**2. Community Indicators.** Kim Keller of the Minneapolis City Coordinators Office discussed the Community Indicators project. In 2014, the City Council and Mayor adopted a new City vision, values, and goals and strategic directions. The Community Indicators project will establish measures to tell us how successful the City is at achieving these goals. This project has two parts: defining what success looks like and establishing measures. The community has an important role – we need you to tell us what Minneapolis looks like when we accomplish our goals. The City is using outreach and crowdsourcing technology to generate themes within each of our goals and have you vote to tell the City how you want us to gauge success. Then, in collaboration with City Boards and Commissions and City staff, the City will develop measures within top themes. The group discussed options for developing indicators and also for encouraging others to support food related indicators. Subcommittee chairs were asked to submit ideas. Zoe Hollomon also agreed to develop an email with ideas and Robin Garwood submitted ideas related to local food economic development and healthy food access.

**3. Food Council's 2015 Calendar.** Based on recent polling, the most optimal time remains 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays with a new start time of 5:30-7:30. Patty Bowler made a motion for approval, it was seconded and passed. Please stay tuned as to whether this new time will start at the February meeting or the March meeting, pending University of St. Thomas flexibility.

**4. 2015 Food Council Priorities and Working Groups.** Kris Igo and Vish Vasani facilitated a review of working groups 2014 accomplishments and 2015 priorities along with brainstorming on additional 2015 ideas.

**A. LAND ACCESS (Andrew Dahl)**

**2014 Land Access Accomplishments:**

- Developed policy recommendations for expanding gardening on City-owned lots, which were approved by the full Food Council.
- Convened numerous meetings with community members and elected officials to build support

for moving these recommendations forward.

- Began investigating regulatory challenges faced by growers wanting to build hoop houses.
- Began developing policy recommendations regarding equitable access and researching growing practices on City-owned land.

B. 2015 Land Access Goals:

- Finalize equity and research policy recommendations and approve by Homegrown Food Council.
- Enact at least one of three policy recommendations for City-owned land.
- Draft a strategy for facilitating hoop house construction in the city.
- Develop a plan with Gardening Matters for connecting potential growers to City-owned land.

**B. ORGANICS (Russ Henry)**

2014 Organics Accomplishments:

- Coordinated with cities/counties to present a unified message to administrative law judge who would make ruling on MPCA compost facilities process; testified before judge about state composting regs
- Judge ruled favorably re pile sizes
- Identified Lisa Bender as City Council champion to create new City policy re urban farm & community garden scale composting

2015 Organics Goals:

- Work with CM Bender to plan & hold policy summit for urban farm/community garden scale compost policy discussions
- Support movement of policy changes through City Council

**C. ANIMALS (Russ Henry)**

2014 Animals Accomplishments:

- Removed signature requirement from bees ordinance
- Got buy-in from City Council to re-open chicken ordinance
- Identified Andrew Johnson as champion at City Council

2015 Animals Goals:

- Organized Mpls chicken summit (January 2015)
- Work with CM Johnson to hold chicken summit
- Support movement of policy changes through City Council

**D. FOOD HUBS/AGGREGATION (Aaron Reser, Pakou Hang, Rhys Williams)**

2014 Hubs Accomplishments:

- Develop list of food hubs in TC/Metro Area
- Develop questions for food hub interviews
- Conducted interviews and compiled results (11 food council members involved)
  - Interviews completed with 18 of 24 identified hubs
  - Collected over 30 metrics on operations of hubs
  - Permission to share all but 1 interviewee's info
- Sparked interest
  - From all interviewees
  - From broader community

2015 Hubs goals:

- Share results with Food Council, interviewees, public
- Plan & implement a convening/event
- Foster connections between Twin Cities regional food hubs
- Assess successes/challenges for Twin Cities regional food hubs
- Identify role of food council in this work moving forward; + beyond processing. Freezing, etc.

**E. COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT (Zoe Hollomon)**

2014 CO&E Accomplishments

- Outreach & education on food council to numerous orgs: NOC, Sustainable Food Lab, AFC, Play on Penn Food Justice Film Night, Community Cooks, Redeemer Church, Hawthorne Neighborhood Association, etc. (& tabling @ places like MPS bbq, + Food Day)
- Creation of community & neighborhood association database
- Creation of Friends of Homegrown Facebook page
- Helped organize Twin Cities growers of color group
- Successful 2014 open house!

2015 CO&E Goals:

- Expand Food Council meeting sites to places on North Side
- Explore opening up nominations to more people of color
- Explore ways to make policies more accessible to average person/public (beyond website?)
- Set numerical targets for tabling, presentations and educational events
  - i.e. quarterly gatherings, work of FC working groups, partner on urban ag bus tour, forum on food co-ops, food charter launch

**F. Other accomplishments were discussed such as the** Mobile Grocery Store Task Force, the new Staple Food Ordinance and passage of the MPBR's urban ag plan

**G. BIKE RACK IDEAS**

- MPRB Urban Agriculture Activity Plan implementation
- Food Charter launch/integration with work
- Partnership on Health Department's Sugar Sweetened Beverages initiative
- Farmers Market / Food processor regulations
- MN Seed Law changes
- City contracts to promote local food at big venues (Lansing Mi example)
- Preserving/Aggregation
- Rooftops for solar/wind/gardens
- Reviewing potential impacts of deregulating marijuana
- Food waste
- Food Shed Assessment
- More outreach for Food Council work
- How to engage youth better
- How to function better as Council – how to recruit more youth and persons of color
- Cub Food store in North Minneapolis
- Small brewery regulations

Members and guests were asked to update their participation in Working Groups and the Food Council will continue the conversation in next few months.

**5. Land Access Working Group Update.** Andrew Dahl introduced a map of residential vacant lots in the city that he has developed and asked for endorsement by Food Council for placement on the Homegrown Minneapolis website. This was developed based on basic questions raised by Minneapolis City Council Members and others. It was suggested that the CURA report regarding vacant lots in North Minneapolis also be added to the website. Suggestions were also made on adding more clarity to locations. This will need to be refreshed regularly as Hennepin County's data is refreshed. TCALT- Twin Cities Agricultural Land Trust- is working on a land evaluation tool and this map will be a good resource to test out their model. Alison made a motion, seconded by Zoe Hollomon to add the Homegrown Minneapolis logo, edit as necessary and post on the Homegrown Minneapolis Website and also on the Friends of Homegrown Food Council Facebook page. The motion passed. Andrew was recognized for his great work.

**6. Food Hub Working Group – Initial Survey Findings and Next Steps.** Aaron Reser and Pakou Hang reviewed the Food Hub Working Group's initial survey findings. The report is going to be shared with the interviewees before going public. Since little work has been done in this area, the survey didn't use a strict definition of food hub and the group chose to interview a variety of individuals doing or interested in some sort of aggregation. There was a large variety of models, sizes and financing. All the stakeholders were interested in some sort of convening by the Food Council. The group discussed the possible role of the Food Council in convening and ideas on how to structure the meeting. Ideas included offering a primarily networking opportunity, facilitating larger work, and matchmaking between interested parties on similar ideas. It was suggested that the convening include asking the question of what policy barriers are hubs facing (local and state), it was also suggested that University of Minnesota researchers be invited since they may be of assistance. Another idea was to survey the potential attendees as to structure for the convening. Due to widespread interest, a separate meeting with a larger audience may also be needed.

#### **7. Updates.**

- Food Council presentation to City Council HECE Committee: Monday, February 23, 2015 at 9:30 am, Council Chambers, City Hall (tentative)
- New Homegrown Minneapolis newsletter design
- Chicken Summit, January 29 from 6:30-8:30 pm, Gandhi Mahal, 3009 27th Ave S Minneapolis
- 2015 Food Council Co-Chair approval will occur at February Food Council meeting.
- Robin Garwood and Beth Dooley, along with others, are travelling to Cuba shortly. It is expected that they will report back to Food Council at the March or April meeting.
- One Minneapolis grants open around January 20. Members are encouraged to review and pass on to others.

**8. Meeting adjourned.** Russ Henry adjourned the meeting at 7:00. The next meeting is February 11 at University of St Thomas, downtown Minneapolis Campus.