



Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

Gandhi Mahal Restaurant, 3009 27th Ave S, Minneapolis

Food Council Members in Attendance: Allison Meyer, Cam Gordon, DeVon Nolen, Donald Warneke, Gayle Preset, LaCora Bradford Kesti, Patty Bowler, Ruhel Islam, Russ Henry

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei, Bengi Durgunoglu, Claire Baglien, Linda Rogers, Esther Seha, Pat Kerrigan, Karl Hakanson, Robin Garwood

Absent: Andrew Dahl, Beth Dooley, Briana MacPhee, Caroline Devany, Ellen Kennedy, Erick Garcia Luna, Jillia Pessenda, Journey Gosselin, Kate Seybold, Latasha Powell, Martin Brown, Miguel Goebel, Pakou Hang, Roe Reinberg, Saba Anduaem

Claire Baglien, who partners with Gandhi Mahal, gave a brief overview about the [Interfaith Garden](#).

Draft Agenda

1) Introduction of members and guests, approval of agenda and minutes

DeVon Nolen facilitated the meeting. All attendees introduced themselves. Approval of agenda and minutes was deferred due to lack of quorum.

2) Discussion: Open House reflection & debrief

Tamara and Bengi summarized the community input data gathered from the Dot Survey activity at the Open House. Donald and Allison summarized their experiences and observations with facilitating the Dot Surveys.

The group discussed their reflections on the Open House. People were pleased with the event but felt turnout was down from previous years. It was a very busy night with many events going on. It was suggested to explore how to increase attendance for next year's Open House event or modify the event or its timing. Other attendees expressed the positive impacts of the event – having organizations engage with each other, bringing people together helps strengthen the Twin Cities food community. Karl Hakanson suggested adding e-mail addresses of vendors who tabled at the Open House to the mailing list if that hadn't already been done.



3) Discussion: Letter to Minneapolis Public Schools regarding pesticide usage

The group discussed a letter directed to Minneapolis Public Schools regarding pesticide use and the recommendation for a task force to be formed to explore the issue, with Food Council involvement. Russ said that he met with Lee Setter of MPS, who is willing to work with the group on this. Russ explained how the main use of pesticides is in and around school buildings and that there is not a good tracking system for their use. Russ also shared that Briana is willing to serve on the task force if formed.

Gayle stated that MPS uses pesticides only as needed and suggested the Food Council approach this with the mindset of having a conversation. If MPS has a rodent concern, pesticides might be the only viable option.

There was additional discussion but due to not having quorum, the group deferred voting on approving the letter to the January meeting.

4) Working Group Updates (all)

➤ Health Food Access Policies (Patty)

Patty had no updates

➤ Land Access/Tenure (Donald/Martin)

Donald shared that Caroline Devany has signed on to be a co-leader of the working group. They will be going to community events, and collecting input about how participation in gardens has impacted people's lives.

➤ Local Food Procurement (Zoe)

Zoe sent an e-mail with her updates. LaCora presented on Zoe's behalf. She said that 30 stakeholders came together on November 10 and agreed to collaborate for the Good Food Purchasing Policy. If people are interested in working on the Twin Cities Coalition Group, contact Zoe directly.

➤ Local Food Business Innovations (Journey)

Journey was absent

➤ Parks and Food (Russ/Miguel)

Russ said feedback from the Dot Survey was interesting regarding the support for reducing pesticides at parks.



5) Food Council member & guest updates; future agenda items

January Food Council meeting: Co-chair and Executive Committee election. Tamara said elections will occur to replace Russ as Co-Chair, as well as elections for executive committee members. (All current Executive Committee members are eligible for re-election but Russ is not running for another Co-Chair term). DeVon is in a two-year Mayorally-appointed Co-Chair term.

Patty said there will be a meeting, the Healthy Food Access Results Roundtable, to discuss food access on January 11th at City hall. City Coordinator, Spender Cronk, will coordinate the conversation. Tamara mentioned that the team working on this is focusing on food retail because they had to focus in on an element of food access due to the capacity of the staff and their available time and resources for this project.

Russ said that the comp planning process is in full swing. He is on the Urban Design research team and he is also looking at land use and soil health. Russ also mentioned that January is his last Food Council meeting.

Pat Kerrigan announced the HEALTHY SOIL HAPPY HOUR. Date is Thursday, January 12th at Insight Brewery at 5:30pm.

Donald announced that SNAP-Ed is having a kick-off event at Martin Luther King Center. The date for this is December 19th. The event is to connect with community. There are \$50 stipends available for guests (but there is a limited number of those stipends).

Ruhel announced that Gandhi Mahal hosts family-friendly NYE event. \$25 per person gets you an all-you-can-eat buffet.

DeVon announced that Appetite for Change has new music video. Attendees watched the music video.

Meeting adjourns at 7:25pm.

Next Food Council Meeting:

Wednesday, January 11, 2016

[Eastside Food Co-op](#), 2551 Central Ave NE ([map](#))

Presentation 5:00-5:30; Meeting 5:30-7:30 pm