



**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, Sept 14th, 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm meeting
Pillsbury United Communities
125 W Broadway Ave, Suite 130, Minneapolis**

Attendance: Andrew Dahl, Allison Meyer, DeVon Nolen (co-chair), Jillia Pessenda, Russ Henry (co-chair), Zoe Hollomon, Gayle Prest, Latasha Powell, Martin Brown, Patty Bowler, Kate Seybold, Journey Gosselin, Donald Warneke, Erick Garcia Luna, LaCora Bradford Kesti, Caroline Devany, Roe Reinberg

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Sam Johnson (Homegrown Minneapolis intern), Mariah Mendoza, Diane Beck, Esther Seha, Megan Sheridan, Karl Hakanson, La'Taijah Powell, Michelle Horovitz, Adair Mosely

Absent: Miguel Goebel, Saba Andualem, MPRB Representative, Beth Dooley, Briana MacPhee, Cam Gordon, Pakou Hang, Ruhel Islam

Pre-meeting presentation: The Food Council and guests were given a presentation about Pillsbury United Communities and the North Market by Adair Mosley and LaCora Bradford Kesti.

1) Introduction of members and guests, approval of the agenda and August meeting minutes DeVon Nolen called the meeting to order. Jillia Pessenda motioned to approve the agenda and minutes and Donald Warneke seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously. Everyone introduced themselves.

2) Overview & Sign-up for subcommittees: Food Council Open House planning Tamara Downs Schwei confirmed that the Food Council Open House is now scheduled for Thursday, Dec 1st 2016 at Seward Montessori Elementary in South Minneapolis per the FC's decision in August. She reviewed past Open House activities and asked the council to take on different aspects of preparation for the Open House. All are expected to help with set up and or clean-up on the day of the event and that has gone very smoothly in past years. The Open House will have a resource fair that is open to organizations doing food-related work. The formal program is still in development and will include a keynote, remarks by public officials, a 'State of the Plate' presentation by FC members, Homegrown Heroes Awards, and Homegrown Highlights for 2016. There will also be a community feedback activity during the pre-program resource fair and reception.

3) Working Group breakout groups (all)

4) Working Group Updates (all)

- **Healthy Food Access Policy** group is moving forward on partnering with Minneapolis Public Health on its Rethink your Drink Campaign. The work includes working with school districts to increase consumption of water and/or promoting rethink your drink policies in the organizations associated with FC members.
- **Land Access/Tenure** group reported that their efforts to assist the Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development in their review of the Garden Lease Program have included promoting a community survey, facilitating a focus group held in partnership with Waite House and Gardening Matters and doing an assessment of still leasable vacant lots. This group will meet in September to develop FC recommendations in preparation for the next meeting with City officials and staff.
- **Local Food Procurement** group is preparing research interviews with the Minneapolis Convention Center and Target Center to learn more about how promoting local foods in these institutions can happen. The group also expressed interest in connecting their efforts to a larger nation campaign called the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP). One action to that end would be educating the Food Council on what the GFPP is and which of its tenets we can bring to Minneapolis.



- **Local Food Business Innovation** group reported that they have expanded their interest in BYOB to an effort in bringing Pop-up restaurants to Minneapolis as a way to encourage entrepreneurship. The focus of the group's efforts is on how other cities are adjusting their ordinances and licensing to encourage Pop-up restaurants and local food entrepreneurs and what of those efforts could be replicated in Minneapolis. Many in the group are of the opinion that local food entrepreneurs are already engaging in these activities without licensure and our efforts can bring them into the fold of legally sanctioned businesses without destroying their business model.

5) Next steps for teambuilding, equity and engagement at the Food Council Allison Meyer and DeVon Nolen talked with the FC about suggestions from the previous FC meeting about encouraging participation and equity in the FC. They shared with the FC a conversation from the Executive Committee meeting about whether equity work should be concentrated on the FC's inner workings or should focus more on our work in the community. Both are necessary. The clearest next-steps for the FC are to develop a shared definition of equity and identify indicators that we as a group are successfully working towards equity. One example of a definition on equity came from the City of Minneapolis and could be used as a foundation to build a FC definition. Another suggestion was to come up with a definition of equity for the food system and focus on how this work can compliment efforts happening within the City of Minneapolis currently.

6) Food Council member and guest updates; future agenda items

- Tamara Downs Schwei informed the FC that she is seeking a Food Policy Intern, as Sam Johnson's year has come to an end and he has accepted a new position. The candidate must be a current student enrolled in an undergrad or grad program.
- Tamara also mentioned that the Good Food Access Fund Campaign is still accepting responses to their survey regarding potential food retail projects that would be interested in funding.
- Kate Seybold reminded the FC that the Minneapolis Public School's Farm-to-School BBQ will be held Thursday, Sept 22nd at their Culinary and Nutrition Services Building.
- Frogtown Farm is having their annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, Sept 17th from 11-2pm at their St. Paul location.
- The Minnesota Food Access Network (MFAN) equity action team is coordinating a policy educational event which will bring to life a historic timeline about food policies from the perspective of people of color. Zoe Hollomon will send an invitation for the event.
- Community Garden Day is occurring Saturday, Sept 17th all over the Twin Cities.
- Sam Johnson informed the FC that he has taken a position as the Minnesota State Horticultural Society's Garden-in-a-box Coordinator and will be looking for partner organizations through the fall in preparation for next year's growing season.
- Gayle Prest announced the City Hall bee hive produced 40 lbs of honey in 2016.
- Waite House is seeking volunteers to help it build a playground in a day on Thursday, Sept 15th from 8am-3pm.
- MFAN is continuing to look for projects around food access to demonstrate need as they continue to petition the State for support.

7:35pm Meeting adjourned.