



**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm meeting**  
**City Food Studio**  
**3722 Chicago Ave, Minneapolis**

**Attendance:** Russ Henry (co-chair), Zoe Hollomon, Latasha Powell, DeVon Nolen (co-chair), Allison Meyer, Andrew Dahl, Caroline Devany, Journey Gosselin, Briana MacPhee, Miguel Goebel, Gayle Prest, Patty Bowler, Beth Dooley, Roe Reinberg, Jillia Pessenda, Pakou Hang

**Others in Attendance:** Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Sam Johnson (Homegrown Minneapolis intern), Melanie Heckt, Donald Warneke, Robin Garwood, Tracy Roloff, Esther Seha, Kate Seybold (MPS Nutrition Services in place of Andrea Northup), Karl Hakanson, Dina Hemminger, Katherine Fines, Bob Lind, Rachel Wandrei, Leah Korger

**Absent:** Saba Andualem, Martin Brown, Ginger Cannon, Cam Gordon, Erick Garcia Luna, LaCora Bradford Kesti, Ruhel Islam

**Pre-meeting presentation:** The Food Council and guests participated in a pre-meeting presentation and demo from City Food Studio that highlighted the activities, groups, and products housed within the City Food Studio. City Food Studio is a commercial kitchen and incubator for small food businesses that has been in operation for three years. Currently it houses 47 total users.

**1) Introduction of members and guests, approval of the agenda and March meeting minutes** DeVon Nolen called the meeting to order. Patty Bowler motioned to approve the agenda and minutes and Russ Henry seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously.

**2) Update: proposed City and State ordinances and legislation**

- **Food Carts Ordinance Amendment** Tamara Downs Schwei updated the FC on the progress of the proposed food cart ordinance amendment being considered by the Minneapolis City Council. The ordinance will allow for operation of food carts in the West Broadway corridor and other business corridors upon request. The license fee for food carts would be reduced from \$904 to \$818 which is the amount of a food truck license fee. The ordinance is next being considered by the Minneapolis City Council's Community Development & Regulatory Services Committee at 1:30pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, 2016.
- **Good Food Access Fund (GFAF)** Patty Bowler informed the FC that the GFAF received \$250,000 in support from the State of Minnesota, less than the \$10 million originally requested. The new financial support is a success in light of the facts that the legislation is new and the structure of the 2016 session made it very difficult for any legislation or funding to be enacted. There is currently no concrete plan for the \$250,000 so advocates for the GFAF are petitioning the community for 'shovel ready' projects.
- **Urban Agriculture Pilot Program** DeVon Nolen confirmed that this legislation was not funded this year. However, the concept of urban agriculture has progressed in definition and support at the State level over the last 4 years. Urban agriculture advocates will continue to push for support at the State level in upcoming legislative sessions.
- **Pollinator Forage Solar Bill** Russ Henry shared news about successful legislation that sets a standard for "pollinator friendly solar" and promotes pollinator habitat inclusion in MN solar energy development.

**3) Update: City 2017 Legislative agenda planning** Tamara Downs Schwei shared both the City of Minneapolis 2016 Legislative Agenda and Policy Positions with the Food Council. Of particular note are the City Policy Positions on Agriculture and Forestry found on page 11. Tamara explained that some City Policy Positions were added and others



were updated in previous years in part due to FC input. The City of Minneapolis is currently seeking input on 2017 policy priorities in anticipation of the early July meeting of the League of MN Cities. This process is not the only time for issues to be added to the City agenda, but is the easiest time for it to happen. The current food-related policy positions were written purposefully broadly and therefore encompassed both the Good Food Access Fund and Urban Agriculture efforts.

**4) Breakout groups: Food Council policy priorities for 2016** Food Council met in two sessions of working group areas to review working group proposed priorities and articulate next step tasks. The groups that met were first the land access/tenure group led by Donald Warneke and the local food procurement group led by Zoe Hollomon. Secondly, the healthy food access policies and projects group met (leader tbd- discussion led by Patty Bowler) along with the local food business innovation group led by Journey Gosselin.

#### **5) Food Council member and guest updates; future agenda items**

- DeVon Nolen: Appetite for Change and the Northside Fresh Coalition is welcoming Urbane Development group to Minneapolis on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 pm to 4:30pm. They will tour N. Minneapolis and hold a strategy session on ways to better provide healthy food to our neighborhoods through supporting small-scale food businesses such as corner stores.
- DeVon Nolen: The West Broadway Farmers Market is opening on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at its new location on 718 W. Broadway Ave.
- Tamara Downs Schwei: Magdalena Kaluza has resigned from the Food Council due to her career transition from Gardening Matters to new employment at Cycles for Change.
- Tamara Downs Schwei: The Northern Spark Festival is occurring this Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and Robin Garwood and other Food Council affiliated people will have exhibits in the Festival, which has a climate change theme.
- Dina Hemminger: The nonprofit Nurture is offering weekly cooking classes for folks on a budget through the month of June every Monday night from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Grandma's House (625 W. 31<sup>st</sup> St).
- Journey Gosselin: Please tour City Food Studio and learn about all the different things happening in the space.
- Russ Henry: Advocacy continues around efforts to turn portions of the Hiawatha Golf Course and Lake into a food forest. Please continue to show support by attending meetings and spreading the word about the effort.
- Andrew Dahl: Andrew is pleased to announce that he and his wife are expecting a child.

#### **6) Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.**

Next Food Council Meeting: Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at FOOD BUILDING, 1401 Marshall St. NE Minneapolis.  
5:00 pm presentation and 5:30-7:30 pm meeting