



**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm meeting
Open Arms of Minnesota
2500 Bloomington Ave South, Minneapolis**

Attendance: Russ Henry (co-chair), Andrea Northup, Saba Anduaem, Pakou Hang, Latasha Powell, DeVon Nolen (co-chair), Allison Meyer, Martin Brown, Andrew Dahl, Caroline Devany, Journey Gosselin, Briana MacPhee, Cam Gordon, Erick Garcia Luna, Gayle Prest, LaCora Bradford Kesti, Roe Reinberg, Ruhel Islam, Jillia Pessenda

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator), Sam Johnson (Homegrown Minneapolis intern), Michael Dahl (MN Food Charter Network), Bob Lind (CPED), Dylan Dorsey (Strong Side Terra Farma), Melanie Heckt (Waite House), Hailey Munsterman (UMN), Kevin Priestley (UMN – CURA), Donald Warneke (UMN), Sarah & Brian Hagen, Ali Schwier (UMN), Casey Selle (UMN), Brandon Corey-Ramirez (UMN), Tracy Roloff (City of Mpls), David Senn (Sisters Camelot), Steven Burgett (Sisters Camelot), Kristen Klingler (Mpls Health Dept.), Victoria Shield, Justne Sponely, Natalie Vandenburg, Andy Pham (Sisters Camelot), Kelly Wilson (Open Arms)

Absent: Ginger Cannon, Miguel Goebel, Beth Dooley, Magdalena Kaluza, Zoe Hollomon, Patty Bowler

Pre-meeting presentation: April Bogard from Open Arms described their core functions and scope. Open Arms provides meals to people who are sick: living with cancer, HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis and ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), as well as their caregivers and dependents. The meals are prepared with volunteer help and delivered metro-wide.

1) Introduction of members and guests, approval of the agenda and March meeting minutes Russ Henry called the meeting to order and introduced the March meeting minutes. They were approved unanimously.

2) Review: Food Council group and meeting norms Tamara Downs Schwei reviewed group & meeting norms which were established at the March FC meeting and encouraged all attending to honor the norms.

3) Update: Food Carts Ordinance Amendment Tamara Downs Schwei gave an update on the progression of the proposed Food Carts Ordinance Amendment. The proposed amendment was initiated through a partnership between NEON and Kindred Kitchen. Both organizations are looking to expand food entrepreneurship opportunities for local residents. Per suggestions from FC members in March, the FC is currently exploring an addition to the amendment that would incentivize healthy food offerings on food carts and specify a distance from parks and schools and is exploring other ways to move the amendment forward in line with the FC's values.

4) Update and Vote for Resolution of Support: Good Food Access Fund State Legislation Following on discussion at the previous Food Council meeting, DeVon Nolen and Tamara Downs Schwei summarized the status of efforts to move the Good Food Access Fund State Legislation forward and to address questions raised by Pakou Hang at the last meeting. If enacted, the legislation will support initiatives that help increase access to affordable and healthy foods to those in need. Based on actions by and discussions with the GFAF campaign team, Pakou and the Food Council were comfortable moving forward with support. Erick Garcia Luna moved to approve the Good Food Access Fund resolution and Saba Anduaem seconded. The resolution was approved unanimously.

5) Update, Discussion and Ratify Resolution of Support approved by Executive Committee: Urban Agriculture State Legislation Martin Brown updated the FC on the progress of the Urban Agriculture Development Pilot program (HF 3324) authored and championed by State Representative Karen Clark in the Minnesota House of Representatives (Senate companion bill: SF 3310). The bill received much community input, including from Food Council members. While the bill has been received positively as it works its way through the State legislature, it may not receive funding this year for various reasons. Martin moved to have the FC ratify a resolution of support for the legislation made previously by the Executive Committee due to timing urgency for communicating support. The motion passed unanimously.

6) Update and Ratify Resolution of Support approved by Executive Committee: Recommendation to Amend Community and Commercial Garden Policies Russ Henry summarized the Homegrown Minneapolis Annual Report



presentation to the Minneapolis City Council's Health, Environment & Community Engagement (HECE) Committee which he had presented along with DeVon Nolen and Tamara Downs Schwei. The report was well received by the City Council. Included with the report was a recommendation to amend the Community and Commercial Garden Policies in order to strike the statement "at no cost to the city", thereby allowing the City to pay the cost of soil testing for the remaining garden parcels which have not yet been tested. This was approved by the Food Council's Executive Committee in advance of the presentation because of the timing urgency. HECE approved the amendment proposed by the Food Council, which will go next to full City Council for consideration and approval. Russ asked the Food Council to ratify the recommendation that was approved by the Executive Committee prior. Ruhel Islam moved to do so and Gayle seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

7) Discussion: Food Council work priorities for 2016 Tamara Downs Schwei led a discussion about Food Council work priorities for 2016. FC members reviewed working group expectations and descriptions, reviewed summary categories of member and guest interests, and identified priority areas for 2016-17 work. The results are being compiled and will be presented at the May 11th FC meeting.

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

- Jillia Pessenda shared that fast food workers would be striking for a \$15 minimum wage, unionization, and better benefits Thursday, April 14th at two locations in Minneapolis and St. Paul and invited FC members to please join the events to show support.
- Andrew Dahl shared that a woman involved with a garden on MNDOT land located at the Interstate 35W Downtown Minneapolis entrance/exit between 4th and 5th Ave. S may be interested in connecting with others who'd like to garden there. Conversely, the FC may benefit from better understanding of MNDOT's processes for allowing gardening on their land.
- Andrea Northup invited all to attend the Minneapolis Public School's Junior Iron Chef Competition on May 2nd, 2016 from 5:30-7:30 pm.
- Allison Meyer invited all to attend the Seward Co-op CSA fair Saturday, April 18, from 11am to 2pm.
- LaCora Bradford Kesti invited all to attend the Earth Day Benefit Breakfast for the Land Stewardship Project on Friday, April 22nd at the Red Stag.
- Tamara Downs Schwei encouraged all attending to take and distribute copies of a special edition of the 2016 Minnesota Grown directory that has advertisements for Homegrown Minneapolis and Minneapolis farmers markets on the inside and back covers, part of a new partnership between Homegrown Minneapolis and the MDA Minnesota Grown Program.
- Saba Andualem invited all to attend a Common Roots Garden event.
- Donald Warneke invited all to a Minnesota Young Food Professionals panel to discuss water quality at the Wedge Table from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20th.
- DeVon Nolen wanted all to reach out and spread the word that West Broadway Farmers Market and several other farmers markets in Minneapolis are still seeking vendors for the market season.
- Martin Brown announced that Gardening Matters would be distributing seeds and plants to members Saturday, May 15th from 11am-1pm at Waite House.
- Russ Henry announced that he would be sharing details soon about an event at Loring Park related to the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board spraying herbicides into the Loring Pond.

9) Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.

Next Food Council Meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm at MPS Nutrition Services, 812 Plymouth Ave N