



**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, February 10, 2016 5:30-8:00 pm
Neighborhood Hub, 3210 Oliver Ave N, (Christ English Church)**

Attendance: DeVon Nolen, Russ Henry, Erick Garcia Luna, Beth Dooley, Patty Bowler, Zoe Hollomon, LaCora Bradford Kesti, Roe Reinberg, Gayle Prest, Journey Gosselin, Jillia Pessenda, Andrew Dahl, Andrea Northup, Ruhel Islam, Martin Brown, Caroline Devany, Latasha Powell, Magdalena Kaluza, Miguel Goebel, Cam Gordon

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei, Robin Garwood, Donald Warneke, Kelly Muellman, Sean Dyer, Bob Lind, Callie Recknagel, Emily Minge, Vish Vasani, Janice Barbee, Ben Rengstorf, Cornelia Dayton, Akisha Everett

Absent: Pakou Hang, Ginger Cannon, Allison Meyer, Saba Andualem

Pre-meeting presentation: Akisha Everett familiarized the Council with Neighborhood Hub's efforts to transform North Minneapolis by collaborating with different organizations – especially in navigation and referral to community resources. Their work includes partnering with the Minneapolis Health Department in promoting healthy food policies and the Rethink Your Drink campaign.

1) Introduction of guests, approval of the agenda and January meeting minutes. DeVon Nolen, Co-chair, called the meeting to order. Members and visitors made introductions. Once quorum was reached, the approval of minutes from the January 2016 and the February agenda were moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

2) and 3) Overview February Meeting and Food Council Skill sets, assets and affiliations. Continuing from the last meeting where we talked about the Food Council's history and individual interest, Vish Vasani and Tamara Downs Schwei introduced an interactive exercise designed to identify members' skills/assets that they bring, affiliation to other groups and an ice breaker. The group discussed the power of maximizing collective impacts by understanding our networks and skills. Findings will be discussed at next meeting.

4) Food Council Working Groups and Task Forces. Vish Vasani reviewed the manual pages on working groups and task force expectation – including everyone participating in at least one. Russ Henry reviewed the working groups and task forces activities and achievements from last term and gave some specific examples. Priorities from the community were also gathered at the annual meeting and are captured in the manual, and will also be reviewed at the next meeting. At the next meeting, the group will discuss interest in forming new or maintaining existing groups and was asked to think about community priorities in advance of this discussion.

5) Election of Co Chair and Executive Committee. DeVon Nolen was appointed one of the two co-chairs by Mayor Hodges. Per the bylaws, the other co-chair is elected by the Food Council. The bylaws also call for election of an executive committee. After discussion and a voice vote Russ Henry was the only candidate and unanimously elected Co-Chair. After discussion and voting, Allison Meyer, Zoe Hollomon, and Patty Bowler were elected unanimously to the Executive Committee.

6) Food Council 2016 Meeting Schedule. Based on survey results over the past month, no one date was perfect for future meetings, but the second Wednesday was the most favorable and 5:30 remained the most popular start time. Since Yom Kippur is on Oct 12 this year it was suggested that Wed October 5 be replaced with October 12. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the 2nd Wednesday from 5:30-7:30 as the official meeting time with the exception of October 5 and voted on unanimously.

7) Food Council equity and empowerment. Janice Barbee gave an overview of the equity and inclusion discussion the Food Council has worked on since last October. She reviewed the goals and vision from last year including definitions



and levers for change (public policies, social and institutional practices, cultural representations, and cultural values/assumptions). She also reviewed 2015 Food Council survey results (the values and assumptions of dominant culture received the most votes for priority). After the review, the Food Council broke out into four groups and each discussed “How do we foster the inclusion and engagement of all Food Council members?” and “What issues, policies, actions are most relevant to the equity work of the Food Council?” The groups then came back together to quickly share results. Janice will write up the findings.

8) Updates

- Andrea Northup mentioned that Briana MacPhee will be the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) representative to the Food Council and she is the Cultural Liaison - Latino Community and Families for MPS, and an MPS parent.
- Jillia Pessenda: Headwaters Foundation is having a grassroots fundraiser on March 2 and tickets are online
- Journey Gosselin is helping Heart of the Beast Mayday Festival to coordinate food vendors and they are interested in more local options.
- Ruhel Islam: Gandhi Mahal will be serving lobster on Valentine’s Day.
- Miguel Goebel: Midtown Farmers Market is accepting vendor applications. They are interested in local producers and value added vendors. They are also hiring an assistant manager.
- DeVon Nolen: West Broadway Market is also looking for vendors.
- Donald Warneke mentioned that there will be an event on Feb 27 for proposed Hiawatha Food Forest (an edible forest garden in the heart of south Minneapolis designed consciously for human food production employing mutually beneficial plants and animals) at Nokomis Center. Also Twin Cities Agriculture Land Trust (TCALT) next Board meeting is tomorrow <https://tcalt.wordpress.com/>
- Cam Gordon: Friday City Council will approve new animal ordinance including making it easier to raise chickens in the city.
- Beth Dooley is working on news column on local food products – she would love ideas for tips for products to include.
- Zoe Hollomon: The Food Council will be making their annual presentation to the City Council’s Health Environment and Community Engagement (HECE) Committee in April and the City’s Board/Commission Orientation will be on February 29 (Tamara will resend invite).
- Roe Reinberg: The Minneapolis Health Department is exploring grant proposal with University of MN on partnership and support for food safety systems with a cohort of restaurants-will share more later.
- Tamara Downs Schwei asked people to let her know if there are suggestions re: locations for hosting a future meeting.
- Martin Brown shared that Representative Karen Clark asked Waite House to host meetings on state urban agriculture policy and legislation.

9) Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.