



**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes
Wednesday, January 13th, 2016, 5:30-8:00 pm meeting
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Headquarters
Minnehaha Room, 2117 West River Road, Minneapolis**

Attendance: Russ Henry, Erick Garcia Luna, Beth Dooley, Patty Bowler, Saba Andualem, Zoe Hollomon, LaCora Bradford Kesti, Roe Reinberg, Gayle Prest, Journey Gosselin, Jillia Pessenda, Ginger Cannon, Andrew Dahl, Andrea Northup, Allison Meyer, Ruhel Islam, Martin Brown, Caroline Devany, Cam Gordon

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei, Robin Garwood, Donald Warneke, Megan O'Hara, Sam Johnson, Karl Hakanson, Rochelle James, Jamie Bain

Absent: Pakou Hang, DeVon Nolen, Latasha Powell, Magdalena Kaluza, Miguel Goebel

Pre-meeting presentation: Ginger Cannon familiarized the council with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's efforts to build gardens and food production in Minneapolis parks. Ginger presented several planning maps of parks around Minneapolis that include edible landscaping and space for agriculture.

1) Introduction of guests, approval of the agenda and October, November, December meeting minutes. Russ Henry called the meeting to order. Visitors made introductions. The approval of minutes from the October, November and December meetings of 2015 and the January agenda were moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

2) Update & approval of recommendation regarding support for GMO labeling on City federal legislative agenda. Allison Meyer summarized her presentation on GMO labelling made at the December Food Council (FC) meeting. She again asked for support from the FC. Robin Garwood explained what actions are available to the City of Minneapolis. After some discussion, Allison made a motion for the Food Council to recommend the addition of a statement to the City's federal legislative agenda in support of GMO labeling and opposed to federal pre-emption. Jillia seconded this motion. Ginger made a friendly amendment for the statement to also include the MPRB and MPS legislative agendas. Andrea concurred. The amendment was accepted after group discussion. The amended motion passed unanimously.

3) Food Council City-Community partnership. Megan O'Hara welcomed the new council and gave a brief history of Homegrown Minneapolis, context around its creation and scope of the work and encouragement to continue the momentum. Erick Garcia Luna welcomed the new council and thanked them for their participation on behalf of Mayor Betsy Hodges.

4) Individual Introductions. Each member of the Food Council gave a short introduction of their work and experiences and interest around food and the Food Council.

5) Homegrown Minneapolis History & Accomplishments. Patty Bowler summarized the beginning of the HGM initiative Phase 1, a partnership between Mayor R.T. Rybak's office and the Minneapolis Health Department among other stakeholders, including hundreds of community members and numerous staff in several work groups. Phase II was an 18 month implementation task force that looked at what was needed to support healthy food systems and how, what could be done at the city level, and what other similar initiatives were doing across the country. Phase III was the inception of the Food Council which began in 2012 under the Office of Sustainability in the Minneapolis City Coordinator's Office. The Urban Ag Text Amendment and Staple Foods Ordinance were two policy victories that helped Homegrown Minneapolis establish itself within the City.



6) Food Council Overview.

- **Vision and Mission.** Minneapolis City Councilmember Cam Gordon gave a short review of the Vision and Mission of the Food Council, explaining the core of the Food Council's work and giving examples of the many ways the vision and mission can be fulfilled.
- **By-laws.** Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator Tamara Downs Schwei gave an overview of Food Council by-laws. The discussion included how the composition of the Food Council includes representation from both the City of Minneapolis government and the communities within Minneapolis, as well as MPRB and MPS. She noted how Co-Chairs are selected (one appointed by the Mayor, second voted on by the Food Council); when and how the Executive Committee (EC) is created (voted on by Food Council) and other key points of interest.
- **Expectations.** Russ Henry articulated a few of the basic expectations for the new members.
- **Roberts Rules.** Russ clarified the general approach the Food Council uses with Roberts Rules in meetings: especially to put forth a motion and support the motion. FC members mentioned speaker's lists and other ideas to help keep an orderly meeting.
- **Role of Executive Committee & Co-Chairs.** Patty Bowler explained both the Executive Committee (EC) and Co-Chair positions roles and opportunities to demonstrate leadership on the FC.
- **Role of Working Groups.** Because of time, this topic will be addressed more in depth in February.
- **Manual review.** Zoe Hollomon shared thoughts around updating the manual with more introductory or summary information, quick reference pages for each section, a calendar of events for the 2016-17 FC, and other information that supports FC functions. Zoe encouraged members to become familiar with the current manual. Updates to the manual are pending the creation of a FC task force and process.

7) Approval of 2016 Food Council Meeting Time. An official decision on 2016 meeting time/days is pending until the availability of all FC members is ascertained.

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

- Ruhel Islam invited the FC to use his restaurant as a meeting space. He also recommended reaching out to young farmers organizations such as the Future Farmers of America to create partnerships that benefit the progress of urban agriculture.
- LaCora Bradford Kesti expressed interest in updating/amending by-laws as an agenda item at the next FC meeting. Gayle Prest recommended making a by-laws task force and offered to assist.
- Zoe Hollomon invited all to the MFAN Equity Round Table Night on January 26th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the University Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) in North Minneapolis.
- Donald Warneke invited all to an event on Thursday, January 14 also at UROC. Project Sweetie Pie and CURA will have a working group meeting at 2pm to discuss next steps for the Camden Greenhouse Project.
- Tamara Downs Schwei notified the group of the Public Meeting concerning the Lyndale Farmers Market next Thursday, January 21, 2016 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Minneapolis Central Library.

9) Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.