



## Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

5:30-7:30 pm Food Council meeting  
Eastside Food Co-op, community room

**Members in Attendance:** Miguel Goebel, Allison Meyer, Zoe Hollomon, DeVon Nolen, Gayle Prest, Donald Warneke, Journey Gosselin, Russ Henry, Kate Seybold, Beth Dooley, LaCora Bradford Kesti, Caroline Devany, Latasha Powell, Jillia Pessenda, Patty Bowler, Briana MacPhee, Pakou Hang, Cam Gordon, Martin Brown

**Members Absent:** Andrew Dahl, Erick Garcia Luna, Ellen Kennedy, Roe Reinberg, Ruhel Islam, Saba Andualem

**Others in Attendance:** Tamara Downs Schwei, Bengi Durgunoglu, JoAnne Berkenkamp, Lee Setter, Karl Hakanson, Callie Recknagel, Koral Purdy, Dave Okar, Nancy Brown, Hannah Ramer

**Pre-meeting Presentation:** Luna McIntyre made a presentation about the development of Eastside Food Co-op prior to the meeting.

### **1) Introduction of members and guests, approval of the agenda and meeting minutes:**

Russ Henry called the meeting to order. The January meeting agenda and the minutes from the past two meetings were approved unanimously.

### **2) Presentation and Discussion: Save the Food campaign (JoAnne Berkenkamp, Natural Resources Defense Council)**

JoAnne Berkenkamp made a presentation introducing a new NRDC campaign to raise awareness about how much food is going to waste and promote food waste prevention. The national campaign is launching in three American communities this year, including the Twin Cities. The Food Council and collaborating organizations are invited to partner in whatever ways interested and possible. Some conversation occurred regarding action and collaboration possibilities. Gayle indicated that she would spearhead a task force with Beth, Roe and anyone else interested regarding developing an informational handout for local businesses and institutions to help inform about possibilities and parameters for making food donations, thus addressing food access and food waste.

### **3) Presentation: SNAP-Education (Donald Warneke and Callie Recknagel, SNAP-Ed)**

Donald Warneke and Callie Recknagel made a presentation about their work as SNAP Educators. Donald expressed how his SNAP-ED work focuses on helping low-income community members stretch their dollars as far as possible, including providing six-week classes that are evidence-based (and approved by the USDA). Callie Recknagel said that another part of their job is PSE (policy, systems and



environmental change) work (like starting a wellness club or having healthy vending machines). Donald also mentioned a statewide goal in making sure food shelves across Minnesota have a certain number of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean meats.

#### **4) Discussion and Vote: Letter to Minneapolis Public Schools Regarding Pesticide Use**

Russ led a discussion regarding a proposed letter from the Food Council asking Minneapolis Public Schools to take steps to eliminate any and all pesticide use and form a task force including Food Council representation, to work toward doing so, following up on discussion at the December Food Council meeting about this topic. Lee Setter (MPS staff) attended the meeting and explained how pesticides are currently being used very selectively in Mpls Public Schools, for pest infestations in the schools as well as using them on the grounds (like specific ball fields). Setter shared that MPS contracts with a pesticide company but the use of pesticides is the last line of defense. The Food Council and Setter discussed the challenges of eliminating pesticide use in Minneapolis Public Schools, including food in classrooms, as well as some potential strategies and benefits of doing so. Food Council members suggested adding a phrase to third paragraph saying “we understand these issues are multifaceted” as well as the suggested actions “explore, investigate and help” in the fourth paragraph. The Food Council approved the letter unanimously with the suggested edits and will send the letter to the MPS Board of Directors and Superintendent, to whom it was addressed.

#### **5) Confirm 2017 Food Council meeting schedule**

Tamara shared the proposed dates and times for all 2017 Food Council meetings. She recommended continuing with the second Wednesday evening of each month from 5:30-7:30 since multiple previous scheduling polls landed at same place, not perfect for everyone but seems to be best compromise. Some discussion occurred around meeting locations. Discussion of meeting locations may occur again at a future meeting. The 2017 meeting schedule of dates and times was approved unanimously.

#### **6) Election: Food Council Co-Chair, Executive Committee**

The Food Council thanked Russ Henry for his five years of leadership and service as a Food Council Co-Chair and member.

Latasha Powell indicated her interest in running for the open Co-Chair position, being vacated by Russ Henry.

Patty Bowler, Zoe Hollomon, and Allison Meyer indicated their interest in running for re-election as members of the Executive Committee.



LaCora moved for elections to occur via voice vote for Co-Chair and Executive Committee positions. Gayle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Motions were made and seconded on behalf of electing Latasha Powell for Co-chair and Patty Bowler, Zoe Hollomon and Allison Meyer for Executive Committee positions. These positions were approved unanimously.

## **7) Working Group Updates. Due to time constraints, each group provided brief updates.**

- **Healthy Food Access Policies (Patty)**  
Rethink Your Drink – having discussion about whether there is a role for Food Council with current work on this.
- **Land Access/Tenure (Donald/Caroline/Martin)**  
Gardening Matters is out of funding. Caroline said it is important to take action and touch base about what this means for community gardens.  
Martin mentioned CPED's report regarding Garden Lease Program.
- **Local Food Procurement (Zoe)**  
Zoe said work on this continues & she will send her video about the Good Food Purchasing Program by e-mail to the group.
- **Local Food Business Innovations (Journey)**  
Journey plans to have this discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting.
- **Parks and Food (Russ/Miguel)**  
Russ has been working on planning a food system innovation lab.

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

No updates.

## **9) Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm**