



Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

5:00-5:30 pm pre-meeting discussion: SPARK-Y

5:30-7:30 pm Food Council meeting

SPARK-Y, Casket Arts Building, 681 17th Ave NE, Minneapolis

Members in Attendance: Beth Dooley, Dana Boyer, DeVon Nolen, Heidi Ritchie, Jaime Harris, Kate Seybold, Kristen Klingler, Mary Vorndran, Rachelle Pass, Sophie Wallerstedt, Suado Abdi, Tasha Powell, Zainab Youngmark

Members Absent: Alyssa Banks, Amy Maas, Deb Brister, Ellen Kennedy, Jason Walker, Mai Yang, Council Member Phillipe Cunningham

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis/Food Policy Coordinator), Claire Baglien (Homegrown Minneapolis/Food Policy Program Aide), Hannah Ramer, Hannah Lagoon, Emily Minge, Ben Rengstorf, Sara Jane Van Allen, Heather Cusick, Karen Javurek, Melissa Trent, Jodi Gruhn, Ellen Sheehy, Katie Pintar, Kirsten Arm, Tsega Tamene, Max Winter, Katie Zender, Alexandra Cortes, Megan Bodane

1) Welcome and Opening Circle (DeVon Nolen, Co-Chair; all)

DeVon Nolen called the meeting to order.

2) Approval of August 2018 and September Food Council Meeting Minutes and September and October Agenda (Attachment 1, 2) (DeVon Nolen, Co-Chair)

Beth Dooley moved to approve both the August and September Food Council meeting minutes and September and October agenda, as quorum was not reached at the last meeting. Sophie Wallerstedt seconded and both were approved unanimously.

3) Update: Food Council recruitment to fill four open seats (Tamara Downs Schwei, Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator)

Tamara Downs Schwei provided an overview of the Food Council and reminded applicants interested in applying for one four open seats to submit their application no later than October 19th, 2018. Appointed members will serve the remainder of terms that began on January 1st, 2018 and will end December 31st, 2019.

4) Presentation, Discussion and Vote: Minneapolis Staple Foods Ordinance revisions (Kristen Klingler, Sophie Wallerstedt, Emily Minge)

Kristen Klinger provided information on the proposed changes to the Staple Foods Ordinance, for which the Food Council has written a letter of support. The ordinance applies to all licensed grocery stores to ensure availability of healthy food across the city. Over the past three years, the City of Minneapolis Health Department and a research team from the University of Minnesota have collected data, which have informed the proposed changes. These changes to the ordinance would eliminate current requirements that may not align with customers' cultural dietary preferences (e.g. requiring stores to stock cheese), combine similar requirements (e.g. combining the canned beans and dried beans category), and expand the types of acceptable products (e.g. smaller containers of non-dairy milk alternatives).



Discussion followed around how compliance is evaluated and enforced and if there are financial incentives for retailers to make fresh produce more affordable for customers. After the discussion, Sophie and Emily voiced their support for the proposed changes to the ordinance and opened the discussion up for amendments to the Food Council's letter of support. DeVon proposed the letter be amended to communicate the intention of the proposed changes to remove barriers to compliance and positively impact businesses' ability to offer healthy food. Heidi Ritchie agreed and suggested the letter includes more history and background information on the results of the ordinance, although that information does not need to be included in the Food Council's letter of support.

Sophie moved to approve the letter of support with the proposed amendment. Beth seconded and the letter was approved unanimously. Food Council members and community representatives were invited to attend a public hearing on the ordinance in late November.

5) Presentation and Discussion: Good Food Purchasing Program - Initial MPS Assessment (Kate Seybold, Minneapolis Public Schools)

Kate gave a presentation about Minneapolis Public Schools' (MPS) initial assessment through the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP), completed for the 2016-2017 school year. GFPP's purpose is to create an equitable and transparent food system based on five principles: animal welfare, environmental sustainability, nutrition, local economies, and valued workforce. MPS scored 20 points out of 25, and their highest scores were in local economies and valued workforce. Their biggest opportunity to improve was in the animal welfare category. MPS' total food budget was just under \$9 million, of which their highest percentage spent (30%) was on produce. There was some discussion about what's next for MPS in sharing this data and how to improve their score in the future, how student voices are represented in this data, and opportunities to recognize farms that are not certified organic, but following sustainable practices, in the baseline assessment.

6) Breakout Groups: Food Council Working Groups and Task Forces

All working groups met, except for Healthy Food & Waste and the Homegrown Small Business Fund whose leaders were not present.

7) Report Back: Food Council Working Groups and Task Forces

- Local Food Links – Purchasing and Procurement is focused on narrowing down their workplan.
- Food Policy Forum discussed potential dates in March and proposed to host the event at MPS again.
- Healthy and Inclusive Food Access is looking for additional projects beyond the Staple Foods Ordinance.
- Milan Urban Food Policy Pact glanced over the goals of the MUFPP and discussed gleaning from already available data sets to meet some of the goals.

8) Discussion: Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan Final Draft - Food Systems and Urban Agriculture in the Plan and Next Steps (All)

The final draft of Minneapolis 2040 was released, and many of the Food Council's proposed changes were not incorporated. There was some discussion about why certain things were and were not incorporated into the plan and how to proceed with providing additional input. Suado Abdi emphasized the importance of zoning code as a tool to implement the policies highlighted in Minneapolis 2040. There will be a public hearing about Minneapolis 2040 on October 29th, before the City adopts the plan in December. Anyone interested in speaking at the hearing should reach out to Tamara directly.



9) Updates and Announcements (All)

- Tamara provided an update on the Homegrown Small Business Fund, which includes both a grant and loan component. Food businesses who are looking for working capital and/or to build their financial capacity are encouraged to apply.
- Zoe Hollomon announced that the Good Food Purchasing Policy has a coalition meeting on October 18th at Land Stewardship Project. Anyone interested in attending should email gfptwincities@gmail.com

10) Closing Circle (DeVon Nolen, Co-Chair; all)

11) Meeting adjourns

Sophie moved to adjourn the meeting. Tasha Powell seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Next Food Council Meeting: Wednesday, November 14, 2018

5:00-5:30 pm pre-meeting presentation from Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON)

5:30-7:30 pm meeting; NEON, 1007 West Broadway Ave N, Minneapolis