

City of Minneapolis
Request for Committee Action

To: Health, Environment & Community Engagement
Date: 4/4/2016
From: City Coordinators Office
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Presented by: Tamara Downs Schwei, Russ Henry, DeVon Nolen
File type: Receive and File

Subject:

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council annual presentation.

Description:

Receiving and filing presentation reviewing 2015 Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council activities and 2016 work plan/recommendations.

Previous Actions:

The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council was created by 2009R-283 and amended by Resolution 2011R-445, 09/02/2011 and by Resolution 2015R-092, 02/27/2015.

Ward/Address:

All wards

Background/Analysis:

Homegrown Minneapolis is a citywide initiative expanding our community's ability to grow, process, distribute, eat and compost more healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods. The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council was established by 2011R-445 as a permanent body for the City of Minneapolis to serve as a nexus of citywide food related efforts. The purpose of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council is to:

- Advise the Mayor, City Council, and Park Board on food system related opportunities and challenges;
- Develop innovative policies and strategies to improve the growing, processing, promotion, distribution, consumption and composting of healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods in Minneapolis;
- Provide technical expertise and recommendations in the ongoing development of the City's Local Food sustainability targets;
- Advance the food system in directions that are health promoting, environmentally sustainable, local, resilient, inclusive, equitable, fair and transparent;
- Assist in development, implementation, and evaluation of Homegrown Minneapolis recommendations; and, where necessary, convene additional expertise to innovate around challenges;
- Support, participate and provide leadership in development of regional food system work;
- Assist with opportunities to celebrate food and its role in strengthening the connections of Minneapolis' many communities and cultures.

The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council is a co-ownership model comprised of 25 members and includes participation of 15 appointed community members, six city staff and elected representatives, one Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) staff representative, one community member appointed by MPRB, one Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) representative,

and one community member appointed by MPS. City representation includes a representative from: Health; Community Planning and Economic Development; Environmental Services, Sustainability; Mayor's Office; and, a City Council Member or City Council staff. 2015 was the second year of the second two-year term for the Food Council, led by Food Council Co-Chairs Russ Henry and Omari Chatman. The third two-year Food Council term began in January 2016. The new cohort is led by Co-Chairs Russ Henry and DeVon Nolen.

During 2015, Minneapolis boasted:

- More than 275 community gardens, including 50 community gardens leasing space on vacant City lots.
- 68 community gardens that incorporated more than 550 cubic yards of compost into their gardens through the City's free/reduced price compost program.
- Nearly 20 urban farms producing vegetables, fruit, mushrooms, honey, fish and more.
- 38 farmers markets and mini-markets, serving thousands of people each week during the growing season. Nearly all of the farmers markets accepted federal food assistance (EBT/SNAP).
- Three Minneapolis incubator kitchens supporting numerous food businesses.
- Four food co-op grocery stores in growth mode.
- 95 food trucks, 83 beehives and 265 chicken coops.

2015 Highlights:

Increased healthy food access

- Led efforts resulting in new policies allowing lease of City lots for market gardens and urban farms in addition to community gardens, 43 new vacant City parcels for garden lease, pollinator protection for City-leased lots and reduced lease fees.
- Contributed to passage of amended Minnesota Seed Law, allowing for operation of seed libraries and interpersonal seed exchange.

Improved the environment for pollinators and plants

- Contributed to passage of Pollinator Friendly City resolution, limiting pesticide usage on City property.
- Expanded size of allowable compost area for community gardens, market gardens and urban farm lots.

Supported food business development

- Contributed to passage of revisions to Minnesota's cottage food law, significantly increasing the maximum sales amount for qualifying food products.
- Hosted a community supported agriculture (CSA) program for City employees in partnership with three local farms.
- Facilitated a local food hubs survey, report and convening.

Recognized for food system action

- Won first and second prizes in national food policy photo contest in partnership with Appetite for Change and West Broadway Farmers Market.
- Finalist for Environmental Initiative Food Stewardship award.
- Included in Food Trust's national "Good Food Organization" list.
- Profiled for national "Cities of Innovation" report and webpage.

Facilitated community engagement

- Hosted a community open house with more than 250 people in attendance.
- Distributed a monthly electronic newsletter to more than 2600 people.
- Facilitated conversations about healthy food access, land access, food business development and chicken policy and represented Homegrown Minneapolis at events.
- Recruited new Food Council cohort, increasing scope and diversity of Food Council.

Financial Review:

No additional appropriation required, amount included in current budget.

Attachments:

1. 2016-2017 Food Council Roster
2. 2015 Homegrown Minneapolis Highlights
3. PowerPoint Presentation