

Homegrown Minneapolis

Kick-Off Meeting – Small Enterprise UA Subcommittee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Currie Conference Center, 1st floor conference room

11:30am – 12:00pm

- Participants included: Chair JoAnne Berkenkamp, Grover Jones, Robb Luckow, Peter Bachman, Beth Dooley, Kara Ferguson, Jen Blecha, Peat Willcut, Tamara Downs-Schwei, Helen Simrill, Anne Fischer, Robin Russell, Gunnar Liden, Paula Westmoreland, MaryLynn Pulscher, Ila Duntemann, Jenny Breen.
- Participants introduced themselves and talked about their interest in this topic. JoAnne reflected that this subcommittee may have less history to draw on since Small Enterprise Urban Agriculture is very much in the developmental phase in Mpls. It will be exciting to create a vision for this new work. In addition the members were asked to voice their hopes for the work of the subcommittee. Feedback included the following:
 1. There is a strong desire to involve youth in this work and to cultivate new farmers.
 2. Community based solutions are important. It is important to understand what kind of support is needed and for the city to understand how it can be most helpful.
 3. Given the multiple issues involved, a holistic, “systems-oriented” perspective is called for.
 4. We need to think clearly about the differing challenges of enterprise development and youth employment. We need to identify models that are viable and sustainable and that have solid business plans.
 5. It would be great to turn vacant land into a positive for the community through urban agriculture, especially on the Northside.
- JoAnne relayed that at the next meeting the group would explore some existing urban agriculture examples and plan next steps for our work together. **The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 3 pm at the Common Roots Café.**