

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 1, 2016, 5:30-7:30pm
Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104

Members present: Nadja Berneche, Paul Ratte, Rebecca Mino, Diane Dodge

Others present: Mary Montagne, Anna Larson, Deb Dalebroux, Paris Dunning, Fernando Bruga, Julie Seiber, Jaya Davis

Announcements and upcoming events:

- Anna Larson, a Food Justice Fellow at the Public Health Law Center **shared information on the SNAP-ed Community grant awarded to the Public Health Law Center until the end of November 2016.** The Public Health Law Center can work with networks and coalitions to provide technical assistance through training materials, webinars, creating resources, etc. to address the barriers of access to healthier foods for those in lower-income areas. The Law Center can also help research policies that may be causing barriers to healthier food access. Suggestions were made of potential connections the FNC could have with the Law Center for this grant. *Follow-up will be made with Anna by Nadja or Jaya.*
- Paul Ratte shared his passion about creating a workgroup to research and brainstorm policies around sugar-sweetened beverage tax. Only one [sugar sweetened beverage tax](#) can be found in Berkeley, CA. ***Paul Ratte will be reaching out to Commission members and community members interested in joining his workgroup to look further into this work.***
- Deb Dalebroux shared the upcoming **2016 Schoolyard Gardens Conference** is happening Friday, March 4, 2016 from 8:30-4:00. The theme is “An Ecosystem of Learning, Sharing Common Ground.” Location: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, MacMillan Auditorium. Special guest speaker and national leader, Betti Wiggins will be speaking at the conference. **Find out more information and register [here](#).**
- Nadja shared an invitation to attend a special session with **State Representative Karen Clark at Waite House in Minneapolis to discuss the 2016 MN Urban Agriculture Bill** and [the report to the Minnesota Legislature](#). The meeting is Tuesday, February 2nd at 10am.
- Jaya Davis shared that nominations for **2016 Ramsey County Public Health Awards** is open until Monday, March 8th at 4:30pm. Nominations for two different categories (youth and adult) can be made. **Please see [here](#) for more details.**
- Thanks were giving to Saint Paul City Council, Diane Dodge, Bernie Hesse, Tracy Sides, and Erin Rupp along with Samantha Henningson and Anne Hunt for their work on the [Saint Paul Pollinator Resolution](#) that passed on **January 27, 2016**. Praises were shared of the collaboration involved in the passing of this resolution.
- Jaya Davis passed out copies of the documentary, ***Food Justice***, to those interested and encouraged use of this documentary with groups interested in healthier foods/meals for those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity. **Orders for the DVD can be placed online** and supporting materials can be found online as well. **Check out www.foodjusticemn.org for more details.**

Meeting notes:

A brief conversation was had on plans for updating the by-laws and recruiting new members for the Food and Nutrition Commission. At the next meeting we will spend time updating and approving new by-laws. There are currently 4 open FNC positions, two through the City and two through the County. Please encourage interested community members to apply at the [County website](#) or [City website](#) or contact Jaya Davis (email: Jaya.Davis@co.ramsey.mn.us) for more information. Orientation will be held for any new members. Nadja is also encouraging any interested members to become a co-chair with her. Please consider volunteering.

Professor Fernando Burga provided an update on his “Site Planning for Food Justice, PA 5213” course which started last week. “The course aims to connect the theory, practice, and innovations of the food justice movement into site planning scopes that will influence the development of comprehensive planning policy.” Professor Burga provided an overview of projects planned in various Twin Cities communities and hopes the students work will translate to community needs. He invited FNC members and community members to attend the end of the semester exhibit event on May 4th at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Mark your calendars for the event and more details to come.

The March FNC meeting will be focused on comprehensive planning language development. Nadja charged each member with homework. First, to come with ideas of whom in the community we want to be talking with over the next 5 months to gather as much input prior to developing the draft language for comprehensive plans. Second, how do we want to engage people; through community events, open forums, workshops, go to various group meetings, etc.? **Please come prepared next meeting with thoughts on these two questions. Also, please review the chapters of the [St. Paul Citywide Plans](#).**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Please remember there is a **new location planned for the March meeting**. See below.

2016 MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS (5:30-7:30pm)
March 7, 2016	East Side Enterprise Center, 804 Margaret St., St. Paul, MN 55104
April 4, 2016	Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104
May 2, 2016	East Side Enterprise Center, 804 Margaret St., St. Paul, MN 55104