

## Food and Nutrition Commission

### Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2017

179 Robie St E, St Paul, MN 55107

*The purpose of the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission is to provide long-range planning and associated recommendations for policy, systems and environmental change at neighborhood, city and county levels with the aim of increasing access to healthy food.*

#### Members Present/Representation

Karen Fangman | County District 1  
-Elizabeth Zalanga | County District 3  
-Diane Dodge | County District 4  
-Nadja Berneche | County District 5 (chair)  
-Rebecca Mino | City of St. Paul  
-Metric Giles | City of St. Paul  
-Amanda Karls | City of St. Paul  
-Lebohang Moore | City of St. Paul  
Lane Rapp | City of St. Paul (*resigned*)

#### SPRCPH Staff:

Carissa Glatt | SHIP grant coordinator, staff liaison  
Alex Groten | intern

#### Guests:

Alicia Mickelson (Century College Student)  
Rachel Johnson (Century College Student)  
Michael Dahl, MN Food Charter  
Laura Bohlen, MN Extension  
Mary Montagne, Dakota County PH/personal  
Bernie Hesse, United Food and Commercial Workers  
Local 1189  
Emma Stracke (Century College Student)  
Natalie N. (Century College Student)  
Aaron V. (Century College Student)  
Barb Rose, Growing West Side

A food market tour was taken at 5:00. The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

#### **Agenda Item #1: Food Charter presentation (Michael Dahl) and Q & A session**

- MN Food Charter basics: tool to create healthy and affordable food options for all people.
  - Came from a CDC program. The Charter asks questions like: what does the community want out of the food system? Assesses 5 things- skills, availability, accessibility, affordability and infrastructure.
  - 1 in 5 families with children are in need of food assistance.
  - Spending \$3 billion a year in health-related costs (obesity and disease affected by food)
  - \$17 billion lost in revenue each year d/t health status of workers.
  - The Charter focuses on *Policy System and Environmental change* to impact people/communities on a broader level.
- If we want kids to eat healthy we must find ways to get healthy food to kids. (I.e. more CEUS to daycare providers, what are partnerships we can make so food is actually affordable for these kinds of places?)
- The Charter has 99 different solutions/strategies for creating change in the food environment.
  - There are a lot of things you can do to move MN Food Charter strategies forward!
- The MN Food Charter is a network: works to link many groups in the state that are doing similar work.
- We are in difficult times right now- the legislature may be cutting back on SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Partnership) and other food security programs.
  - Community and school garden programs or farmers market voucher programs (Power of Produce, Market Bucks), etc.
    - These programs don't happen without policies in place.

- SHIP is going to be in danger this legislative session- please take the time to let your reps know you care about the future of the MN Food Charter
- What would be something the FNC could tackle/focus on?
  - Getting institutions to change their buying power (schools, hospitals, nursing homes, etc.)
  - Ways to introduce kids to food at an early age.
- MI, IA, IL, New England area also have food charters (maybe 10 total in the country?) MN is leading the way.

**Action Items:**

- If you're interested in the work of any of the action teams, please contact Michael Dahl: [dahl0032@umn.edu](mailto:dahl0032@umn.edu)
- Let your legislature know you'd like to be *their local expert* on food--- the FNC will support you if they contact you and you do not know the answer to their question.
- Monthly newsletter: summary of what each action group is doing: look for the sign up here <http://mnfoodcharter.com/>
- Day at the Hill (Hunger Solutions): if you're interested in lobbying as a private citizen check this event out- they will train you how to lobby and talk to the legislature. <http://www.hungersolutions.org/>

**Action Item #2: Asset mapping discussion**

- Legislative session starting soon- asset mapping will be a tool to leverage networks and actions so we can collaborate. There is power in relationships.
- What is the "stuff" you can bring to the table to work towards common ground in food security?
  - "who" and "what" you know
- Brainstorming discussion and lists created for External, Personal and Partner assets.

**Action Items:**

- Alex will compile worksheet information and brainstorming lists to create a master.

**Agenda Item #3: Updates and Announcements (all)**

- School Garden conference coming up if you're interested in going: <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/Schoolyards2017.aspx>
- Next Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 4pm Executive Planning meeting (90 Plato Blvd). Please feel free to come, or call in if you'd like to join by phone.
- The FNC will have possible funding for facilitator to come in the coming months (early March/April) to set a timeline and goals for the next year.
- There are several openings for FNC members - these new commissioners will hopefully be appointed soon.
- Lane has resigned as co-chair and as a commission member due to work conflicts—we are looking for a new co-chair!
  - We will draw straws by next meeting if no one volunteers- please talk to Nadja or Carissa with questions or concerns, and don't be overwhelmed!
- Carissa will be sending out an internal FNC member survey and an external partner survey questions to assess the status of the work of FNC, etc. It is anonymous and information will be used to help us succeed in our future goals.
- Ramsey County Solid Waste Master Plan is not out yet- but will be open for 90 days when they open it for comments.
- GIS mapping project: food shelf, WIC locations, community farmers markets, etc. We want everyone's input because there are locations people may know of that are not advertised on the internet.
- Homework: look at Food Code (large document, will be asking for public comments in the near future)

- What to expect in the next legislative session: required listening.
- Immigrant and Minority Farm Conference: great event, farmers coming from all over Midwest January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> (Lebo can connect you if you are interested in more information or would like to attend)
- Reconciliation Lunch Group this Thursday (12<sup>th</sup>) at noon at the Rondo library. Students working in the north loop will be present. Please come join!
- “Now is a good time for the truth” book suggestion (short stories/poems) written by persons of color in this area.
- Alex’s last meeting as an intern to the FNC. Thank you Alex for your hard work!

**Action Items:**

- Consider volunteering to be a co-chair. We will draw straws in February if no one volunteers.
- Please take the evaluation survey Carissa sends out so we can hear everyone’s voice on what we can do better and what should stay the same.
- Please look at the GIS mapping project and contribute locations you know about for various food access points (these will be mapped to show food deserts and food oasis’)
- Consider nominating someone for a Public Health nomination. (Communication can be through email to nominate someone from the FNC) <https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/departments/health-and-wellness/public-health/ramsey-county-public-health-awards> Nominations are due Feb 7.
- Look at the Food Code <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/food/code/2009revision/draftprule/> to offer comments and input, or at least understand it.
- “What to expect in the next legislative session” required listening: <https://youtu.be/uHgl6BiOi2Y>

Minutes taken by: Alex Groten

Motion to adjourn (7:30) passed by affirmation of the committee.

Next meeting: **Monday, February 6th** at:

**Hallie Q. Brown Center**

270 N Kent St.

St. Paul, MN 55102

**5:00pm** (Tour of Hallie Q’s reverse food shelf- please join us if you can)

**5:30pm-7: 30pm:** (Meeting)