

**Food and Nutrition Commission
Meeting Minutes**

April 3, 2017

Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 Dale St. N, St. Paul, MN 55104

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

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

SPRCPH Staff

Carissa Glatt | SHIP Grant Coordinator, Staff Liaison
Kaila Schoenberger | Intern
Franny Clary-Leiferman | Health Educator
William Moore | Health Educator

Guests

Julie Seiber
Sabrina Vang
Terese Hill
Alex Groten
John Parker-Der Boghossian
Nicole Helgeson
Oanh Vu
Mary Montagne
Katie Gurke
Annie Vang

The meeting was called to order at 5:41pm. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

Agenda Item #1: GIS food access map (Nicole Helgeson)

Purpose of map

- Help direct county, public health, SHIP, and FNC work by opening our eyes to gaps in food access
- Public access on St. Paul-Ramsey County website in the future
- Map will be offered once complete

Layers

- Grocery stores
- Food shelves
- Farmers markets
- Cornerstores (that accept WIC)
- Transit routes
- Percent living in poverty
- Percent of population aged 60+
- Others

Current specific queries

- Grocery stores near me

- Transit routes and neighborhoods
- Farmers markets in Ramsey County
- No vehicle in household
- Want something added? Send to Carissa by April 24

Discussion and suggestions

- List data sources and criteria for choosing the data
- Keep in mind people may be feeding themselves in ways that we can't see from the map
- Have a link for "something is missing" on website
- Need a key or legend
- Rec centers with community and after school programs may be important to include because kids may be responsible for getting food in their family
- Decided not to add meal programs because this is a resource for planning and increasing food access
 - Have link to food access resource for communities on website
 - <http://www.hungersolutions.org/map/>
- Add layer with zoning
- Add percentage in wealth
- Include instructions for how to use the map

Action Items:

- Send specific queries or other comments to Carissa by April 26

Agenda Item #2: Review Food Code (Amanda Karls)

What is the food code?

- Regulations that deal with safe food handling
- Amanda looked at it with the eye of our vision statement

Rule 4626.00, subp. 35

- Makes it unclear what types of community meals will be regulated (e.g. family/community get-togethers)
- Provision is unnecessary and may make things complicated

Overall observations

- Food code is 200 pages of technical language – barrier to those wanting to start a small business, especially immigrants
- Future comments could include making this process easier
- Unnecessary regulations that may not enhance safety – might be helpful for environmental health to review the document

What is the next step?

- Review the proposed draft language for rule 4626.00, subp. 35 (attached)
- Send changes or comments to Amanda amandajgkarls@gmail.com
- FNC will decide on final proposal at next meeting and send to the food code

Everyone is welcome to review the food code and bring up other topics for improvement: LINK

Action Items:

- Review proposed draft language and send changes or comments to Amanda and Carissa by April 26

Agenda Item #3: Community engagement discussion

Goal

- Create relationships with communities and organizations
- Establish FNC as a trusted source for food access information

2-pronged approach to community engagement

- Community listening sessions
 - What does this look like? Where can we engage people? What should we focus on?
 - Tabling at events – Highland Fest, Cinco de Mayo (West Side), Rondo Days, Peace Celebration, etc.
 - People do not want to do a questionnaire
 - Something like a “bean in a bucket” for most important issues
- Contact organizations
 - Learn about community needs and food access from other organizations
 - Focus attention on community members that need better food access, but do not exclude anyone that has comments or suggestions
 - List of organization and questions to guide the conversation on google doc:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XebLd39-M1ckqzWHE67T_exuGTFP76imilm6slJyE4A/edit?usp=sharing
 - Sign up to contact at least one organization
 - Write summary of conversation and send to Carissa by April 26
 - Parking lot item for future discussion: communications of FNC- what do we do? Who are we?

Action Items:

- Sign up to contact at least one organization here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XebLd39-M1ckqzWHE67T_exuGTFP76imilm6slJyE4A/edit?usp=sharing
- Write summary of conversation and send to Carissa by April 26

Agenda Item #4: Setting Goals

- Think about long-term (1 year) and short-term (6 months) goals for FNC
- Vote at next meeting

Action Items:

- Prepare for goal setting and possible voting next meeting

Agenda Item #5: Housekeeping

- Co-Chair
 - If someone does not come forward by May 1 (next meeting), we will draw straws
- Member appointment
 - Need 3 members from the city
 - City of St. Paul application link: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/mayors-office/committees-boards-and-commissions/boards-and-commissions-listing-and>
 - Need 2 members from the county (Districts 6 and 7)
 - County District 6 and 7 application link: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/volunteer/advisory-boards-committees>
- Current member survey
 - Still need some responses
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7VH7S7X>
 - Will review results at next meeting

Action Items:

- Consider volunteering as Co-Chair
- Send member application to people you think would be a great asset to the commission
- Complete the current member survey if you haven't already: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7VH7S7X>

Agenda Item #5: Updates and Announcements

- Involvement with St. Paul's comprehensive plans (Nadja)
 - Provide recommendations with a food access lens
 - Look for information about a short-term workgroup
 - Interested – Nadja, Amanda, Karen, Lebo, Rebecca
- Minnesota Food Association has merged with The Food Group on April 1 (Lebo)
- Artful living magazine has article about original FNC member (Julie)
 - See article about Lenny Russo on pages 148-156
 - <https://artfullivingmagazine.com/spring-2017-issue/>
- Panel and Community Conversation hosted by Urban Farm and Garden Alliance & U of MN Extension
 - Tuesday, April 4
 - 6-8 pm
 - St. Paul City School, 643 Virginia St., St. Paul, MN 55103

Minutes taken by: Kaila Schoenberger

Motion to adjourn (7:33 pm) passed by affirmation of the committee.

Next Meeting

- Date: Monday, May 1st
- Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm
- Location: Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, 270 N Kent St., St. Paul, MN 55102