

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 4, 2016, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Merriam Park Library,
1831 Marshall Ave, St Paul, MN 55104

Members present: Nadja Berneche, Diane Dodge, Rebecca Mino, Tracy Sides, Colleen Schlieper, Paul Ratte, Metric Giles, Hua Vang

Members not present: Boa Her

Others present: Gina Allan, Fernando Burga, Evalyn Carbrey, Jaya Davis, Mary Montagne, Julie Seiber

Welcome by Nadja Berneche, the chair. Postponed introductions until after announcements.

- Tracy Sides shared that the [Kitchen on the Bluff](#) is going to host an open house in **May or June**. Stay tuned for more details. Urban Oasis and Urban Roots are partnering to create an edible landscape on East 7th Street, borrowing planters from Parks and Rec and growing culturally specific produce. A community planting day is scheduled in conjunction with the East Side Plant Sale on **May 26th**.
- Professor Burga shared an invitation to his mid review of the student projects on **Wednesday April 6th from 6-8:30pm in room 50B at the HHH**. This will be an opportunity to come and offer feedback on student's projects. He also extended an invitation to the final review for the class on **Wednesday May 4th from 11:00-4:00pm**. This will be an open house event with food from local catering businesses. Please consider attending and viewing the poster presentation of the students as well as take an opportunity to provide feedback and comments on the posters. The event will be on the main floor of the Humphrey Institute (HHH), 301 19th Ave S #307, Minneapolis, MN 55455.
- Diane Dodge shared her thoughts on an event at the University of Minnesota on Thursday, March 31st called the **Grand Challenge**. You can view the entire program [here](#). Diane specific described the Urban Farm and Garden Alliance partnership with University graduate students and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs to develop ways of measuring the vegetative and social yields of the Alliance's work. Challenges, strategies, and lessons learned by both graduate students and Alliance leaders were shared.
- Julie Seiber shared an update on the **Farmers Market Collaborative** hosted by Tamara Downs-Schwei and other partners. Continued support by Julie and Gianna Short, a Ph.D. student in the Applied Economics Department at the University of Minnesota will be provided to connect St. Paul/Ramsey County farmer's markets to this metro-wide project.
- Nadja shared her experience presenting at the [Ramsey County Comp Planning](#) event on Monday, March 28th. Nadja provided city planners, staff, and community members' information on local food access and urban agriculture. Nadja shared the [Food and Nutrition Commissions long-term recommendations](#) and encouraged anyone interested in applying for open membership positions.
- Diane shared information on a **TEDx Minneapolis event** she attended on April 1st at the Bachelor Farmer called [Reap and Sow](#). A variety of expert speakers presented on the work they are doing around new ideas about our community's integral role in the national food system.
- Nadja shared an update on the **Urban Agriculture Bill** moving forward in the House Agriculture Finance Committee on Tuesday, April 5th. Just a reminder, under the bill persons, organizations, cities, or Native American Tribes who apply for grants would be awarded based on commitments that involve creating living-wage jobs, involving youth, reducing waste, and promoting racial equity, among many others.

- Mary Montagne shared an article about a City of Saint Paul initiative called [“Pop-Up Meeting” Bus](#). This initiative was an intriguing connection for any upcoming community engagement events planned through the Food and Nutrition Commission. See [here](#) for another article on this “Pop-Up Meeting” mobile.

After announcements introductions by all attendees was complete.

Moving onto agenda items, Nadja asked once more for a volunteer for the co-chair position. Tracy Sides kindly volunteered and was voted in unanimously by members. Thank you Tracy. Nadja encouraged all attendees to seek out potential applicants for the open FNC membership positions. All are encouraged to send information on how to apply to anyone in their networks. An FNC member must live or work in Ramsey County to qualify. See [Saint Paul](#) and [Ramsey County](#) websites for application information. Further work will be done to create orientation materials and an orientation plan for new members once they are chosen.

Nadja, Tracy, Diane, and Jaya met with City of St. Paul staff on Monday, March 7, 2016. Provided key highlights from the conversation. Will continue to keep communications and partnership open with City of St. Paul staff on topics related to land use, urban agriculture, and healthy food access in comp planning, to name a few.

Professor Fernando Burga shared an update on his Site Planning for Food Justice in the Twin Cities course at the Humphrey Institute. Student projects are in mid-review and all are welcome to attend the class on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 6:00pm. All are also welcome to attend the final review on May 4th. For more information and details about each student’s project check out the blog [here](#). Professor Burga also shared his plans for hosting this Site Planning course again next year and hopefully a continued to connection to the work done through the FNC and others working in the Metro area around race, equity, access to healthy food, food justice, and the importance of networks.

A group discussion and brainstorming session occurred for the last 30 minutes of the meeting around the who and how for good food planning and impacting the comp planning process with regards to healthy food access. All attendees were given an excel spreadsheet prepared by Gina Allen, intern with Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health/MPH student. The spreadsheet provided information on all Ramsey County cities, the link to their current comp plan, names of city staff involved with comp planning, the chapter titles for each comp plan, and a yes or no if the plan addressed active living and/or healthy eating. Notes for the brainstorming session were gathered on who FNC members should connect with in the community and how/what current meetings, events, etc. could be attended/leveraged as places to engage on this topic. More discussion on this workplan will be continued at our May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

2016 MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: (5:30 – 7:30 pm)
May 2, 2016	East Side Enterprise Center, 804 Margaret St, Saint Paul, MN 55106
June 6, 2016	Frogtown Farm, 941 Lafond Ave. Ste. 200, St. Paul, MN 55104
July 11, 2016	Hamline Midway Library,