

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 7, 2014
5:00 – 7:00 p.m., 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Members attending: Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, JoAnn Tesar, Kentale Morris, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, Pat Trotter

Others attending: Eleonore Wesserle, Jaya Ginter, Julie Seiber, Ruth Aase, Leah Driscoll

Nadja Berneche opened the meeting with introductions followed by announcements:

- Diane Dodge reported that the Rondo neighborhood received a grant from Urban Farm and Garden Alliance for 6 small gardens to be started in the neighborhood along with garden boxes. Melvin Giles will be the administrator.
- Eleonore Wesserle discussed the Metro Council planning process for ThriveMSP (30 year plan for housing, transportation, parks and water). It contains one sentence about urban agriculture. On April 16, Tim Thompson of Housing Preservation Project will present and update on this issue. The Met Council will have a listening session later on the same day. Deadline for public comment on the draft is April 28th. Eleonore will draft a sign-on letter.
- Leah Driscoll said that Twin Cities Mobile Market should be able to purchase a bus within a week. She has been holding multiple community engagement sessions to identify food needs and locations for the bus to stop. Julie mentioned that some funding for the TC Mobile Market was included in the SHIP grant due to the recommendation of the Infrastructure and Economic Development Task Force of this Commission.
- Diane and Metric planned to attend the 2014 Facing Race Ambassador Awards with keynote speaker Wing Young.
- Food and Water Watch of St. Paul is requesting Commission member sign-on to a resolution to support federal limits on the use of medically important antibiotics.

A discussion on the Commission's procedure to support future resolutions resulted in plans to review bylaws language around their support of resolutions and sign-on letters from community organizations.

JoAnn Tesar presented highlights from the 2014 FeedingAmerica/FRAC/CACFP National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference she attended March 2-4, 2014, in Washington, D.C. The Affordable Care Act and SNAP outreach are intersecting with each other. California used SNAP data to identify Medicaid eligible participants who received letters and responded in significant numbers. SNAP outreach workers in Cleveland have been opening pop-up clinics in grocery stores with Walmart Foundation grants. AARP Foundation reported on issues with the population aged 50 – 59. Half of those who are SNAP eligible are not applying. They feel like they are not treated well by county workers and find the paperwork daunting. Some have seasonal jobs and the low level of benefits may not seem worth the trouble.

Priority setting and work planning continued with grid updated from March meeting. Nadja reminded the group that the charge of the Commission is policy and advocacy, not programming.

Members were interested in knowing more about how residents can locate vacant land that can be used for gardens. Mark Granlund was suggested as a contact for this information.

Having an intern who can work on communications is a priority.

Suggestions for future meetings included finding experts on soil testing and information about the situation with bee hive health. Following up with residents about hoop houses was also mentioned.

Discussion was had about re-launching the Task Force working groups in order to divide the priorities and invite more people to the table.

The group is interested in connecting with the District Councils through Diane Warner who is the coordinator. They suggested sending her the one-pager developed for the garden hub distributions and talking with her about having a representative attend a meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

UPCOMING MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107 5:30 – 7:30 pm
June 2, 2014	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
July 7, 2014	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
August 4, 2014	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
September 8, 2014	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
October 6, 2014	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
November 3, 2014	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
December 1, 2014	Star Room, 2 nd Floor