

## **Saint Paul – Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission Minutes**

**Monday, August 3, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Ramsey County Plato Office Building**

**90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107**

Members attending: Bernie Hesse, Boa Her, Hua Vang, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, Paul Ratte, Rebecca Mino, Tracy Sides

Members absent: Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Kentalé Morris, Pam Tasker, Pat Trotter

Others attending: Paris Dunning, Ann Luke, Donald Gault, Leah Driscoll, Julie Seiber, Jane Cowan, Laura Bohlen

Nadja Berneche began the meeting with introductions and announcements which included:

- Bernie Hesse noted that several cities are implementing “Good Food Procurement” policies for the institutions they manage. The policies promote the use of local food from worker-friendly sources. Donald Gault mentioned some efforts that Ramsey County institutions have made.
- Tracy Sides announced the opening of “Kitchen on the Bluff” at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Bates in Dayton’s Bluff. It has been renovated by the Latino Economic Development Center and Urban Oasis and will open Aug. 15 as an incubator kitchen. A menu of business development services will be available there. Urban Oasis will coordinate the kitchen and will be partnering with Eureka Recycling on composting and recycling.
- The Urban Oasis Food Fest is scheduled for Sept. 19 and will include a 5K race at 10:00 and food-related events from 11:00 – 4:00 at Indian Mounds Regional Park. See the web site.
- Leah Driscoll announced that Mississippi Market is asking for donations at the check-out this month for Twin Cities Mobile Market. She will assist with the Community Table exhibit at the State Fair in the Horticulture Bldg. They are still looking for volunteers. She thanked the F&N Commission for nominating TCMM for the Public Health Award last spring.

Nadja and Julie Seiber reported on a meeting they attended June 30 at Hunger Solutions on behalf of the FNC to discuss creating a statewide legislative agenda for healthy local food and support of fruit and vegetable growers in Minnesota (called specialty crops in agriculture law). Discussion was wide-ranging and seemed to eventually focus on a request for a \$20 purchasing incentive similar to Market Bucks at farmers markets and crop insurance for specialty crops as a part of the Healthy Food Financing Initiative. There will be further meetings before the legislative session.

Tracy Sides discussed planning for Food Day, October 24, 2015 with the national theme: “Food Day inspires Americans to change their diets *and* our food policies.” She distributed a draft of a Food Day Proclamation to be passed by the City Council. Donald Gault suggested that a

similar proclamation be submitted to the County Board for passage as well. Tracy will follow up with Donald.

Nadja reported that she met with Donald, Jaya, and Julie to discuss staffing for the Commission after the SHIP 3 grant ends on October 31. Julie will be ending her phased retirement plan then and due to two long-term SHIP staff sick leaves, staffing resources will be extremely limited during November and December. Nadja suggested that not meeting for two months would lose the momentum of the group and there was a consensus that the Nov. 2 meeting will go on as scheduled but the December meeting will be cancelled. There was agreement that some of the work could continue with small task forces addressing specific issues. Laura Bohlen from the Extension Service said that there might be potential for staff time by Extension. Nadja asked for volunteers for a short-term FNC planning work group and Bernie and Metric volunteered to work with her on this.

Nadja proposed that the FNC ask for expanded membership to include at least one staff person each from the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County. Tracy stated that she thought a more formal relationship would be beneficial to the FNC work. Metric Giles suggested that the FNC become more community-based and hold listening sessions in the community. A motion was made by Metric and seconded by Tracy to request the change to have designated staff representatives on the Commission. There was a unanimous vote for this motion.

Metric recommended a couple of resources to consider in planning:

Minnesota Dept. of Health's Health Equity Report

Link: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/healthequity/legreport.htm>

Bill Strickland's Ted Talk on rebuilding Pittsburgh

[https://www.ted.com/talks/bill\\_strickland\\_makes\\_change\\_with\\_a\\_slide\\_show?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/bill_strickland_makes_change_with_a_slide_show?language=en)

Paris Dunning is interested in helping to gather information about local food for the comprehensive planning work.

Building on the work done last fall on the Just Food Voters Guide, the Commission members decided to bring food as a part of the discussion in Saint Paul by asking candidates about their interest in local food and food access issues. This is not to be partisan, just to bring the issues forward and have them recognized as affecting residents.

There is still interest in promoting home composting as part of the trash collection package in Saint Paul. Julie mentioned that Ramsey County now has home compost/organics collection at most of the yard waste sites. More information is on the web site:

[http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/rt/organics\\_recycling](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/rt/organics_recycling)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

2015 MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 551075:30 – 7:30 pm
September 14, 2015	(one week later due to Labor Day holiday)
October 5, 2015	
November 2, 2015	
December 2015	Meeting cancelled