

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 6th, 2012 5:30pm-7:30pm
Ramsey County Plato Office Building
90W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, MN 55107

Members attending: Nadja Berneche, Metric Giles, Bernie Hesse, Lisa Jore, Kentale Morris, Helene Murray, Linda Pope, Colleen Schlieper, JoAnn Tesar, Pat Trotter

Others attending: Z. Lu Alexander, Nicole Eikenberry, Donald Gault, Kaela Glass, Katie Godfrey, Seitu Jones, Rina McManus, Patricia Ohmans, Erik Reisenberg, Greg Sorensen, Diana Turner, Samantha Henningson

Food and Art

- Seitu talked about the 12 acre space that used to be the Wilder campus in Frog Town. They are currently waiting for the Mayor's 2013 budget to see what can happen in this space. He then gave a presentation on the intersection of culture, art, and food. He's planning for a community meal in 2014: a public art project that celebrates each person's role in the local food system.
- Upcoming event of interest: Mayors Institute on City Design- October 17-19, 2012 with a focus on food. Event presents an opportunity to capitalize on the St. Paul Riverfront Commission's focus on food.

World Food Day/Week, October 16-24

- Bernie has connected with the MN Growers Association and grocery stores for meet the farmer activities at locally/regionally sourced stores and is planning a forum on food justice with Macalester College. Other ideas: sharing recipes or cookbooks, giving awards to recognize accomplishments, connecting with the school district, painting a better picture of SNAP users and their impact on the local economy. Group also discussed using social media, the Commission's listserv, and St. Paul Farmers' Market to promote World Food Day/Week.
- The group also discussed activities in suburban Ramsey County in addition to St. Paul. What programs or activities can be replicated in suburban Ramsey County? This will be easiest if there are a few key, simple messages and themes that can be replicated. Those themes need to be drafted.
- Next Steps:
 - Check in with Julie to see how food day planning is moving forward and how to carry out communication between meetings.
 - Cross promote Food Week: leverage the Mayor's engagement and the theme of the Mayors Institute of City Design and get the mayor to come to a meeting.
 - Nadja and Lisa will connect the FNC to the Riverfront Commission.

Eco Experience invitation

- Last year FNC's activity was dot voting around the biggest barriers to accessing healthy food. This year the Commission is still looking for volunteers for the table and suggestions for questions/activities. Helene will ask Brett to send more information about the event. Good

opportunity to advertise the Food Day/Week calendar of events by giving the addresses and times of specific events.

Curbside Composting

- The commission decided it will not take a formal position on curbside composting at this time, but will follow-up by formulating questions and getting more information. Commission would like to know more about the process and what questions should be asked along the way.

Met Council Land Use Plan

- Group discussed inviting Met Council to a meeting to talk about the FNC's recommendations and how they fit with Met Council. Commission would like to discuss Met Council's plan, the work they do with cities and counties, the relationship between small area plans and Met Council's plan, and the Commission's role with them- What is the intersection of these two groups and how can they interact? Discussed possibly formulating something as a group to submit online.
- Next step:
 - Invite Met Council to a meeting and see how their work and Commission's relate.

Commission Connection to Suburban Municipalities

- Invite representatives from suburban municipalities to talk/learn about Commission's work- County Commissioners interested in spreading information about planning and recommendations from the Commission to local governments and residents throughout the County.
- Group discussed preparing a tool-kit to use at workshop sessions or offering opportunities for education by sharing lessons learned and presenting on specific issues. Commission discussed how to assist and support municipalities in pushing their issues forward.

Items for September's Meeting

- Bernie will lead a brainstorming session to develop a set of legislative budget recommendations for the Commission to promote in the 2013 legislative session.
- Discussion around the October City Council meeting and drafting FNC comments
- Discussion on local and organic food: balancing regulation with community engagement. How to engage people in growing local, *healthy* food. What is the minimum level of best practices between local and organic? Who is the right body to do this? What is the language and the definitions we use when we talk about this?

Upcoming Event

Happy Hour with Homegrown Minneapolis

Wednesday, August 15th

5:30pm

Possible Location: Ngon Vietnamese Bistro