

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2011 | 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Ramsey County Plato Conference Center
90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Attending:

Members: Becky Timm, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, Lenny Russo, Linda Littrell, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, Kentale Morris, and Lisa Jore.

Others attending: Brett Olson, Julie Seiber, Anne Hunt, Barbara Grossman, Greg Sorensen, Lindsey Hoeft, Marijo Wunderlich, John Brosnan, Yvonne Jonk, Jim Ivey, and Lisa Marshall.

Welcome and Introductions - Becky

Announcements and upcoming events - All

- *Aug. 18, 5:30 – 7:30, Local Foods Night at St. Paul Reformation Church, 100 N. Oxford St*
Julie and Linda volunteered to staff a table
- *Aug. 30, 9:00 – 4:00, Urban Ag Tour, F&N Comm. to be part of the opening panel discussion*
Nadja will present for the Commission and asked for highlights from each task force by August 23rd.
- Oct. 24, National Food Day, opportunity to have table at UofM Coffman Union
<http://foodday.org/>
Becky will staff table if available. This is an opportunity to recruit interns/students. Opportunity for press to summarize what we have been doing – Becky volunteered to help write something.
- Saint Paul Farmers' Market table – Katie, with the help of Simply Good Eating, had a display and demo on July 23 and another one is planned for Aug. 13.
- Others:
 - Renewing the Countryside has a table available at the State Fair on 9/3 from 9am-9pm. Lenny, Nadja, Linda, Colleen and Julie will help staff. Helene will help plan content—suggestion was that it be interactive.
 - Metric asked everyone to vote for the Summit-U orchard and to promote it at the events where the Commission has contact with the public. The organizations with the top five vote totals will have an orchard planted by Edy's
<http://www.communitiestakeroot.com/Plant/Index>
 - Lenny is on the Organic Agriculture Advisory Task Force and is advocating for inclusion of urban ag and food literacy issues. Lenny will also be starting a post on the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce.
 - John Brosnan, who is organizing people who are interested in urban food production is interested in presenting on this Urban Ag Alliance at the Sept. or Oct. meeting
 - Becky and Nadja attended a meeting of a group interested in food resources and production in the NE metro area. People from a number of different organizations and interests attended the meeting at Century College with the outputs of a visual depiction by an artist of the topics discussed and a chart summarizing the parts of the vision.
 - Brett Olson reported on Mpls market garden and urban farms policy meeting. Topics discussed had to do with growing food commercially in the city.
 - St. Paul Farmer's Market now accepts EBT downtown on weekends

- Metric suggested discussing how the commission can be supportive of Frogtown Farms at a future meeting. It is an important project proposed for the most under-resourced part of Saint Paul.
- Yvonne Jonk mentioned that the Rural Health Research Center has resources to conduct studies in the community on food and health

Progress Report on Recommendations Preparation – Becky

Two task forces have submitted drafts. Please send final drafts to Julie by 8/15. Julie and Lindsey will compile into one document. Commission suggested having a more final draft that will be ready for content feedback at the September meeting.

Anne suggested releasing a draft report on Food Day (10/24) that will be open for public comment, in addition to promotion with key groups. Commission suggested: St. Paul Neighborhood Network, task force members and their contacts.

Anne reminded commission that 11/8 is election day and the St. Paul City Council will have new representatives. Potential is there to raise food issues on the campaign trail.

Elevator Speeches and Making the Case – Becky/All

At the last Commission meeting, members determined that scheduling one-on-one meetings with key policymakers at the district, city and county levels was an important next step. A document with description of task forces, along with summary of highlights from each task force that Nadja will receive prior to the Urban Ag tour event will form basis for elevator speech on each task force.

Developing the Awards Program - Linda & Nadja

Discussion regarding the purpose, need and timing for an effective awards program. Commission agreed that criteria for awards would need to be reflective of and align with recommendations. Agreed to table further development of awards program until after recommendations are finalized. “The Veggies” was suggested as a possible name for the awards.

Discussion of evaluation survey for Commission members - Marijo Wunderlich

Draft of an internal evaluation tool was distributed. Commission members are asked to review and submit any feedback on additional questions they would like to have as a part of the survey to Julie by 8/15. When it is completed, a link to the survey on SurveyMonkey will be sent to Commission members.

Questions and Closing Comments

Brief discussion about combining food infrastructure and economic development task forces. Recommendations will be combined in draft of compiled recommendations.

Next meetings:

Monday, Sept. 12 (Monday after Labor Day), 5:30 – 7:30, Plato Conference Center

Monday, Oct. 3, 5:30 – 7:30, Plato Conference Center