

Food and Nutrition Commission Minutes
Monday, December 3, 2012, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Ramsey County Plato Office Building
90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Members attending: Becky Timm, Bernie Hesse, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Kentalé Morris, Lisa Jore, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, and Pat Trotter

Others attending: Anne Hunt, Diana Turner, Julie Seiber, Kelsea Dumbrovski, Mark Granlund, and Heather Peterson

Nadja Berneche, who had volunteered to chair the meeting, welcomed the members, staff and guests and led introductions.

Announcements:

No update available on Planning Commission work on urban agriculture regulations

Linda Pope had a discussion with Mary Marrow of William Mitchell Public Health Law Center about collaboration with the Commission. Mary will come to the next meeting to provide an overview of their work on food policy and have a discussion with the Commission.

Kelsea Dombrovski and Mark Granlund, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, discussed Kelsea's plan of work during her GreenCorps tenure. Her projects will include assisting urban agriculture groups by developing a system for resource sharing on land acquisition processes, developing guidelines for using local food sourcing at city events and facilities, improving vending offerings in city facilities, researching the need for a centralized local food distribution center for local food, assess current food waste disposal system and identify steps to improve it, and updating website information about raising animals in the city.

Nadja Berneche was unanimously elected to be one of the co-chairs of the Commission. The selection of the other co-chair was tabled until the next meeting due to the absence of several members.

A letter to the members of the Minnesota U. S. Congressional urging passage of the Farm Bill was accepted with a few corrections and will be sent by Nadja by Dec. 6. Bernie will plan to hand-deliver the letter to Rep. McCollum's office if possible.

The Commission authorized Nadja to sign a letter of support on their behalf for the Community Design Center's grant proposal to Blue Cross Blue Shield for work on Saint Paul's East Side food system and wellness activities.

A discussion of some priorities for next year included:

A desire to re-engage with the community

Make sure activities are justice-focused, always asking questions to highlight this

Initiate a discussion with Farmers' Legal Action Group around land justice issues

Plan for a session with the suburban communities

Meet with the Saint Paul District Council group

Get more information on the Food Charter efforts in Minnesota and other places which have adopted food charters

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Upcoming meeting dates: January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, and June 3, 2013.