

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 2, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

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

Members attending: Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, Nadja Berneche, and Tracy Sides

Members absent: Bernie Hesse, Hua Vang, JoAnn Tesar, Kentale Morris, Metric Giles, Pat Trotter, Rebecca Mino

Others present: Ann Luke, Jaya Ginter, Julie Seiber

Nadja Berneche welcomed everyone who introduced themselves.

Announcements and upcoming events included:

- John Flory of the Latino Economic Development Center in the Dayton's Bluff area invited the group to tour their facility which includes a local food incubator facility. Julie Seiber will poll members to determine interest and set up a date if people are interested.
- Tracy Sides asked about interest in collaborating with Homegrown Minneapolis on determining the "landscape" of food hubs in the metro. The group is interested so Aaron Reser and Julie will contact Tamara Downs Schweii.
- Tracy also inquired about group interest in a staple foods ordinance such as Minneapolis has enacted. Kristen Klinger is a contact for that in Minneapolis.
- Nadja reminded everyone that the precinct caucuses are Feb. 3 and it gives an opportunity to bring up food access issues.
- Julie related a report from Leah Driscoll that the Twin Cities Mobile Market is exceeding the anticipated 300 being served with a total of 800 for the first 30 days. The bus is currently stopping at 17 sites and will add another later in February. They are working with the partner sites to promote the market and receiving media coverage which will help spread the word. CBS Minnesota has a nice video which Julie showed:
<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2015/01/27/twin-cities-mobile-market-delivers-healthy-food-to-hundreds/>
- Aurora – St. Anthony peace garden was received the Eggplant Award for excellence in edible gardens.
- Dianne reminded everyone to attend the Immigrant and Minority Farmers Conference on Feb. 7 and 8.

Nadja and Julie reported on meeting with City of Saint Paul staff—Anne Hunt, Samantha Henningson, Mark Granlund, and Tyler McLean. Julie was asked to contact Mark Granlund to give the group more information on the orchard project. Dianne was interested in more information from Anne Hunt about the Pollinator Task Force. There was interest in more information about the seed library issue and the Food Charter. HRA lease issues were discussed.

Helene gave an update on the urban agriculture development zone legislation that was brought up at the January meeting. A bill has been introduced in the House (HF153, introduced by Karen Clark with 7 co-sponsors). There is no companion bill in the Senate yet. The bill is different than the proposal discussed last month. It is now related to requiring comprehensive plans for cities with greater than 60,000 residents to include urban agriculture zones and an approach for development and maintenance of the zones.

Tracy Sides gave highlights of her Food Sovereignty trip to Cuba. She said that agro-ecology is the foundation of their food system with “clean food” policies in place to align agriculture, food and health. She will give a presentation about the trip on March 20, 2015, 7 – 9 pm. Watch for more information.

Jaya Ginter described the SHIP mini-grant availability. She can be contacted for more information.

Ideas for nominations for Public Health Awards were discussed. Members will work on nominations for Create: the Community Meal, Twin Cities Mobile Market, and Megan Phinney for her work with youth related to the Aurora St. Anthony Peace Garden. Nomination form is on the web site.

http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/au/rc_public_health_awards.htm

The commission membership openings were discussed. The Ramsey County application process is open until Feb. 27 with application form on the web site:

<http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cb/ma/volunteer.htm>

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

UPCOMING MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107 5:30 – 7:30 pm
March 2, 2015	
April 6, 2015	
May 4, 2015	

June 1, 2015	
July 6, 2015	
August 3, 2015	