

Food and Nutrition Commission Minutes
Monday, February 4, 2013, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

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

Members attending: Bernie Hesse, Brett Olson, Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, Linda Pope, Lisa Jore, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, and Pat Trotter.

Other attendees: Ann Hunt, Julie Seiber, Ben Johnson,

After the welcome and introductions, announcements included:

Farm to School conferences on Feb. 14 and 28
Feb. 15 and 16 Sustainable Farming Summit
February 22 Schoolyard Garden Conference
March 9 Gardening Matters Spring Resource Fair at Metro State

A discussion of the work plan followed. In addition to the items already identified at the last meeting, discussion included:

- concern for healthy soil in the inner city—current status, who is responsible, where is information, etc.
- need to have food system benchmarks with numbers in order to measure status at regular intervals such as every two years
- need for healthy and sustainable food educational events for the public
- need for education and awareness about genetically modified food
- job readiness for young people to work in the food system
- need for a better term than “food desert” for areas where there aren’t large grocery stores
- possibility of a name for the Food and Nutrition Commission that would resonate better with the public
- processes for community gardeners to access public land owned by Parks and Recreation, Public Works and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority
- organization of work that FNC wants to do: Committees, task forces, short term, long term??

The letter to the Metropolitan Council about regional food system issues was discussed and the Commission members agreed to review it and give comments by e-mail.

The process for the Minnesota Food Charter discussed briefly and postponed until the next meeting since the web site and information is not available yet.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20.

2013 MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107 5:30 – 7:30 pm
March 4, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
April 1, 2013	Star Room, 2 nd Floor,
May 6, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
June 3, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
July 1, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
August 5, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
September 9, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
October 7, 2013	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
November 4, 2013	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
December 2, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor