

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting
Monday, February 6, 2012
5:30 to 7:30 pm

Conference Center, 1st Floor
Ramsey County Plato Office Building
90W. Plato Blvd, Saint Paul, 55107

Members attending: Nadja Berneche, Diane Dodge, Bernie Hesse, Metric Giles, Lisa Jore, Brett Olson, Leonard Russo, Colleen Schlieper, Becky Timm (co-chair), and Hai Truong (co-chair).

Others attending: Nicole Eichenbery, Katie Godfrey, Mark Granlund, Anne Hunt, Anton Jerve, Charity Mentern, Julie Seiber, Nancy Hoyt Taff, Diana Turner, Michelle Well (?), and Matt Wolfe.

Welcome and Introductions by Becky Timm, Co-Chair

Becky Timm stated that announcements will be communicated through email in the future. Bernie Hesse wished for further information on the new photo ID legislation for Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT). He wondered if the county was involved with the new law, which he stated would take into effect on June 1st. Julie Seiber responded that she will connect with the people who work on EBT at the county. The group raised concerns over such legislation, especially with regards to the groups' goal to expand EBT at the farmers' markets.

Presentation on Status of Commission Recommendations by the City of St. Paul

Anton Jerve distributed and explained an internal working draft of the upgrades to the Agricultural Use and Farmers' Market zoning codes as recommended by the Commission. Committee members had several comments on the details in the code, including outdoor storage and the market season, to which city staff said they would consider in their next working group meeting. Mr. Jerve clarified the committee process to officially change the code and he stated that the first step is the Conference Planning Committee on February 1st. He urged commission members and supporters to attend the public hearing that may occur as early as April 6th. Committee members expressed an interest to draft a statement prior to said meeting. Mark Granlund continued the discussion of the City's work plan by detailing status of each recommendation in Phase I and Phase II. The commission further discussed concerns over how departments worked together and wished to address this issue in the future.

Food System Workplan and Recommendations Discussion

Nancy Hoyt Taff presented an updated workplan and revamped Food System Recommendation document. The group split into working groups to review the documents and ensure that all recommendations from the task forces were included in the new categories. Ms. Taff retrieved the comments and will be updating the documents.

Commission Terms Expiring

Ms. Timm stated that several commission members' terms end in May and asked members if they will choose to reapply. Lenny Russo stated he will not be re-applying, Nadja Berneche has already submitted her application, and Bernie Hesse and Colleen Scheifer are undecided. Julie Seiber stated she has communicated with Katie XXX who is also undecided but was unsure of Linda XXX's plan. Ms. Timm led a discussion about what is currently missing from the commission and what new members could bring to the table. The group agreed that a small business – either retail or wholesale – would bring a new perspective, as well as a member from the Hmong, Latino or East Side communities. Ms. Timm also mentioned she is willing to step down as chair if others wish to take the position.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Next meeting: Monday, March 5, 2012, 5:30 to 7:30, Plato Conference Center, 90W Plato Blvd, St. Paul 55017.