

Minutes

St. Paul/Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission

February 7, 2011

5:30-7:30

Location: Ramsey County Plato Building Conference Center

Members attending: Becky Meyer, Hai Truong, Bernie Hesse, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, Lenny Russo, Linda Littrell, Lynne Rosetto-Kasper, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, Katie Koecher

Others attending: Julie Seiber (staff), Maggi Adamek (consultant), Lindsey Hoeft, Mark Granlund, Vanne Owens Hayes, Jaya Ginter, Collie Graddick, Barbara Grossman, Greg Sorensen, Kentale Morris

Communications Planning:

Chris Burns, the communications specialists for Ramsey County, is preparing a communications plan and Julie will present it to the Commission during the next meeting. One of the initial communication systems for the FNC is gov.delivers. It is established and now has over 750 people signed up to receive information from the FNC. Questions were posed by the Commission members on the demographics of those signed-up for gov.delivers along with other inquires. Julie will report back to the Commission on this.

Task Force Description:

Commission members reviewed and provided comments/feedback on a document entitled *Task Force Description for the Web Page* to recruit volunteers for the task forces. After an additional comments period for the rest of the week, this description will be posted on the FNC web page and distributed as widely as possible by e-mail or other means members have. A brief discussion followed about the details of the process. Members of the Commission proposed placing the chart of the 5 task force topics and overarching values on the FNC website along with the vision statement as a permanent introduction for each task force topics web page.

Awards/Recognition Program:

Commission members would like to have an awards/recognition program to recognize those in the community who are working toward the vision of the commission. Nadja, Bernie, and Linda volunteered to be the Awards/Recognition Program Committee. The Committee will develop the logistics (i.e. types of awards to give, categories for nomination) for the awards program. Potential examples to follow included Blooming St. Paul and Sustainable St. Paul. Mark Granlund volunteered to share the logistics/information from those award programs.

Operationalizing Task Forces:

Becky and Hai led a discussion of focus for the next 3 months--task force development and beginning implementation. Two examples were presented as models for task force development: Oakland Food Policy (Nadja) and an Oregon Food Policy Council (Maggi). Becky reviewed the Oakland Food Policy model to be used for organization, communication and steps for this FNC to follow. Commission member assignments for task forces were determined.

Economic Development: Becky, Bernie, and Linda

Food Access: Colleen and Diane

Food Literacy: Katie, Lenny , and Lynne

Food Infrastructure: Hai (two new members to be appointed are invited to be a part of this task force)

Urban Agriculture: Helene, Metric, Nadja,

Discussion occurred during slides entitled *Case Study- Framework for “Recommended First Steps” and Our Task Force Work Plan*. Commission members discussed the need to tie work done in the past Food Policy report in the 1980s to current work. Suggestions by Commission members for task force development included:

- Having interns from Universities be involved as research assistant
 - Searching through current literature to support FNC member recommendations
 - Members thought finding interns was a possibility
- Questioned how each task force would be run
 - Will there be common steps done at all 5 task forces?
 - Should the task forces begin with an overview of focus every meeting?
 - Suggested creating a handout for audience to give as an introduction to the task force
 - Provide steps to follow for each task force to keep uniform

Other items of discussion on task force development:

- Guidelines will be provided for Commission members on how to run the task forces
- Logistics, such as location sites for meetings, establishing note takers, facilitators, and dates/times of task forces will be planned prior to the meetings
- Commission members would like some type of on-line communication for the task forces to have “discussion” and share documents as they move forward
- Jaya Ginter, RCPH intern, will be provided potential dates/times of task force meetings and keep a master copy for all (email address: jaya.ginter@co.ramsey.mn.us)
- Potential to develop a survey of the public in order to understand the impact of various topics, to be used in discussion and data collection in task forces
- Questioned how to draw community experts, public people into the task forces when they have already “been there, done that”
- Must remember task force recommendations must be inclusive, specific, concrete, and focused

Becky and Hai explained they would put the above mentioned concerns and questions into the training module of “how to run a task force.” Julie was able to provide insight from previous work with task force development for the Active Living Ramsey Communities (ALRC). She said the ALRC determined the experts and conducted some individual interviews when needed. Maggie provided example of how Home Grown task forces developed. Large group meetings were held for community engagement. Attendees could move around to more than one task force at large meetings. The model was a lateral approach. Maggie suggested the FNC have a large meeting in late March/early April and one in June.

Concerns posed by Commission members on task force development:

- Must develop the scope of task forces from the beginning, inform people of the context in which each group can work and manage expectations

- Must reach out to under-served communities and gain input, visit community centers, religious places, etc, recognize some may be uncomfortable attending meetings, must go to them
 - To address those not wanting to come to meetings, idea suggested to have story telling or short video segments where experts tell their ideas/stories individually
 - Need to be creative when reaching out to get people's input
- A large barrier is gaining the faith and trust of those who have already been targeted before with no follow-up

Review of handout entitled *Task Force Workplan*. Becky expressed how the task forces will be a chance for the FNC to show how valid and relevant an organization they are to the community and the county.

Julie and Nadja will gather potential community meeting places where task forces could meet and will provide list to Commission members. Maggie reminded of the importance to keep in mind the FNC has a broad mandate to both the city of St. Paul and the county as a whole.

Members broke into small task force groups for 20 minutes of discussion and planning. Establishment of future facilitator, note taker, dates/times, and ideas for meetings were discussed.

Sustainability Plan:

Maggie and Julie will be developing a sustainability plan for the FNC. SHIP funding support ends June 30th and uncertainly exists if future funding will support regional food policy work or not. Commission members were asked of any areas to keep in mind while Maggie and Julie develop this plan. One member suggested lobbying senators/state legislation to support SHIP. Another suggestion included incorporating a food literacy program into a bill if cuts occur for MFIP and EBT (Bernie). Public and private funding sources will be researched.

Next meeting:

March 7, 2011, 5:30-7:30

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Minutes by Jaya Ginter.