

Minutes

St. Paul/Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission

January 3, 2011

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Ramsey County Plato Building Conference Center

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

Others attending: Julie Seiber (staff), Maggi Adamek (consultant), Amira Adawe, Anne Hunt, Barb Grossman, Lindsey Jackson, Mark Granlund, Samantha Henningson, Vanne Owens Hayes

Food and Nutrition Commission Leadership:

The report and recommendations from the ad hoc nominations committee (Diane Dodge, Metric Giles and Helene Murray) was to have a Co-chair leadership model. They developed a list of skills desired: facilitation skills, desire and time, understanding of the policy-making role, articulate, community engagement skills, and cultural sensitivity. The nominees of the committee are Becky Meyer and Hai Truong to be the co-chairs.

A group discussion included comments that co-chairs would be collaborative and have more skills to bring to the table. It also is unrealistic for one person to have all the needed skills or time to devote as a volunteer. The committee estimated that each of the co-chairs would need to devote 6-8 hours per month to the tasks of the Commission. Becky said that she was honored to be nominated. Her work background includes being a lobbyist, community organizing for a neighborhood development organization, and teaching citizen involvement at a Saint Paul School. Hai also felt honored to be asked to co-chair and said he has found this leadership model to work well in other groups. Becky and Hai were affirmed by the members present as the co-chairs.

Task Force Roles, Responsibilities and Leadership:

Colleen Schlieper reported recommendations from the ad hoc committee. See separate document: *St. Paul/Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Task Force Workplan*

The commission discussed the task force planning and decision-making process. There was discussion about the plan being ambitious with five task forces and a concern about the need for input from city and county staff who have time constraints. Homegrown Minneapolis had a similar timeline and delivered a report. The commission does have general support from the City Council and the County Board, both of which appointed the new members unanimously. Contact with the City Council and County Board would be important as this work moves forward. It is also important to build on what is already being happening and learn from the

experiences of others. This timeline assures others that this is a serious group willing to work on food issues. The members felt that addressing these issues is important and made a decision to move forward with the five identified task forces:

Food access

Food literacy

Food infrastructure

Economic development

Urban agriculture

The task forces will have reports by the end of March for review, synthesis, and adoption in April.

Those present then divided into five groups to discuss the work of each task force, the potential for policy and systems change within that arena, and to begin the nomination process of those within the Commission and others who would have valuable expertise and input, either individuals or organizations.

Submitted by Lindsey Jackson and Julie Seiber