

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 4, 2016, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Ramsey County Plato Office Building

90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Members present: Nadja Berneche Diane Dodge, Metric Giles, Rebecca Mino, Paul Ratté, Colleen Schlieper

Others present: Fernando Burga, Evalyn Carbrey, Julie Seiber, Mary Montagne, Mary Marrow, Anna Larson, Jaya Davis, Rina McManus

Announcements and upcoming events:

- Diane Dodge announced that all are welcome to attend the monthly “Reconciliation Lunch” which takes place in Frogtown (849 University Avenue) on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 12-1:30pm. This is a forum for community members to come together to discuss race, social justice and food.
- Evalyn Carbrey announced that she has accepted a position with the University of Minnesota Extension. Her last day at Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health (SPRCPH) will be Friday, January 15, 2016. Jaya Davis will be the primary contact for the Food and Nutrition Commission after that date.
- Jaya Davis announced that the DVD copies of the “Food Justice” documentary will be available at the end of January. Please email visit www.foodjusticemn.org to order a free copy of the DVD. Currently the documentary is available to view on the Twin Cities Public Television website (http://www.mnvideovault.org/search_results.php?q=food+justice&search-go.x=0&search-go.y=0). Ramsey County’s website (www.foodjusticemn.org) has additional information and resources related to the documentary.
- Diane Dodge announced that the Immigrant and Minorities Farmers’ Conference will take place Saturday and Sunday, January 30-31st, 2016 in Saint Paul. The conference is free for farmers. Registration is available at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/11th-immigrant-and-minority-farmers-conference-tickets-17811327159?aff=erelexporg>.
- Nadja Berneche provided information about University of Minnesota research on local farmers’ markets. The researchers are looking at the economic impact of farmers’ markets, and one goal of the research is to help incentivize other university related research and/or in kind contributions to local markets. One challenge is connecting with Saint Paul farmers’ market association. If you have contact information for the Saint Paul farmers’ market association or independent markets in Ramsey County, please follow up with Nadja: nadja.gardeningmatters@gmail.com.

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Meeting Notes:

- Mary Marrow, Staff Attorney at the Public Health Law Center presented to the group on Navigating Food Access and City Planning. Her presentation is attached.
- Professor H. Fernando Burga from the University of Minnesota provided a summary of his meeting with the FNC in December, and the group discussed the process for working with University students on the subject of Food Access and Planning. Detailed notes, below:

On Monday, December 14, 2015 Nadja Berneche and Rebecca Mino of the Saint Paul – Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission (FNC) met with H. Fernando Burga, a professor at the University of Minnesota to discuss how the FNC will be involved with his site planning class, Site Planning for Food Justice in Saint Paul and Ramsey County during Spring 2016.

Professor Burga's class will run from January 20, 2016 to May 4, 2016. His students will be divided into eight groups, each of which will focus on a specific site in the Twin Cities Metro area. The groups will analyze food access issues in specific locations to provide background information and context to inform the work of the FNC around Comprehensive Planning. The class will be divided into four parts:

- (1) Analysis of planning policy and case study precedents
- (2) Mapping analysis based on planning frameworks (demographic data, transportation networks, housing, public space, etc.)
- (3) Interviews and participant observations with community stakeholders
- (4) Development of pre-determined proposals.

Some of the potential locations/sites discussed were: Maplewood, Shoreview, Frogtown, Mounds View, Striker Market (West Side of Saint Paul), Growing Westside, and the Mississippi Market. Possible ideas for resources the students could provide are: maps of food access and housing, maps that overlay zoning districts and potential food markets/industry, maps of food access and transit, etc.

This is a great opportunity to have information and analysis provided for your neighborhood or organization with minimal impact on your time/resources. To partner with the class, he is requesting the following:

- (1) An initial meeting to review proposal guidelines
- (2) A possible presentation of your organization to his class (meeting on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:45 pm) at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs UMN
- (3) The capacity to meet with a student team once they begin their project work
- (4) Optional attendance to a midpoint review
- (5) Attendance at the students' final review/exhibit in mid-May (Date TBD).

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The estimated time commitment is from 6 - 8 hours throughout the semester. This is negotiable depending on your availability. If you or your organization are interested in working with professor Burga, please contact him directly at hfburga@umn.edu to discuss this. His students will work on the projects independently and report back to the FNC. The deadline for project proposals is Friday, January 22, 2016.

- The next few Food and Nutrition Commission meetings will focus around discussion of process for engagement and development of working groups about inputs on food-related issues in Comprehensive planning
- The group decided to change future meeting sites in hopes of increasing community participation in the meetings. Please see information, below, on future meeting times and locations.

2016 MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: (5:30 – 7:30 pm)
February 1, 2016	Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55104
March 7, 2016	East Side Enterprise Center, 804 Margaret St, Saint Paul, MN 55106
April 4, 2016	Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave, St Paul, MN 55104
May 2, 2016	East Side Enterprise Center, 804 Margaret St, Saint Paul, MN 55106