

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 9, 2012
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

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

Members attending: Bernie Hesse, Brett Olson, Diane Dodge, Hai Truong, Helene Murray, Kentale Morris, Lenny Russo, Linda Littrell, Lisa Jore, Metric Giles, and Nadja Berneche.

Others attending: Anne Hunt, Diana Turner, Jim Ivey, Julie Seiber, Katie Godfrey, Marijo Wunderlich, Nicole Eikenberry, Sarah Eichberger, Samantha Henningson, Hanna Mosca, and Charity Tatak Mentern

Welcome and Introductions by Hai Truong, Co-Chair.

Announcements included: Midway Food Hub organizing meeting will be held on Jan. 25, 7:00 pm, at the Hamline-Midway Library on Minnehaha; Blooming Saint Paul Awards ceremony invitations for Jan. 23, 4:30 pm at Univ. of St. Thomas were handed out; the Grow a Farmer project for micro-lending for farmers in the Northfield area was announced (flyer attached); the Minnesota Food Association's Immigrant Farmers Conference will be held Feb. 3-4; Gardening Matters will hold its Garden Resource Fair on March 31 at Neighborhood House. The group discussed the multiple events of interest and asked for a page to be set up on the web site for posting events.

Lisa Jore discussed the changes she made to make the recommendations more concise. The group discussed a need for a timeline with benchmarks to monitor progress: who's accountable, cost and who pays for it, how to make it visible to the public. A periodic environmental scan is needed to monitor trends and data relevant to the local food system.

Helene Murray reviewed the recommendations of the Saint Paul Environmental Roundtable from 2007 for revisions of the Saint Paul Food Policy from the 1980's. The most important recommendation was that the policy should be implemented.

Sarah Eichberger led a discussion of the policy brief that she prepared for a graduate school class: Community Gardening for the Public Good: A policy proposal to amend the local zoning code in Saint Paul. The discussion raised the question of whether a definition for community garden is helpful or not. The Commission members who worked on the Urban Agriculture would like to have some conversations about this with the constituencies who met with them.

The members asked for a list of "assignments" to be sent to them for who will convey the work to key influencers (City Council, County Board, District Councils) in one-to-one meetings in late February and March according to addresses and personal contacts. They would like the Mission/Vision/Values document to be sent as well to use as talking points.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Next meeting: Monday, February 6, 2012, 5:30 – 7:30, Plato Conference Center, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul 55107