

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 3, 2013
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Ramsey County Plato Office Building

Members present: Bernie Hesse, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Linda Pope, Lisa Jore, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, and Pat Trotter.

Others present: Angie Brown, Ben Johnson, Christina Miller, Heather Peterson, Jared Walhowe, Julie Seiber, Kathy Schubert, Kelsea Dombrovski, Leah Driscoll, and Lynette Harris.

Christina Miller, Food Shelf Manager at Neighborhood House, described their operations:

- open Monday – Friday without appointments
- intake including connections for other needs
- unlimited fresh produce available in the Minnesota growing season
- serves a very diverse population with the largest groups being Southeast Asian, Hispanic, and East African
- computers and cookbooks available for participants to find recipes to use products
- distributes 2,000 lbs food per day to clients

The produce donations by House of Hope have been very beneficial and come to the food shelf in manageable amounts on a regular basis during the season. The clients appreciate the fresh produce.

Kathy Schubert, Mission Coordinator at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, described the giving garden grown by volunteers in the yard of the church on Summit Avenue. There were some difficulties getting started with disapproval from some neighbors and a historic group, but due to the strong desire of the church to have the garden to donate produce, these barriers were overcome. The church has contributed over 2,000 pounds of produce to Neighborhood House in the last two years with individual gardeners in the church donating additional produce from their home gardens.

A discussion followed about how the Food and Nutrition Commission could be involved in facilitating this type of involvement.

- Kathy Schubert suggested visiting the web site for San Mateo, CA food distribution system:
<http://smchealth.org/node/117>
- Organize a network and/or promote and facilitate church yard gardens
- Promote corporate/worksites gardens—Nadja suggested Gardening Matters web site for information
- Write up lessons learned about garnering support from neighbors to avoid opposition
- Jared Walhowe suggested promoting participation in the Gleaning Project, a partnership hosted by the Minnesota Project <http://www.mnproject.org/food-GardenGleaningProject.html>
- Metric asked if the FNC could help with formation of a “garden trust” that would assure a level of permanency of land for community gardens? Could this be coordinated with the district councils so that there is a base level of available land for community gardens in each district?

Updates included:

- The Farm Bill is currently under consideration in the US Congress. The Senate may vote this week. The bill includes cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) with the Senate bill including a smaller cut than the House version. (Bernie talked with Emily Hogin in Senator Franken’s office at 202-224-5461)
- Bernie also reported that the Minnesota Food Council bill (SF880, HF874) was not passed in the just-ended session of the legislature but can be considered in the next session. Helen Murray sent an announcement of a meeting of a prospective Food Council Steering Committee, Friday, June 7 at 2 pm at the AgStar Office in Northfield, 1260 W. 5th St. with all interested invited to attend.
- A Healthier Concessions workshop was held on May 21 and 22 at Highland Recreation Center with about 15 attendees. The SHIP staff will follow up with other sites in Ramsey County to offer assistance in making operations more profitable with healthier offerings at the same time.
- Nadja and Julie met with Dakota County, Homegrown South, on May 16 to discuss potential collaborations. The outcome was that Ramsey and Dakota are very different communities and should continue with local policy councils but meet once or twice a year, and invite other metro area food councils.

- Local Food Resource Hubs had their plant distribution on May 18. Between 8 and 10 thousand plants were distributed at the Saint Paul site with three hubs organizing the event at Gordon Parks High School.
- The Minnesota Food Access Summit will be held August 13-15, Duluth DECC <http://www.foodaccesssummit.com/>
- Linda Pope attended the last meeting of Health Partners Healthy Kids initiative in White Bear Lake called “Bear Power.” There were a number of dedicated volunteers working on this highly visible project. Contact: Alli Zomer Allison.J.Zomer@HealthPartners.com
- A number of local farmers’ markets are accepting SNAP/EBT payment and Market Bucks promotions. The Extension Service has posted a map of these markets: <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/family/health-and-nutrition/simply-good-eating/farmers-market/>
- Heather Peterson described an event that Allina sponsored on June 1 event to assemble and donate 200,000 nutritious meals to local food shelves. In collaboration with Second Harvest and local food shelves, over 1800 employees and additional volunteers assembled the meal packages containing the components of a healthy meal for 4 people.
- Allina also recently finished their Health Powered Kids program in schools. For more information including the curriculum http://www.allinahealth.org/ahs/aboutallina.nsf/page/power_by_the_hour
<http://www.healthpoweredkids.org/welcome/>
- Kelsea announced the Open Saint Paul page. Diane suggested a page for the Food and Nutrition Commission. http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=5000#peak_democracy

Leah Driscoll discussed plans for the Twin Cities Mobile Market (TCMM) which she and her husband hope to launch as a non-profit in August. It will be a 40 foot bus wrapped and painted and will make stops in areas such as the East Side, Frogtown and North Minneapolis where there is limited access to healthy food. TCMM is looking for partners (fiscal agent/parent co.), raising the additional \$20,000 for capital budget, procuring licensing/permits and obtaining EBT payment system. TCMM will feature local products when available and set prices only to cover costs. Bernie suggested partnering with someone or an organization in the food business. Other help can include serving on the advisory board, surveying potential customers, and connecting with community leaders. TCMM is looking for advisory community and business leaders to volunteer on an advisory council. For more information see www.facebook.com/TwinCitiesMobileMarket.

Lynette Harris, who is the founder and director of Mom’s Food Shelf, serving the East Side area of Saint Paul has distributed food for 6 years starting at Bruce Vento School. All of the food is donated with much coming from Trader Joe’s and Kowalski’s. Food has to be the quality that she would serve to her own family. Guests can come to the food shelf twice per month and in 2012, seven thousand families were served. Mom’s Food Shelf is currently housed in the East Side Neighborhood Development Corp. building at 965 Payne Ave. For more information visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/shiuvan77>

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

2013 MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107 , 5:30 – 7:30 pm
July 1, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
August 5, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
September 9, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
October 7, 2013	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
November 4, 2013	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
December 2, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor