

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 4th, 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: Becky Timm, Bernie Hesse, Brett Olson, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, Lisa Jore, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche

Others attending: Anne Hunt, Barb Grossman, Cherry Flowers, Erik Riesenber, Heather Peterson, Jim Ivey, Julie Seiber, Kaela Glass, Katie Godfrey, Luis Ortega, Z. Lu Alexander

Announcements and events

- Anne Hunt talked about J&J Distributing's new partnership with the City of St. Paul. She also mentioned 3 commissioner appointments are up this year, perhaps the commission should look for retailers.
- Becky mentioned Ramsey County Board meeting on June 5 at City Hall. Becky and Lisa will be asking for support for the 2012 Report.

Highlights from Zoning Amendment on Friday, June 1

- Nadja described planning commission meeting on the zoning amendment. Overall positive support for the recommendations, only one person spoke in opposition. Planning commission will recommend amendments to the draft or accept the draft, then forward it to City Council for review. Anne Hunt thought the next public hearing would be around August 15, 2012.
- Next step: prepare to testify again in August. Recommendation to the City will be available beforehand and can be discussed at Aug. 6th FNC meeting.

Highlights from City Council meeting on May 16th, 2012

- Nadja and Becky presented the 4 recommendations and asked the city council to accept them. They passed unanimously. Tolberg had questions about Urban Ag. and its affect on the urban environment. Bernie recommended sitting down with Tolberg to listen to his concerns and address them specifically.
- Commissioners discussed scheduling meetings with representatives prior to the zoning meeting. Perhaps invite council members on a field trip in their ward. Call and schedule meetings now to get on calendar between Aug. 1-15.

June 5th, 2012 County Board Meeting

- Present same 4 recommendations to get support from the County Board. As recommendations move forward, Commissioners discussed importance of clarifying/defining farmers' market for all people so that they are treated consistently.
- Lisa met with Commissioner Bennet's assistant. He is on Vadnais Heights City Council- questions from community are mostly about nutrition, specifically school nutrition- what are kids getting fed at school? How does Ramsey Co. rank in food outlet sources? Where can people get food? Proximity to food? They offered to help with grant writing. Found out that small operations, like food shelves, could really benefit from a resource directory.
- Julie Seiber mentioned GIS data mapping services were offered by a professor from St. Thomas.

Discussion of collaboration with Homegrown Minneapolis

- Commissioners agreed they would like a happy hour with members of Homegrown Minneapolis to talk about similarities, strategies, legislative agenda, etc.

Goal setting for 2nd half of 2012

- Commissioners discussed how to start acting and implementing within the task forces. Task forces need time to review recommendations and think about how people will engage with them. Each task force can identify priorities and the people that should be involved.
- Bernie suggested commissioners spend time talking to elected officials- talk to more county and city people, get port authority and appropriate economic development agencies involved; work on state legislative agenda.
 - Fargo-Moorhead, Rochester also have food policy councils- perhaps get everyone together for a meeting

Independent Task Force Meetings

- Econ Development and Infrastructure
 - Becky reported the task force would meet independently to determine the players and start meeting directly with these stakeholders.
- Urban Ag
 - Helene reported the task force will need to split strategies into distinct issue areas and get them up on the webpage; many different sub topics that need outside expertise.
- Literacy and Access
 - Literacy and access will be merged into one group.
 - Brett talked about prioritizing tasks: hardest to easiest; most effectual to least effectual. Recommended each task force pick one recommendation that is easy and would have some impact; make sure there is something successful for the first push.
- Next steps: identify what is doable and who needs to be involved; determine an action plan and steps for implementation that extend through 18 months.

Next Meeting

- Meeting in July will be used for task force meetings. Becky reminded commissioners to start setting up meetings with city council members for Aug 1-15 to talk about zoning.
- State legislative agenda planning will be discussed at August FNC meeting