

Meeting minutes

June 6, 2011, 5:30-7:30

Saint Paul-Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission
90 West Plato Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55107

Commission members: Hai Truong, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Linda Littrell, Nadja Berneche, Katie Koecher, Lisa Jore, Lenny Russo, Bernie Hesse, Metric Giles, Kentale Morris

Other attendees: Julie Seiber (staff), Maggi Adamek (consultant), Anne Hunt, Samantha Henningson, Vanne Owens Hayes, Greg Sorensen, Jim Ivey, Eunice Abiemo, Barb Grossman, Sarah Eichberger, Mark Granlund, Paula Huffman, and Jaya Ginter

Welcome and Introduction- Hai Truong

Announcements- Julie Seiber

City Council and County Board districts- people were asked to identify their city and county elected officials, maps are available to find them

Grant participation opportunity – Community Transformation Grant- anyone is invited June 10th for future grant planning or can send suggestions for the grant proposal to Julie Seiber or Lindsey Hoeft

Update on drafting the recommendations- Sarah Eichberger (intern from the School of Public Health) will be working on the recommendations and is looking for a Master's Project related to the Commission

Others from the members-

*Diane invites all to 4th Annual gathering:

Growing Food and Justice for All Gathering 2011

Sacred Soil: Cultivating Seeds of Community Transformation

September 9th - 11th, 2011, Milwaukee, WI

*Information was shared from the McKnight meeting about land access issues

*October 24th is designated as Food Day

Task Force and community engagement process- Hai Truong

Hai Truong led the discussion on what has worked well with the community engagement process thus far. Some points of interest discussed:

- The urban agriculture table seemed to gain valuable information from those who sat around the table and talked during the large community meeting
- Finding a model to engage less verbal people and getting people moving around the room is important to think about for future meetings (Participants were invited to discuss the recommendations with the task force leaders or write comments on large Post-Its and put them on the wall.)

- Draft recommendations were confirmed by some of the attendees

Tips for any other potential community meetings and future community engagement:

- Have a one-pager at the door or send out information to community meeting attendees prior to meeting to introduce issues
- Introduce each task force's goals/vision prior to starting the community meeting
- Remember the majority of people in community are not thinking about these food issues so it is important to keep reminding people what the FNC is working on
- Find a regular way of connecting to interested people
- Suggestion: go into the community and attend local/neighborhood meetings and bring up food issues
- Attend District Council meetings – “take this on the road”
- Attend community festivals, Ramsey County Fair, Farmers Market, State Fair
- Keep task force members engaged

Goal: each FNC member needs a script/“elevator speech” to explain the work being done, task force development, recommendation overview, etc. (Could use one-pager created for the community meeting with each task force description)

Discussion of award program of the Commission- Linda Littrell

Questions of who is a worthy recipient, how many categories, eligibility criteria, etc, were discussed. Mark Granlund invited the FNC to partner with their awards ceremony happening in January. Helpful examples of awards programs were shared. Notes were recorded and will be reviewed by Linda Littrell.

Collaboration with Homegrown Minneapolis- Julie Seiber

Brief discussion on creating “The Year of Food” and having a Food Summit meeting in 2012

Timeline/picture of work development- Hai and Maggi

Together the FNC members reflected on past work done by the Commission.

Building Commission:

- Formatted vision and principles
- Created priorities diagram with overarching areas of focus
- Researched, learned about other food policy groups around the country

Task Force Development:

- Task forces defined, vision, goals developed
- Recruitment: identified experts and interested community members, contacted them
- Information gathering
- Developed recommendations – 1st draft- now being revised
- Some areas of overlap within recommendations, need to synthesize and create comprehensive final recommendations
- Identify the low hanging fruit and those recommendations with practical implementation
- Recognize which recommendations have budgets attached

Community engagement:

- Held large community meeting at Hallie Q. Brown Center
- Feedback gained from community will help validate, change, or add to recommendations
- Need to prioritize and identify the short-term, cost-free recommendations to present to elected bodies
- Should be gaining input from task force members now to keep them engaged

Parallel implementation:

- Information to Commission and City Council members (1st draft/feedback)
 - "Elevator speech/one pager" , endorsement seeking
- Continued research to support work

Input for planning next meetings

- Figure out who's going to talk to who
- Budget planning in August and election season starts so keep that in mind –chance to educate candidates
- Plan future outreach for summer– such as Ramsey County Fair, Rondo Days, Farmers Market, Peace Celebration
- Need to see who isn't receptive to ideas so can push more in that area of Ramsey County
- Script out the messages "elevator speech" that each FNC member will have
- Have final form of recommendations developed by the end of the summer with a handout of recommendations such as that developed by Oakland
- Have a peer-review of recommendations by other people in Food Policy Councils - i.e. Brandon Born
- Katie Koecher will be working with Lenny Russo and Simply Good Eating to teach people how to prepare food for those in attendance at the Farmers Market
- Possibly plan for an event in the fall – example Urban Food Summit or in October- have a harvest potluck for the commission and partners
- September/October- bring in potential partners or groups to work with such as Homegrown Minneapolis

Next meetings:

Monday, July 11, 2011, 5:30-7:30, 90 West Plato Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55107 (Cancelled)

Monday, August 8, 2011, 5:30 – 7:30,