

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 2, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Ramsey County Plato Office Building 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Members attending: Bernie Hesse, Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, Hua Vang, Nadja Berneche, Pat Trotter, Rebecca Mino, Tracy Sides

Members absent: Colleen Schlieper, JoAnn Tesar, Kentalé Morris, Metric Giles

Others present: Aaron Reser, Ann Luke, Anne Hunt, Jaya Ginter, Julie Seiber, Mark Granlund, Samantha Henningson, and Tamara Downs Schwei

Nadja Berneche welcomed the attendees who introduced themselves.

Announcements and updates included:

- Tracy Sides announced that she will present a report on her Cuba tour on Friday, March 20, 7-9 pm at the Eastside Enterprise Center.
- Diane mentioned a winter sowing demonstration at the Rondo Library on Saturday, March 14.
- Metric Giles who could not be at the meeting relayed a proposal that the members of the Commission meet with community groups between monthly meetings.
- Julie presented a report from Serena Xiong's Community Health Internship project on urban ag policies in Ramsey Co.
- Jaya and Julie presented a first draft of the commission's historical timeline and asked for suggestions from the members about what they want to see.
- Julie gave an update on Ramsey County member recruitment. There have been 3 applications submitted to the County Board office.
- Diane, Nadja, and Tracy went to the City Council meeting on February 25, where the resolution supporting the seed sharing law was presented.
- Julie gave an update from the Metro Food Access Network on providing input for Comprehensive Plans. Samantha said that the City of Saint Paul will put out a call for committee members soon.

Anne Hunt, Samantha Henningson and Mark Granlund led a discussion about work going on with the City of Saint Paul. Tyler McLean in Parks and Recreation is working on vending and concessions at the pool facilities. Mark Granlund is part of an internal group working on pollinator habitat creation and preservation and pesticide usage. Parks already has an integrative pest management plan (IPM).

See the city's web site for details. <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=3605>

- The City does not use any seeds containing neonicotinoids.

- The city has a policy on community gardening including orchards. If a community garden is in a park, it can be extended to include fruit trees. The group must be committed to maintaining the proposed orchard. There are criteria including parking, water access, and soil testing.
- Mark explained that the city's Forestry Department is responsible for boulevard trees. Parks and Recreation is responsible for plants in medians.
- Foraging is not allowed in parks unless it is an invasive species such as garlic mustard and burdock. Someone wishing to do this foraging must apply to be a part of an invasive species removal group.
- Riverview and Hamline Midway Libraries are doing demonstration gardens. Diane suggested that a good resource on installing rain gardens is the Blue Thumb Guide.
- The city has submitted a proposal together with the University of Minnesota to have some bee hives. If granted the work would be in 2015-2016.
- Pat Trotter asked what can be done about composting of food waste. Anne Hunt said that the city has contract for recycling expiring at the end of 2016 for solid waste removal. They are looking to add residential organic pick-up in the next contract.
- Another question from the group concerned longer leases on HRA properties for gardens. Anne said that is not likely to happen. It is an issue that could be addressed in future comp plans.
- Anne mentioned that City Hall workers have organized a CSA drop-off from Hmong American Farmers Association (HAFA).

Aaron Reser and Tamara Downs Schwei were present to discuss Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council's 2014 Food Hub Interviews. See attached presentation for details. At the end of the presentation there was a discussion of challenges, needs, and areas for future collaboration on regional issues. In addition to the challenges on the slide there was discussion about market saturation in most of the channels for local food sales, growers receiving fair prices for the food products, and cash flow. Lack of volume and consistency are also challenging areas. The producers want to know their peers and learn from each other. Homegrown Minneapolis has scheduled a networking meeting at the end of March.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

2015 MTG. DATES	Location: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
April 6, 2015	Bluffs Room, 2 nd floor
May 4, 2015	Bluffs Room, 2 nd floor
June 1, 2015	Bluffs Room, 2 nd floor
July 6, 2015	Bluffs Room, 2 nd floor