

## Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 7, 2016, 5:30-7:30pm

East Side Enterprise Center,  
804 Margaret St, Saint Paul, MN 55106

**Members present:** Nadja Berneche, Diane Dodge, Rebecca Mino, Tracy Sides, Colleen Schlieper, Paul Ratte, Metric Giles, Hua Vang

**Others present:** Gina Allan, Valentine Cadieux, Christophe de Campeau, Evalyn Carbrey, Karen Clark, Jaya Davis, Ann DeLaVergne, Cherry Flowers, Stephanie Malon-Rufi, Lebo Moore, Helene Murray, Peter Nixon, Tim Page, Barb Rose, May Seng Cha.

Welcome by Nadja Berneche, the Chair. Introductions by all present. An amendment was made to the agenda to move announcements and upcoming events as well as the bylaw review and comp planning agenda items to the end of the meeting.

Helene Murray, Director of the University of Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, provided a brief presentation on Milan Food Expo that she attended in summer 2015. Helene also shared the [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](http://www.foodpolicymilano.org/en/). For more information on this please see, <http://www.foodpolicymilano.org/en/>. Also, if you'd like any of the materials shared during the meeting please contact Helene at [hmurray@umn.edu](mailto:hmurray@umn.edu) or Jaya at [jaya.davis@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:jaya.davis@co.ramsey.mn.us).

Attention to the [Urban Agriculture](#) legislation was the main focus of the meeting. Representative Karen Clark attended the meeting to receive feedback of the draft Minnesota Urban Agriculture (HF 153) Bill. The bill was introduced last session, resulting in the Department of Agriculture's Report on Urban Agriculture. The bill will be reintroduced during this legislative session and is asking for designation of \$10,000,000 in funding for innovative urban agriculture projects, with specific funds designated for communities of color and underserved communities. Copies of the bill were distributed to the attendees and feedback/edits of the entire bill occurred. Representative Karen Clark took all comments and plans to revise the draft bill according to the various feedback from three public sessions she attended in March.

### Announcements and upcoming events:

- Everyone is invited to the [Food Justice event on March 15, 2016](#) from 4-6pm at TPT studios. This event is to thank all who were involved in this project, to watch the documentary and to hear from community experts on the work done in the hunger relief system to increase the availability of healthier foods/meals for those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity.
- Jaya Davis, SHIP grant coordinator, shared the [SHIP 3 summary report](#) to inform attendees of the various work being done in the past year of funding.

- Hunger Solutions is holding **Hunger Day on the Hill** March 16, 2016.
- **The Metro Food Access Network** advertised the four open Food and Nutrition Commission member positions via email. Everyone is encouraged to spread the word for eligible applications that live or work in Ramsey County to apply. Contact [jaya.davis@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:jaya.davis@co.ramsey.mn.us) for more information on how to apply.
- Nadja shared information on a meeting held with **City of Saint Paul** staff: discussion was had on market gardens and HRA land, interest in healthy food access language in comp planning, and plans for introducing an ordinance in response to concerns of Hmong Farmers Association regarding agricultural vehicles being able to park during the growing season in city streets. The public hearing for this ordinance will be on **April 6 at 5:30pm**. Link: <https://stpaul.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2600103&GUID=166B5D1A-43E7-440D-8ABA-CFE5D70DE30D&FullText=1#>
- **Peter Nixon, a Bioproducts & Biosystems Engineering PhD student** shared that his research project out of the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs is to quantify the food coming into the regional system to better understand the benefits of urban agriculture. He also mentioned a cohort of students interested in food quantification projects. For more information or interested in connecting with his work please connect with Peter directly via email: [petenixon1@gmail.com](mailto:petenixon1@gmail.com).
- Barb Rose shared an invitation to [Growing West Side's indoor farmer's market](#) event on **March 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm**. There will be vendors, demonstrations, and seed sharing. Location: River's Edge Academy, 188 Plato Blvd W, St Paul, MN 55107.
- Karen Clark shared information on an upcoming event: The Women's Environmental Institute presents "**Life in the Soil: Biology & Health of the Soil Food Web**" presented by Dr. Elaine Ingham; Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 9am-4pm, register at <http://www.w-e-i.org/>.

FNC members reviewed By-Laws and voted to adopt them. There were 6 votes to adopt the By-laws as written, 1 abstention, and 1 absent member. By-laws were adopted with no edits.

Nadja postponed the Comprehensive Planning discussion until the April meeting. All FNC members were encouraged to come prepared next meeting with thoughts on these two questions: First, to come with ideas of whom in the community should be involved over the next 5 months to gather as much input prior to developing the draft language for comprehensive plans. Second, how do we want to engage people; through community events, open forums, workshops, go to various group meetings, etc.? Further discussion will be help in April.

The meeting was adjourned.

**Addendum to meeting minutes: The Urban Agriculture Legislation was introduced on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2016, all details, language, and progress can be found by looking up [HF 3324](#).**

<b>2016 MTG. DATES</b>	<b>MEETING DETAILS: (5:30 – 7:30 pm)</b>
<b>April 4, 2016</b>	<b>Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55104</b>
May 2, 2016	East Side Enterprise Center, 804 Margaret St, Saint Paul, MN 55106
June 6, 2016	Frogtown Farm, 941 Lafond Ave. Ste. 200, St. Paul, MN 55104