

Minutes

St. Paul/Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission

March 7, 2011

5:30-7:30

Location: Ramsey County Plato Building Conference Center

Members attending: Becky Meyer, Hai Truong, Bernie Hesse, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, Linda Littrell, Lynne Rosetto-Kasper, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, Katie Koecher, Kentale Morris, Lisa Jore

Others attending: Julie Seiber (staff), Maggi Adamek (consultant), Anne Hunt, Lindsey Hoeft, Vanne Owens Hayes, Greg Sorensen, Kate Clancy, Lisa Marshall, Nicole Eikenberry, Theresa Heiland, Sarah Eichberger, Paula Huffman, Molly Turnquist, 3 aquaculture farmers (Megan Davis, Warren, and Chad), Jaya Ginter

Welcome, introduction, and recap from last meeting

Communication Plan Update:

Julie explained to the Commission members about the recently established DropBox sharing folders. Only Commission members have access to these files to share task force member contact information and organizational documents. Julie also informed the group of the new Ning website that all Commission members and task force members have been invited to join and others will be invited as they join task forces. Contact Julie Seiber (Julianne.Seiber@co.ramsey.mn.us or Jaya Ginter: jaya.ginter@co.ramsey.mn.us) to be invited to have access to the site. The Ning website has task force meeting dates/time posted. There is also a Notes section to post interesting questions and documents for all to see. Under the Group tab there are "folders" for each task force for discussion and sharing of meeting minutes, etc. All members are encouraged to use this site for communication and idea sharing.

Ning website sign-in page:

http://sprcfoodnutrition.ning.com/main/authorization/signIn?target=http%3A%2F%2Fsprcfoodnutrition.ning.com%2Fgroup%2Ffoodaccesstaskforce%2Fuser%2Flist%3F_x_source%3Dmsg

Julie reviewed the objectives of the draft communications plan prepared by Christopher Burns, the Health Department's Public Information Officer. Some strategies proposed can be done by the F&N Commission members, others by volunteers and interns. All Commission members are asked to review this document and send comments back to Julie by March 21st.

Discussion followed on when was the best time to present to County Board and City Council the recommendations from the Commission. Anne Hunt stated that April was a busy month for the Mayor and staff members; May seemed a more realistic time. Meeting with staff members of the County Board and City Council would be beneficial. The Commission must also decide how best to present their recommendations. The City Council would most likely post a resolution to accept the report. A decision

needs to be made about when to meet with the City Council. A tentative date for meeting with the County Board is May 24th.

Discussion on the larger community meetings

Questions to be answered: how do we get input from people with knowledge about the issues; should all task forces present to a large audience or have small tables; how to get feedback from community members; what do we want people to get out of this meeting; how to engage the community at this larger-scale, etc. A proposal was to have a community meeting on April 7th or 11th in a large venue in St. Paul. Presenting the FNC scope/roles/values to the audience and then having break-out sessions to each task force table with flip charts was a proposed structure for the meetings. Maggi shared the process of Homegrown Minneapolis' large community meetings. Homegrown participants introduced themselves, had the Mayor speak, then allowed enough time for the audience to go to small group tables. Each table had the same process of gathering feedback from the audience. To advertise the meetings they went through neighborhood organizations, newspaper ads, and list serves.

The community meetings held for the Food Access survey results are good models for the FNC's large community meetings. Metric, Helene, Diane, Julie and Vanne have agreed to be the committee to plan the details of these community meetings. Someone proposed having the first meeting later to give more time for planning. Plans need to include accommodation for residents who don't speak English.

Task Force Development Discussion

Maggi presented the template for task force meetings, information on how to conduct effective meetings and how to get to the next steps of policy recommendations. Kate Clancy from the Minnesota Institute is a national expert on sustainable food issues. She was consulted in the first Saint Paul Food Policy Council in the 1980s. Kate gave a history of food policy councils and explained the need for such groups to really understand their goals and focus. She gave a few pieces of advice: local food work is more successful if workers have connections to the next scale up. She said it was important to think of the larger scales (regional, national) above and that they are all connected. The new buzz word in the food movement is resiliency. Also, it is really important to actual do policy work in such a Council, most other Councils are not doing much policy development and Kate applauded this group for their work in this area.

Facilitation Presentation by Maggi (handouts – slides)

The facilitator's role of a task force leader includes such things as agenda development, assuming rotating attendance so always present priorities and goals, keep on task, strengthen networks and relationships with others, and what's happening and who's doing what. Maggi also presented some facilitation tips. The PowerPoint slides will be posted on the Ning site for reference. As a group Maggi went through an example of how to develop the vision statement for the task forces. Each task force broke into a small group to work through their vision statement development. Maggi is available to help with their task force process.

Announcements:

Food Policy Conference in Portland May 19-21. <http://foodpolicyconference.org/portland/>

Living Green Expo at the State Fair grounds, May 7th and 8th (ask Anne Hunt for more details)

-The Commission could have a table at this event and get feedback from people in attendance

Friday March 18th is the due date to recommend someone for the Mayor's Sustainable Award (see Mayor's website for more details)

Next Meeting:

Monday, April 4th, 2011 at 5:30-7:30

Location (same building but room change): 90 West Plato Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55107

Star Room, 2nd floor in the Public Health Department.

Meeting minutes prepared by Jaya Ginter.