

*The purpose of the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission is to provide long-range planning and associated recommendations for policy, systems and environmental change at neighborhood, city and county levels with the aim of increasing access to healthy food.*

## **Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, May 2, 2016 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

**East Side Enterprise Center,**

**804 Margaret St, Saint Paul, MN 55106**

**Members present:** Tracy Sides, Colleen Schlieper, Metric Giles, Hua Vang, Diane Dodge

**Members excused:** Nadja Berneche, Rebecca Mino, Paul Ratte

**Members not present:** Boa Her

**Others present:** Michael Dahl, Anna Larson, Julie Seiber, Lebo Moore, Fernando Burga, Evalyn Carbrey, Pakou Hang, Jaya Davis

Welcome by the new co-chair Tracy Sides. Introductions by all. Brief announcements were added to the agenda.

Announcements included:

- [Michael Dahl](#) provided some background information on his new position as the Director of the Minnesota Food Charter Network. Michael shared information about the 4 action teams developing to move the Food Charter work forward statewide. Welcome Michael!
- A reminder for all to attend the final celebration of Food Justice projects by students of Professor Burga on May 4th from 12-4 pm at Humphrey Atrium. Professor Burga thanked the FNC members for their involvement in these student projects and looks forward to continued partnership in the future.
- Tracy Sides shared the Community Planting Day details: May 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm next to the Swede Hollow Café patio (729 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, 55106). This event will create 10 five ft. planters borrowed from Saint Paul Parks and Rec to feature plants and recipes all related to various food traditions. Please see attached flyer for more details.
- Jaya Davis shared information on a project between a variety of partners, the [Minnesota Food Association](#) and the City of Maplewood among others who are working towards creating farm land in the City of Maplewood to increase land access for farmers as well as increase access to healthy foods in the neighborhood.
- Evalyn Carbrey shared updates on the statewide Food Policy Council support that the U of MN Extension is working towards. A survey was conducted of statewide Food Policy Council members and staff support to better understand all priorities and needs of each Council. Look for next steps coming soon.
- Julie Seiber share updates on the Farmers Market Collaborative hosted by Tamara Downs-Schwei and other partners. Surveys are being completed by market managers and vendors of various Farmers Markets in the Twin Cities. These surveys will be part of a larger project to potentially create standard metrics and better understand the economic viability of the Farmers Markets in the local food system.
- The Urban Agriculture Bill update was provided by Pakou Hang to the best of her knowledge due to Nadja's absence. The Bill did not go to the Agriculture Finance Committee as planned and last heard was the possibility of considering a pilot study.

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- Tracy shared the USDA [Urban Agriculture Toolkit](#) for those interested in reviewing. The main [USDA page](#) has additional information.
- Evalyn reminded everyone to share and/or attend the upcoming [Saint Paul Community Engagement Sessions](#). The upcoming sessions are Tuesday, May 10th from 5-6:30pm, Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-10am, and Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-12:00. See the link for more details and locations.
- Anna Larson, from the Public Health Law Center, reminded everyone to listen in on the webinar May 16<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-1:30. More information and registration, as well as a full description of the webinar is available on the Public Health Law Center's website at: <http://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/comp-planning-101>.
- Diane Dodge shared a few announcements:
  - Frogtown Farm is hosting their Backyard Farm Fest on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:00am-2:00pm. See their [website](#) for more details.
  - Gardening Matters is hosting their Plant and Seed Distribution on May 15<sup>th</sup> from 8am-12pm. See [flyer](#) for more details.
  - The Reconciliation Group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month. Their next meeting is May 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 in the Rondo Library.
  - The "Facing Race Ambassador Awards: Honoring Minnesota's Anti-Racism Activists" will occur on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. See [here](#) for more details.

Moving onto agenda items, Jaya provided an update on filling open memberships. To date 4 applications were received for the County appointments. The County is hoping to put forth the applications and membership conversation to the County Commissioners at the 5/24/16 meeting. No update on the City membership vacancies. Jaya asked current members to update their contact information with her.

Pakou Hang, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Hmong American Farmers Association (HAFA) provided some history on the foundations of HAFA and their current focused work. HAFA works with established farmers (3+ years) on various issues such as "land access, food hubs, economic development, and research." Pakou shared a recap on the process HAFA participated in recently related to the City of Saint Paul's ordinance "[amending chapters 157 and 165 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code pertaining to permitting agricultural vehicles to park on city streets](#)." A good dialogue and reflection was had by the group on this ordinance and its impacts. The next steps are for this amendment and discussion to move to the City of Saint Paul's Planning Commission. Group conversation was had on getting involved in future City Council Policy Session which happens Wednesday from 10-12pm. Further discussion on this will be had by FNC members in June.

A brief recap of the discussion notes from April's meeting on the who and how of impacting Comp Plans. Further discussion and action steps for impacting Comp Plans in Ramsey County cities will be had at the June meeting.

Farwell to Collen Schlieper for all her great work with the Commission over the last 6 years. Thank you for everything.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

<b>2016 MTG. DATES</b>	<b>MEETING DETAILS: (5:30 – 7:30 pm)</b>
June 6, 2016	Frogtown Farm, 941 Lafond Ave. Ste. 200, St. Paul, 55104
July 11, 2016 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday)	Hamline Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave W, St Paul, 55104