

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 4, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Ramsey County Plato Office Building

90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Members attending: Boa Her, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, Hua Vang, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, Paul Ratte, Rebecca Mino, Tracy Sides

Members absent: Bernie Hesse, JoAnn Tesar, Kentalé Morris, Pam Tasker, Pat Trotter

Others present: Liberty Belter, Kristen Wilcoxson, Taryn Mortimer, Ann Luke, Jaya Ginter, Julie Seiber, Rina McManus

Nadja welcomed the new Ramsey County appointees, Boa Her and Paul Ratte. Pam Tasker was unable to attend due to a prior engagement. Members introduced themselves giving some of their background information related to the Commission work. Helene Murray was thanked for her contributions to the commission. JoAnn Tesar's term also will end May 31.

Tracy Sides and others discussed the Placemaking Residency, May 11-15, Moving the Twin Cities to Better Health (Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation) Tuesday, May 11, features activities in Saint Paul's East Side and Fri., May 15, along University Ave. in Saint Paul. Several of those present plan to attend one or more of the events.

The FNC has been asked to have a table at the Frogtown/Midway plant distribution event Sat., May 16. Julie said she can be there. Diane will be there but in another capacity.

The FNC was asked for participation on a panel to discuss "Clean Labels" on Wed., May 13, 11:30 – 12:15 at the University of Minnesota. No one was available and/or felt they had the expertise.

Other announcements included the Urban Farm and Garden Alliance hoop house raising on Sunday, May 11, and that the Alliance is working with a sociologist to record and compile the amount of food that people who are part of the Alliance can raise.

The Ober Peace Celebration will be held on June 19 at the Boys and Girls Club, Western and St. Anthony. The FNC was asked to have a table from 3-5 pm.

The Food Issue Network at University of MN asked for input from the FNC and other Minnesota Food policy councils about ways that researchers and staff the University could deepen and broaden connections to the food systems/policy work in the Metro area. Nadja, Julie, Diane, and Metric said they could attend this session on May 19.

Rina McManus, Public Health Director, gave a brief update on the status of SHIP in the legislature. The funding has been eliminated in the House of Representatives but not in the Senate.

Conference committees begin meeting on May 5. She also asked the group some questions about the outcomes of the FNC work and how it is being reported.

Nadja reported that the seed library bill has passed to allow seed exchanges to be legally operated.

Metro Food Access Network work was briefly reported. Jaya reported on the Hunger Work Group, Nadja on the Land Access Group and Julie on the Comp Planning Group.

Tracy said that she is putting together a group to plan for US Food Day, October 24, 2015 with the themes: “Food Day inspires Americans to change their diets and our food policies” and “real food, just food.” Jaya offered to meet with the group.

Frogtown Farm is partnering with the Architecture Department from the University of Minnesota to make the design more accessible and welcoming.

Twin Cities Mobile Market is planning an event on June 9 at Wilder to celebrate success and announce expansion plans.

Julie & Jaya reported on food hub information from a Minnesota Dept. of Health webinar. This follows up on presentations at the March and April meetings. They also summarized a presentation they attended at the University by Oran Hesterman about food insecurity and Michigan’s Double Up program and potential for Market Bucks Michigan provides a larger match and has a much higher participation rate. Rebecca Mino provided additional information from her experience of doing her Master’s degree project with the Michigan program.

Following up on a discussion about co-meetings with other groups, suggestions were made to consider Frogtown Farm, Homegrown Minneapolis, and HAFA (Hmong American Farmers’ Association). Nadja said she would look into this.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35.

2015 MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 551075:30 – 7:30 pm
July 6, 2015	Change of date to be discussed at June meeting; see web site for changes
August 3, 2015	
September 14, 2015	(one week later due to Labor Day holiday)