

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 5, 2014
5:30-7:30 p.m., 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Members attending: Diane Dodge, JoAnn Tesar, Colleen Schlieper, Nadja Berneche

Others attending: Julie Seiber, Barb Rose, Christine Shyne, Jaya Ginter

Nadja Berneche opened the meeting with introductions followed by announcements:

- Diane reported on Youth Event hosted on May 3rd in conjunction with the NIP grant (CURA) received for six gardens within the Frogtown/Summit/University neighborhood.
- Christine Shyne report on behalf of WSCO with an update on the [Met Council and Thrive 2040 process](#). A sign-on letter was sent during the public comment time frame at the end of April with 7 organizations signing. WSCO hopes to be involved in Met Council's upcoming RCAP meetings.
- June 14th- Opening Day [Light Rail Event](#). Diane will be at one light rail station representing the Frogtown Gardens. Events will last from 10am-4pm.
- Jaya provided an email update from Anton Jerve, City Planner at the Planning and Economic Development (PED) office on an update from the Zoning Amendments passed in November 2013. Anton reported one application is before the Zoning Committee on May 8th for a Conditional Use Permit for a proposed Farmers Market on University Avenue. Also an update that PED is leading another zoning study focusing on fish and fowl processing.

Group discussed the Saint Paul Zoning Amendments and recognized the need to collect information about how the new regulations are working and report to the City Council. Residents have mentioned issues specifically related to the hoop house policy.

Meeting attendees received a copy of the August 2013 approved bylaws governing the Food and Nutrition Commission. Nadja recognized there was not a quorum of members present. No action could be taken on two points of the agenda: review of draft awards program (Eat Real Award) and reconvening Task Force working groups. Discussed the need to survey FNC members and see if an alternative day of the week or month or time would work better for current members.

The group discussed the importance of connecting with City officials and the need to push for City appointment of new Food and Nutrition Commission members.

Opportunities for FNC members to be involved in the community were discussed. Barb Rose, representing Growing West Side, provided flyers on the Open Day of the [West Side Farmers Market](#) and gave an update. The West Side Farmers Market (location: corner of Stryker and George Street) will be open every Saturday from 8:30-12:30 all summer. There

will be 12 vendors at the Market. [Jerabek's New Bohemian](#) coffee shop is willing to sponsor a Community Table where local growers can sell their produce and not have to pay for the insurance that is required for vendors. The Farmers Market will now accept EBT and WIC payment. BCBS is sponsoring the Market Bucks program at this location; however, limited funds are available for the summer months.

JoAnn led a discussion on ways to increase SNAP-eligible people to sign up for benefits. This would provide them with the means for better nutrition and provide economic benefit to the community. She asked how the FNC could advocate for this need and what channels could be used for outreach to those who qualify.

The meeting was adjourned around 7pm.

UPCOMING MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107 5:30 – 7:30 pm
June 2, 2014	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
July 7, 2014	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
August 4, 2014	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
September 8, 2014	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
October 6, 2014	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
November 3, 2014	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
December 1, 2014	Star Room, 2 nd Floor