

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 2, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Ramsey County Plato Office Building

90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Members present: Boa Her, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, Rebecca Mino

Others present: Anne Hunt, Ann Luke, Erin Ostrowski, Fernando Burga, Filson Ibrahim, Nic Jelinski, Paula Merrigan, Jaya (Ginter) Davis, Evalyn Carbrey, Rina McManus and Julie Seiber

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

- Food Access Summit, Nov. 8-10, Duluth Entertainment Convention Center—includes meeting of food councils and networks – Attending (Evalyn Carbrey, Jaya Davis, Diane Dodge, Rebecca Mino, Nadja Berneche, Julie Seiber)
- Anne Hunt provided an update on the Saint Paul pollinator resolution. Saint Paul parks department met during the spring/summer of 2015 to draft pollinator resolution for City Council. The draft is now being vetted by other departments. The goal is to have the City adopt a policy that may allow limited pesticides (includes herbicides and pesticides) and to encourage departments to have an integrated pest management plan. The City hopes to have a draft for the next FNC meeting (12/7/15). To date, Saint Paul has not discussed the plan with other municipalities in Ramsey County or with any school districts. Anne Hunt will see if someone from the Parks department could come to the FNC meeting on 12/7/15 to talk about the policy.
 - Saint Paul is also considering having city apiaries, in addition to having gardens that demonstrate pollinator friendly plants, etc.
- Julie Seiber provided a brief update from a recent roundtable at Midwest Dairy Association where they discussed how MN dairy farms are trying to minimize their environmental impact. Primarily the farms are focusing on eliminating waste in a more sustainable way.
- Nic Jelinski, an Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota, Department of Soil, Water, and Climate attended the meeting to provide an overview of his work on soil testing, and to request a letter of support from the FNC for a grant he is submitting to UMN to support his work. He is currently partnering with Gardening Matters and Frogtown Farm in Saint Paul to screen properties and community gardens for soil lead.

The FNC tentatively agreed to sign a letter of support. Nic will draft letter and send to Evalyn and Nadja, who will provide it to the group for review/approval.

- Nadja Berneche reported that the summary table of responses to the food issue and more detailed responses are available on website; the information was picked up by Pioneer Press on their election blog and there was also significant interest on Gardening Matters' Facebook page.
- Nadja Berneche provided information on the Maplewood community garden project. The coalition for the community garden is going to ask the city of Maplewood for a waiver of the fee for a conditional use permit (CUP), as the land is currently zoned for commercial use. They are asking for a letter of support from the FNC for their request to the city to waive the \$1600 permit cost. Currently in Maplewood there are no ordinances governing community gardens; therefore, the coalition is looking to other municipalities for sample ordinance language. The FNC tentatively agreed to provide a letter of support. Nadja will draft a letter and will provide it to the group for review/approval.

The group previewed "Food Justice," a video produced by Ramsey County Healthier Meals Coalition and Twin Cities PBS (tpt). It will be aired on tpt MN channel beginning November 15th at 7:00 pm. The Food Justice web page (www.foodjusticemn.org) should be up and running by November 8th or 9th. DVDs of the video will be available by the end of the year. FNC members are encouraged to use this video as a resource within their own networks.

The group revisited discussion of the Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan from the previous meeting (Oct 2015), and discussed how to work to ensure language around food access and food equity are included in the plan. Paula Merrigan spoke to Lucy Thompson (who is the planner leading the Saint Paul comp planning team), who recommended that the FNC consider starting with a presentation to comp planning staff team/committee on the issues of food access and equity. She noted that there is a recognition on the part of the city that issues of food access and food equity underlie issues of zoning/housing, etc.

Fernando Burga, an Assistant Professor for the Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) degree program at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, proposed that he could have his students support the FNC on their Comp Planning work during his Site Planning class in spring 2015. He suggested that his students could do community engagement, and provide background information to inform the work of the FNC. The group was enthusiastic about this plan. As a next step, Fernando will attend the FNC December meeting to provide examples of students' previous work. He also invited FNC members to his students' final review on Thursday, December 17th, 2015 from 5:30-7:30pm at UROC (2001 Plymouth Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411).

The FNC group decided to focus their December meeting around planning how to move forward on their Comp Plan work. One idea is to review the current chapters and divide into work groups to develop 1-2 sentences that could be added to various chapters (land use: urban agriculture, development, green space, food access, etc.).

In the future, the group may consider working with other communities in Ramsey County on including food access and equity into their Comp plans.

Next Steps: Paula Merrigan will report back to Lucy Thompson about the FNC Comp Plan discussion, and will try to figure out who is working on the various Comp Plan chapters for Saint Paul.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

2015/16 MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107 5:30 – 7:30 pm
December 7, 2015	
January 4, 2016	Possibly working groups instead of full commission meeting, TBD
February 1, 2016	
March 7, 2016	