

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, Nov. 3, 2014

Ramsey County Plato Office Building

90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Members attending: Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, Pat Trotter

Members absent: Bernie Hesse, JoAnn Tesar, Kentalé Morris

Others present: Bri Whiting, Rebecca Mino, Terese Hill, Ann Luke, Tracy Sides, Barb Rose, Kate Mudge, Daniel Gerdes, Jaya Ginter, Julie Seiber

Nadja Berneche welcomed the attendees. An adjustment to the agenda occurred due to a speaker requesting to call in to the meeting prior to 6:00pm.

Caroline Devany working at [Stone's Throw Urban Farm](#) with some growing sites in the Frogtown (St. Paul) and Phillips (Minneapolis) neighborhoods presented her case (via phone) to FNC members for comment and support. Winners of the Knight Greenline Challenge their project description reads:

To transform space in Green Line neighborhoods into a beautiful anchor farm, Stone's Throw Urban Farm will expand the site to include a year-round greenhouse, two hoop houses and pedestrian-friendly gathering spaces. The site will serve as a hub and host to innovative urban agriculture focused on reinserting food production into the city. The farm will showcase the economic viability of farming in the city and promote economic activity along the Green Line.

Caroline explained some current challenges they are now facing related to extended lease and the tenure of land. Caroline and her team are meeting with City Staffers this week to negotiate an extended lease and work to leverage support for this project. FNC members would like to stay involved if this can be a larger community conversation around land access and permanence issues. Caroline has agreed to attend the December FNC meeting with an update on progress.

Introductions of attendees occurred after this phone conversation. A few additions to the announcements and events were added to the agenda, however, the order of this agenda point was moved to allow Midway Nest project to present next in the interest of their time.

Kate Mudge and Daniel Gerdes presented a summary of their work so far called the Midway Nest. The project received a planning grant from the [Healthy Food, Healthy Lives Institute](#). The Midway Nest was described as a place for start-up food entrepreneurs, with an incubator kitchen, possibly a greenhouse, and a tool lending library. The Midway Nest staff conducted 4 focus groups in the Midway neighborhood asking residents questions about entrepreneurial opportunities related to

food along with questions about what are healthy foods and what are the barriers to accessing healthier food items. Surveys were also sent out to a variety of people within the Twin Cities asking similar questions. Next steps include analyze for potential location for the Midway Nest (needing industrial zoned space) and creation of a business plan/funding sources for this project. The presenters also discuss their plans to hold an Open House and present the survey results back to the community members who provided the responses.

Announcements and updates included:

- An update by those who attended the Food Access Summit 2014: Organize for Equity in Duluth.
- Julie read an email update from Leah Driscoll on the Twin Cities Mobile Market. The bus is ready, the inspections were passed, and now they are waiting for their SNAP application to be processed. They are also working with the state to become a WIC vendor.
- An additional announcement by Tracy Sides: There will be an Open House on November 18th from 3-7pm at the [East Side Enterprise Center](#) in Saint Paul. Urban Oasis is part of 12 different organizations who will be housed in this location. This location will also be applying to be designated as a [Promise Zone](#). The deadline for this application is November 21, 2014. Urban Oasis hopes the East Side Enterprise Center will be designated as a Promise Zone to help in the application process for the [USDA Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive grant](#) opportunity.
- Barb Rose reminded everyone about the upcoming [Overcoming Racism Conference](#) on November 14-15th. There will also be an open and free showing of the documentary, The Garden at 5:30 on the 14th followed by a panel discussion after the showing.
- Helene Murray and Tracy Sides announced their participation in the [FEAST Local Food Network Tradeshow](#) on November 2nd and 3rd in Rochester. Locally produced value added products from MN, WI, and IA were sold to tradeshow attendees and local buyers and vendors were invited to build the connection to local foods.
- Nadja announced the availability of two documents published by the [Center for Concerned Scientists](#): [Healthy Food in Your Community: A toolkit for Policy Change](#) and [Science, Democracy, and a Healthy Food Policy](#) a report from the Spring 2014 Forum in Minnesota.

An introduction to the Minnesota Food Charter followed. A video from the Food Charter web site presented an overview of the Food Charter and reviewed the document. Homework for members and others is to review the Food Charter document which each received and think of how the FNC work relates. It was noted that the recommendations in the charter fall into similar areas to the

recommendations of the FNC to the City Council and County Board. It will be on the agenda for discussion at the December 1 meeting.

Pat Trotter agreed to moderate the next meeting as Nadja cannot attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

| UPCOMING MTG. DATES | MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107 5:30 – 7:30 pm |
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| December 1, 2014 | Star Room, 2 nd Floor |
| January 5, 2015 | Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor |
| February 2, 2015 | Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor |