

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 5, 2012
5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Ramsey County Plato Office Building

Members attending: Nadja Berneche, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, Linda Pope, Lisa Jore, Metric Giles, and Pat Trotter

Others attending: Jamie Bain, Kelsea Dombrovski, Rina McManus and Lindsey Hoeft

Nadja Berneche opened the meeting with introductions and announcements:

Jamie announced that Renewing The Countryside is leading workshops on Farm to School and is looking for guidance. Please get in touch with Brett Olson or Molly Turnquist if interested.

Pat shared an upcoming event: Farmer / Buyer Networking
Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Kitchen in the Market at the Midtown Global Market

Colleen presented an updated draft of a letter to the Minnesota Congressional delegation to urge passage of the Farm Bill in the session after the election. Colleen will send it out to the entire Commission for feedback. Metric suggested developing a companion piece that would include graphics and talking points for community members that shows the impact of the Farm Bill on everyone.

Lindsey shared the Greater Lowertown Master Plan Summary. A number of strategies are included directly as a result of the Commission's work. They include:

- Designate a permanent home for the Farmer's Market and a year-round community amenity.
- Introduce urban agriculture, recreational uses and sustainability initiatives east of the Lafayette Bridge in "The Seam."
- Enhance the Farmers' Market site to become a greater neighborhood amenity.
- Create roof top gardens as part of the open space system.

This is a visionary document. Questions about the city planning process, how strategies get funding/prioritized were raised and will be asked of City staff at a future meeting.

To see the Lowertown Master Plan go to <http://visionlowertown.com/category/announcements/>

Nadja, Linda and Lindsey shared information learned at a meeting with a Met Council representative. Met Council is in the process of revising their Regional Development Framework, Thrive MSP 2040. Urban agriculture and food in general has historically not been included. Lisa suggested writing a joint letter with Homegrown Minneapolis to provide input into the planning process on the value of urban agriculture and why it is important to have food as part of a regional planning document. Lisa will connect with Homegrown and Linda will begin drafting a letter.

Nadja presented the draft Food Justice principles developed at the Food+Justice=Democracy conference. Reaction to the principles among Commission members present was positive. The Commission will continue to look to these principles as recommendations and policies are crafted.

Nadja led a discussion about state and federal level recommendations that the Commission would consider pushing for in the next legislative session. Ideas included:

- Support for SHIP funding
- Developing a ‘Good Samaritan’ law for community gardens to be exempt from purchasing liability insurance that is currently prohibitive to many gardens. Model after the Good Samaritan Law for food donations.
- Mandatory soil testing or mandatory notification of soil testing results when contamination is found. Expanding current lead notification laws to include outdoor (soil) lead contamination as well as current standards for sharing indoor lead contamination.

Due to a small number of Commission members present, selecting priority recommendations and low-hanging fruit was put on hold until the December meeting. Other potential agenda items for December include:

- Kelsea/Mark Granlund sharing their work with St. Paul Parks and Rec.
- Update from Anton Jerve on the St. Paul zoning revisions
- Discussion on how the Commission would like to re-engage the community

UPCOMING MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107 5:30 – 7:30 pm
December 3	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
January 7, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
February 4, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
March 4, 2013	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor