

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 1, 2012
5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Ramsey County Plato Office Building

Members attending: Becky Timm, Bernie Hesse, Brett Olson, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, Linda Pope, Lisa Jore, Metric Giles, and Pat Trotter.

Others attending: Anne Hunt, Diana Turner, Greg Sorensen, Julie Seiber, Kelsea Dombrovski, Mark Granlund, and Z. Lu Alexander

Bernie Hesse opened the meeting with introductions and announcements:

October 17, 9-11 a.m., Metro Food Access Network meeting

October 11-13, International Roundtable: Feeding the World, Macalester College

October 23-24, Food Day activities at the University of Minnesota

Food Week planning included a discussion of potential earned media opportunities. Bernie volunteered to follow up with a couple of local newspapers. Julie Seiber will compile a calendar of events for Food Week (Oct. 16 – 24).

Bernie presented a draft of a letter to the Minnesota Congressional delegation to urge passage of the Farm Bill in the session after the election. Bernie will include suggested changes to incorporate local numbers of people eligible for WIC and SNAP and mention SNAP's importance to low income retired residents, many veterans, those suffering job loss, and many young people struggling to afford college. The letter will be sent after the election.

Diane and Julie discussed highlights from Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy's Food + Justice = Democracy Conference which included many meaningful insights from people representing groups impacted by circumstances affecting access to land and food such as slavery, Indian land treaties, and immigrants who don't understand the language and systems. These factors have impacts lasting for generations. The conference also highlighted situations in which food workers aren't compensated and cannot afford to eat the food they are growing, harvesting, or preparing.

Julie Seiber and Pat Trotter attended a meeting of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council which is considering many issues similar to this group. They are interested in further discussion of issues which affect both Minneapolis and Ramsey County or the metro area.

There was an initial discussion of priorities for the work plan which included:

- Raise the level of discussion of food issues with the press and the community.
- Work with contracted food services such as schools, correctional facilities and hospitals to encourage the use of local, healthy foods which could be an economic driver.
- Investigate ways to encourage business development to process locally grown foods.

- Promote the availability of small loans for ethnic grocers to upgrade.
- Catalog the good efforts already happening in the community.
- Do background work and publicize information on soil testing and safe gardening. Look into the need for PCA ordinance changes to use compost not generated on-site and its impact on local ordinances. PCA would provide the opportunity for home composting by 2016. Eureka has a proposal for curbside pick-up of compost.
- Become identified as champions for urban farmers.
- Meet with the District Councils in Saint Paul or a meeting with representatives of all of them.
- Chart progress on the recommendations to City Council and the County Board.

Mark Winne's book Good Laws, Good Food was suggested as reading for ideas.

UPCOMING MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107 5:30 – 7:30 pm
November 5	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
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