

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2011
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Ramsey County Plato Conference Center
90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Attending

Members: Becky Timm, Bernie Hesse, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Hai Truong, Helene Murray, Leonard Russo, Linda Littrell, Brett Olson, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, Kentale Morris, and Lisa Jore

Others: Collie Graddick, Greg Sorensen, Lindsey Hoeft, Mark Granlund, Patricia Ohmans, Michael McKenna, and Theresa Heiland

Becky Timm and Hai Truong welcomed the group and led introductions of those present.

Announcements and upcoming events were discussed:

- The Commission will have a table at the Oct. 24, National Food Day at UofM, Coffman Union
- Lenny, Helene, Diane provided a brief report on visit to Saint Paul Public Schools Nutrition Services reporting a very impressive operation with good food for the students.
- A presentation proposal was accepted for a session about the Commission at the November 14-16 Conference, Making It Better: Creating a Healthier Community Together, sponsored by SHIP and Centers for Disease Control.
- Mark Granlund announced that an Americorps worker starting Oct. 17 with St. Paul Parks and Rec. will help to move Commission work forward.
- Julie attended a meeting about the possibility of forming an East Side food co-op. About 75 people attended and entered into a lively discussion with a variety of interests and requirements for such a co-op. A steering committee was formed to move explore the possibility of forming a co-op similar to the Hampden Park Co-op on Raymond.
- The Commission has an invitation from the St Anthony Park Community Council Environmental Committee to share Commission work, Wed., October 26. Colleen Schlieper and Julie Seiber will attend.

Anton Jerve, Saint Paul City Planner, outlined plans to review city ordinances related to food production. This will happen in 2012 and will look into issues such as food and agriculture zoning, unneeded barriers to food production and business, definitions for farmers markets, community gardens, urban agriculture, market gardens and front yard food growing. The planning department will compile the information they find, ask for feedback, and present any needed changes to the City Council.

LaDonna Redmond, Senior Program Associate, Food and Justice, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, discussed why and how she became involved in food access work when her son developed severe allergies and she couldn't access the food he needed in her neighborhood. She talked about land being a transmitter of culture through food and the long-standing after

effects of slavery with many African Americans trying to escape the association with the agricultural lifestyle. We need a land ethic to have a food ethic. Achieving food equity requires looking into food systems and economic models including corporate control of the food system. Corporate food has socialized people out of their culture's food traditions.

Collie Graddick, Partner and organizer with Community Table Cooperative, a group working to create economic opportunities in the Twin Cities by growing food and taking it through all of the steps to market, talked about the goals of the cooperative, how it became organized and its current work. The Midwest has a long tradition of cooperatives but starting an agricultural co-op as a non-profit is technically illegal in Minnesota. The Community Table will have 25 farmers who will aggregate their produce at sites in Saint Paul and process and freeze it at a facility in south Minneapolis. The group is piloting a fresh vegetable kiosk system in four corner stores in Minneapolis and has collaborated with a chef to produce frozen meals for the African American market.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Next meetings:

Monday, Nov. 7, 2011, 5:30 – 7:30, Star Room, 2nd Floor, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul 55107

Monday, Dec. 5, 2011, 5:30 – 7:30, Plato Conference Center, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul 55107