

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, Sept. 8, 2014

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

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

Members not attending: Bernie Hesse, JoAnn Tesar, Kentalé Morris, Pat Trotter

Others attending: Ann Luke, Hua Vang, Paris Dunning, Carissa Glatt, Jaya Ginter, Julie Seiber

Nadja Berneche welcomed the attendees who introduced themselves.

Announcements and events included:

- Create, The Community Meal, September 14, has no more tickets but volunteers are accepted.
- October 29-30, Food Access Summit 2014: Organize for Equity, Duluth Entertainment Convention Center has opened registration.
- Update on The Urban Farm and Garden Alliance—Metric and Diane reported that the Alliance is a finalist (48 finalists out of 579 initial proposals) for funding from the Knight Foundation with a final proposal to be submitted on Sept. 16. For more information see the web sites: <http://www.knightgreenlinechallenge.org/2014-finalists>

<http://tcbmag.com/News/Recent-News/Finalists-named-in-Green-Line-Challenge-to-improve>

- The FNC meeting day/time survey indicated that the first Monday, 5:30, is the preferred day.
- Barb Rose, Growing West Side sent two announcements.
 1. Growing West Side Harvest Party on Oct. 11. Everybody Welcome! 9-2 pm at the West Side Farmers Market, 63 W. George Street. Music, Free Food, Family Activities..
 2. An annual conference at Metro State will be held this year Nov 14 – 15, Overcoming Racism Conference: Cultivating Transformation. For more information see the web site:

http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/community/ices/upcoming_events.html

As a part of the conference, the movie, The Garden, will be screened on Friday November 14 at 6 pm at Founders Hall Auditorium at Metro State with a panel discussion after the film. This is an academy award nominated film about the

struggles of a community group in Los Angeles about urban agriculture is said to be very powerful. <http://www.thegardenmovie.com/>

Diane and Metric also reported on a LISC-organized trip to see the food scene in Milwaukee from a food and social justice perspective. They visited a number of local food organizations and noted that the groups seemed to have a great degree of cooperation with one another. Growing Power will have a conference for farmers and social justice organizations in Milwaukee on Nov. 6 & 7.

On September 11, there will be an event at the Black Dog in Lowertown to celebrate the release of the Saint Paul Almanac.

Community Garden Day is September 13 with a number of gardens open to the public.

Task force reports:

Bee/Pollinator Task Force: The group looked at a list of Ramsey County municipalities list describing honeybee regulations and found it helpful. They requested an addition of the regulations in Minneapolis for comparison. Helene will provide a link to a Bee Squad site outlining a good ordinance. Diane commented that two Saint Paul departments are involved with licensing and enforcement of bee ordinances. It is not an easy process.

Voter guide: The questions to pose to candidates about food-related issues is being compiled. Iowa has given Helene permission to use some of their questions. Helene and Bernie will complete the guide.

Metric proposed a task force on soil and compost quality. This is important in an urban area such as Ramsey County where plots of land may have had many different uses over the years and contaminants could pose a problem for growing food.

Julie presented a document for review. It summarizes the healthy food access environment and resources in Ramsey County. A few revisions were suggested but the overall opinion was that the document is comprehensive. Other comments are welcome by e-mail or phone.

Work on communications would enhance the Commission's visibility. There needs to be a strategy to connect the urban population to the federal Farm Bill, which is really a food bill.

A large community event, similar to the one at Halle Q. Brown a couple of years ago, could celebrate successes and gather feedback on what is working or not, and identify common concerns in interests. Paris Dunning offered to help with type of community engagement.

The group suggested getting help from intern(s) to develop a plan to collect information about issues people are encountering related to the gardening/urban agriculture/farmers market ordinances. Julie will apply for interns through the Community Health Initiative at the University of Minnesota which places graduate students with organizations to work on projects.

A suggestion was made to invite someone from the Land Trust to come to a future meeting in order to learn about their work.

The meeting was adjourned by the chair.

UPCOMING MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107 5:30 – 7:30 pm
October 6, 2014	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
November 3, 2014	Star Room, 2 nd Floor
December 1, 2014	Star Room, 2 nd Floor