

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 10, 2012
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

First Floor Conference Center
Ramsey County Plato Office Building
90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Members attending: Becky Timm, Bernie Hesse, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, JoAnn Tesar, Kentale' Morris, Linda Pope, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, Pat Trotter

Members absent: Brett Olson, Hai Truong, Lisa Jore

Others attending: Jerome Benner, Julie Seiber, Mark Granlund, Z. Lu Alexander

Becky Timm, FNC Co-chair, opened the meeting with a welcome and those present introduced themselves.

Announcements included:

- Invitation to attend the Minneapolis Food Council meeting, Wednesday, September 19, Minneapolis City Hall; business meeting 3:00-4:30 pm with update on Saint Paul – Ramsey County FNC work at 4:30pm--informal discussion of 15-20 minutes.
Pat Trotter, Nadja Berneche, Becky Timm (? possibly) and Julie Seiber are planning to attend.
- Invitation to join the Healthy Food, Healthy Lives class at the University of Minnesota for their cooking lab and dinner on Mon., Nov. 12, 3-6 pm, Saint Paul Campus. The is studying food system issues connected to environmental, social and cultural issues pertaining to food & health. Kristine Igo and Jenny Breen are the instructors.
Kentale', Helene and Colleen expressed interest in participating.
- Metric Giles invited the group to attend events on Thursday, Sept. 13, at the Black Dog Café, 308 Prince Street: 5:30 – 7:00, fundraiser and tribute to Kwame McDonald, and 7 – 9 pm, celebration of the release of the 2012 edition of the Saint Paul Almanac.
- Metric also announced the Black Environmental Conference on urban environmental sustainability, September 21-23, 2012, sponsored by the University of Minnesota. Bringing together the scholars and practitioners of Black Environmental Thought across the African Diaspora, this conference is for scholars, artists, farmers, activists, cooks, gardeners, environmentalists, and outdoors enthusiasts to advance Black Environmental Thought philosophy and imagine new futures of change and possibility. For more information <https://events.umn.edu/020869>

Commission Leadership: The members discussed new co-chairs for the Commission and decided to defer the decision to the December meeting. Nadja Berneche and Bernie Hesse offered to co-chair the October meeting.

Food Week Planning: Members looked at the calendar that was sent with the agenda. Bernie Hesse discussed contacts he has made with students and faculty at Macalester College about their International Roundtable: Feeding the World: Globalization, Food and Agriculture in the 21st Century on October 11 -12. He will follow up to see how the FNC can participate and/or promote this conference. He also met with staff from the Minnesota Grocers Association who will help to arrange for local growers to be featured at local grocery stores. JoAnn Tesar asked that SNAP/WIC/MAC/NAPS outreach be promoted throughout the week. “Affordable” should include options to make healthy food obtainable to the low income people in the community. Julie Seiber will contact Hunger Solutions, the Emergency Foodshelf Network, Department of Human Services and the U of M Extension Service, Ramsey County, to discuss collaboration to make this happen.

Awards Program: Members liked the simplicity of the concept paper for the awards program that was sent with the agenda. After much discussion, the consensus was to move forward with presenting awards to 2 individuals and 2 organizations or businesses in the community who are “every day food heroes” but not to rush to present the awards in October. The FNC wants to make sure that the nomination process reaches a wide audience with enough time to make nominations.

The Minnesota Food Access Summit (Aug.21-23): Nadja, Helene, JoAnn and Julie attended. Part of the program there was about early planning for a Minnesota food charter. Nadja and Helene attended a planning meeting and reported that there will be opportunities for the FNC to engage with the local community in order to provide wide input identifying priorities for different groups of people. A tool kit is being developed for use in convening groups. Some other states, counties and cities have already developed food charters or are working on them and can be seen at their web sites:

<http://www.michiganfood.org/>

<http://www.wvhub.org/wvffc/west-virginia-food-charter>

<http://www.championsforhealth.org/jefferson-county-food-policy-council-charter.php>

Jefferson County, Alabama

<http://www.foodsystemcollaborative.org/upload/2971food%20charter%20fact%20sheet%20v4-1.pdf> Sacramento, California

State Fair Eco Experience tabling: Nadja, Colleen, and Julie staffed a table on Sunday, Sept. 2 and invited passers-by to respond to the question, “When you think about having a healthy meal, what comes to mind?” Julie will have the answers compiled and provide the summary to the FNC and to the project that Seitu Jones discussed last month involving food and art in Saint Paul.

Influencing food policy at the state and national level: Bernie provided a document from the Minnesota House of Representatives summarizing how an issue becomes a law in the state. He mentioned that very few of the bills that are introduced actually are passed and signed into law. Good planning and legwork with legislators can improve the chances of passage. Some examples of

issues that the FNC has discussed through the task force work include micro-loans for start-up businesses to aggregate and distribute locally grown food and funding for youth to work in urban agriculture as interns. After the laws are in effect, the departments make the rules to implement the provisions of the law. There is often a chance for input into this process as well.

The U.S. “Farm Bill, ” officially titled Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2012 has been passed by the Senate and more closely conforms with the needs and issues found by the FNC to be important locally than does a version passed by the House of Representatives. Bernie will draft a letter urging the legislators in the Minnesota delegation to collaborate and pass a bill with much of the Senate language.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

UPCOMING MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107 5:30 – 7:30 pm
October 1	Plato Conference Center, 1 st Floor
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