

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, Sept. 14, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Ramsey County Plato Office Building

90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Members present: Bernie Hesse, Boa Her, Colleen Schlieper, Diane Dodge, Hua Vang, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, Rebecca Mino, and Tracy Sides

Others present: Jaya Ginter Davis and Julie Seiber

The meeting began with those present introducing themselves.

Announcements and upcoming events included:

- Urban Oasis Food Fest, Sat., Sept. 19, 11:30 – 4:00, Indian Mounds Regional Park
- Community Garden Day, Sat., Sept. 19; includes events in St. Paul at the Urban Garden Alliance's sites.
- The Urban Garden Alliance has been named University of Minnesota's Farm Family of the Year
- Mississippi Market grand opening at Dayton's Bluff, E. 7th location, Sept. 26
- Food Access Summit, Nov. 8-10, Duluth Entertainment Convention Center—includes meeting of food councils and networks

Tracy Sides discussed plans for Food Day in the Twin Cities which will be a week-long series of events during the week beginning Oct. 18. Some of the events and/or sponsors include a meal at Minnesota Food Association's Big River Farm, Urban Oasis meal on Oct. 24, Saint Paul Farmers' Market, Salvation Army meal on Oct. 22, and a panel of farmers and chefs at the East Side Freedom Library on Oct. 21. Proclamations are in process from the County Board on Oct. 20 and the City Council on Oct. 21. Events will be listed on the Facebook page: Food Day in the Twin Cities: Local Bounty

Paula Merrigan, Chair of the Comprehensive Planning Committee of the Saint Paul Planning Commission was unable to be at this meeting and postponed her discussion until the next meeting.

Julie Seiber gave a brief update about the Minnesota Food Charter which can guide some of the Commission's work.

Bernie Hesse discussed the Agriculture Bill being discussed in Congress. Provisions for protecting bees and labeling of food as to origin/sources seem to be contentious. He talked about local food and good wages for workers in the food industry having a positive impact on local economies. The City and the County could have policies favoring local products in their institutions.

The Minneapolis City Council passed a Resolution declaring the city a pollinator-friendly community and encouraging residents and businesses to adopt pollinator-friendly practices. Diane Dodge led a short discussion about input to the City of Saint Paul for such a resolution and will follow up with Pat Trotter and Erin Rupp to craft input and provide the information to Anne Hunt. The group discussed that a pollinator policy in Saint Paul may be different based on different local situations. Members will review the Minneapolis document by Sept. 28 and get comments to Diane.

Nadja will work on obtaining additional food issue questionnaires and explaining the purpose in a more understandable way. She will ask for help with summarizing the answers for the group to use. It was mentioned that there are some very good ideas and concerns included in the answers.

Nadja discussed the possibility of a county budget amendment to request a 25% time staff member for the FNC. Julie asked her to discuss this with Donald Gault before proceeding.

2015 MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 551075:30 – 7:30 pm
November 2, 2015	
December 7, 2015	Meeting cancelled
January 4, 2015	