



**Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Minutes  
Wednesday, March 14, 2018**

*5:00-5:30 pm pre-meeting presentation from Kate Seybold, MPS*

*5:30-7:30 pm Food Council meeting*

Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) Culinary and Wellness Services Center, 812 Plymouth Ave N, Minneapolis

**Members in Attendance:** Beth Dooley, Caroline Devany, Dana Boyer, Heidi Ritchie, Jaime Harris, Jason Walker, Kate Seybold, Kristen Klingler, Mai Yang, Martin \*Rogue Farmer\* Brown, Mary Vorndran, Council Member Phillippe Cunningham, Rachelle Pass, Sophie Wallerstedt, Zainab Youngmark

**Members Absent:** Alyssa Banks, Amy Maas, Christina White, Deb Brister, DeVon Nolen, Ellen Kennedy, Latasha Powell, Samantha Pree-Stinson, Suado Abdi, Winston Bell

**Others in Attendance:** Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis/Food Policy Coordinator), Claire Baglien (Homegrown Minneapolis/Food Policy Program Aide), Siciid Ali (for Ellen Kennedy/MPRB), Emily Diekmann, Terrill Patterson, Sara Jane Van Allen, Filsan Ibrahim, Donald Warneke, Hannah Lagoon, Emily Minge

## 1) Welcome and Opening Circle

Kate Seybold called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Tamara Downs Schwei explained that the March and April Food Council meetings will be led by Executive Committee members as the Food Council's Co-Chairs, DeVon Nolen and Tasha Powell, will be traveling for conferences and Farm Bill advocacy during both of these scheduled meetings. Kate led an opening circle activity. Food Council and community members shared their names, affiliations, and favorite food to buy at the farmers market.

## 2) Food Council Business

- a. *Vote: Approve February 2018 Food Council Meeting Minutes and March Agenda*  
Sophie Wallerstedt moved to approve the February Food Council meeting minutes and March agenda. Council Member Cunningham seconded, and both were approved unanimously.
- b. *Discussion and Vote: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Community Garden Policy and letter of support*  
Siciid Ali, speaking on behalf of the MPRB, presented the group with updates to the Community Garden Policy and described the call for comments. Martin \*Rogue Farmer\* Brown gave an overview of a draft letter of support for the policy, proposed to be submitted on behalf of the Food Council. Rogue explained that while he drafted the letter, the content was vetted with community members involved with Parks and Power and Northside Fresh. The letter of support includes three main recommendations in addition to lending support: funding for an urban agriculture staff position at MPRB to oversee Community Garden programs at parks, funding for stipends to compensate Community Garden Leads (CGL's), and incorporating racial equity as a selection criteria.

Food Council members and community representatives discussed the number of CGL's already selected and how that process ties in with racial equity goals outlined in the policy, the accessibility of the gardens to all community members, and prioritization of vegetable production, edible landscaping, and pollinator-friendly plants. There was also interest from the group in knowing which parks are planning to participate in community gardens. Rogue asked if there were any proposed



amendments to the letter of support. Donald Warneke suggested the letter should advocate to approve garden/tool sheds for storage onsite at community gardens. Heidi Ritchie suggested the letter estimate the cost of CGL's receiving a stipend, and voiced her support of the racial equity focus of the letter. Caroline moved to approve the letter, Beth Dooley seconded. The letter was approved unanimously as amended.

### 3) Discussion and Activity: Food Council 2018-19 Priorities Marketplace Part 2

a. *Review process, next steps and content generated at February meeting*

Kate gave a review of how potential Food Council areas of focus were generated at the February meeting. She explained that previously determined focus areas could continue to move forward if a member chooses, but new focus areas were also welcome to be explored at this time. Tamara Downs Schwei shared two focus areas that appeared to have confirmed leaders: Urban Agriculture (a combination of two previous groups) and Healthy Food + Waste. Following a similar process used during the February meeting, everyone in attendance broke into small groups based on focus area interest.

b. *Round 1 Topics (6:10-6:40 pm)*

The focus areas convened in Round 1 included Urban Agriculture, Healthy Food + Prevention of Wasted Food, and Local Food Business Innovation.

c. *Round 2 Topics (6:40-7:10 pm)*

The focus areas convened in Round 2 included Food Policy Forum Event Planning, Local Food Procurement/Good Food Purchasing Policy (GFPP), and Food Access Priority Areas.

### 4) Updates

Beth announced that the Executive Committee decided more conversation is needed to come to a consensus about group norms, so the Food Council will plan for more discussion time in future meetings. Members of the Food Council gave additional updates. Kate announced Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) Culinary & Nutrition Services and the True Food Chef Council's 3rd annual Junior Iron Chef Competition on May 8th, as a part of MPS' Wellness Week. Middle school students are invited to apply to participate in the competition. Beth announced that the Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen cookbook received a James Beard Book Award nomination for the American food category. Rogue mentioned that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is now accepting requests for proposals for urban agriculture and youth education projects through the Urban Agriculture funding bill, which passed last legislative session. Additionally, plant distribution events will be held in both north and south Minneapolis the weekend of May 11th and 12th. Caroline mentioned that Gardening Matters recently distributed a community survey to gather input on what services the organization might provide in order to best serve the community. Council Member Cunningham announced that the City is seeking nominations for the Local Public Health Hero Awards. Zainab mentioned that Earth Day is coming up, and encouraged everyone to ask people in their network to consider an event, action, or other organized recognition of Earth Day.

**5) Closing Circle** Everyone shared one word about how they were feeling after the meeting.

**6)** Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

**Next Food Council Meeting:** April 11, 2018; 5:30-7:30 pm meeting; 5:00-5:30 presentation; Moon Palace Books meeting room, 3032 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis