



Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

5:00-5:30 pm pre-meeting discussion: Midwest Pantry

5:30-7:30 pm Food Council meeting

Food Foundry, 3147 California Street NE, Minneapolis

Members in Attendance: Alyssa Banks, Amy Maas, DeVon Nolen, Deb Brister, Ellen Kennedy, Kristen Klingler, Mai Yang, Rachelle Pass, Suado Abdi, Tasha Powell, Zainab Youngmark

Members Absent: Beth Dooley, Caroline Devany, Dana Boyer, Heidi Ritchie, Jaime Harris, Jason Walker, Kate Seybold, Mary Vorndran, Council Member Phillipe Cunningham, Rogue Farmer, Sophie Wallerstedt

Others in Attendance: Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis/Food Policy Coordinator), Claire Baglien (Homegrown Minneapolis/Food Policy Program Aide), Gwen Jenkins, Jim Doten, Sara Jane Van Allen, Nic Jelinski, Vlad Messing, Valentine Cadieux, Hannah Lagoon, Chad Gillard

1) Welcome and Opening Circle (Tasha Powell, all)

2) Approval of August 2018 Food Council Meeting Minutes and September Agenda (Tasha Powell)

Minutes were unable to be approved due to lack of quorum.

3) Vote: Executive Committee Open Seat

Suado gave a statement of interest for joining the Executive Committee, citing the unique perspective she would bring with her background in land use and zoning. DeVon Nolen moved to approve Suado's appointment to the Executive Committee. Amy Maas seconded and all attending members approved the vote unanimously; however, the meeting did not meet quorum so members will be asked to confirm vote by email.

4) Presentation: Collaborative Evaluation of Ecosystem Services from Urban Agriculture in the Twin Cities (Nic Jelinski, Assistant Professor, Department of Soil, Water and Climate, University of MN-Twin Cities)

Nic Jelinski provided an overview of the three-year project he's leading to capture and quantify the ecosystem services provided by urban agriculture in the Twin Cities. His team aims to measure the following ecosystem services: provisioning services, such as crop yield and plant quality; regulating services, such as water storage, water quality, carbon storage, and water infiltration; supporting services, such as biodiversity, nutrient cycling, and soil quality; and cultural services, such as education, aesthetics, and discovery. Nic's team is working with Growing Lots, Frogtown Farm, Urban Farm and Garden Alliance, and Mashkiikii Gitigan. Their project is not currently focusing on home gardens and community gardens but Nic hopes to expand their focus within the next 2-3 years. Preliminary results are showing that urban agriculture practices result in more water infiltration and increased insect biodiversity. Valentine Cadieux, a community representative in attendance and a partner on the study, provided more context for the cultural services aspect of the project. Valentine said the questions to measure cultural services are being developed by the community, and that the primary focus will be around reducing stress and healing trauma through access to land. Suado requested that results from the project be brought back to the Food Council again next year, because of its potential to inform policies for land use planning and future re-zoning. Nic agreed to try to report back annually on the project.



5) Presentation, Discussion, and Vote: Letter to Hennepin County regarding recycling program requirements (Zainab Youngmark, Amy Maas)

Amy provided an overview of Hennepin County's proposed changes to their recycling ordinance. Zainab provided an overview of a draft letter to Hennepin County from the Food Council supporting the proposed changes. There was some discussion about how/what organizations and businesses are eligible for the County grant program, the consequences of non-compliance and how compliance will be measured, and methods for managing food waste. Suado moved to approve the letter, Rachele Pass seconded, and the letter was unofficially approved without quorum. Food Council members will be asked to vote to approve the letter via email to reach quorum.

6) Breakout Groups: Food Council Working Groups and Task Forces

Food Council members and community representatives decided to forgo breakout groups.

7) Report Back: Food Council Working Groups and Task Forces

Ellen Kennedy gave an update about some changes that have been incorporated into the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) proposed community garden policy.

- The proposed policy now includes recommendation of funding for a staff person
- MPRB would fund and manage garden construction, including access to water, through its Capital Improvement Program
- Tax forfeited property that is acquired by MPRB would be treated as park land and will therefore be subject to this policy (including the application process!)
- Automatic plot renewals will not be permitted to ensure equity considerations are at the core of each year's application process.
- Organic compost may be used in community gardens.

There will be public hearing during the next Board meeting at MPRB Headquarters on October 3rd, which everyone was invited to attend and/or to speak on behalf of the policy.

8) Updates and Announcements (All)

- Valentine shared two announcements.
 - On November 16th - 17th, the Executive Director of Chicago's Neighbor Space is doing a workshop with Twin Cities Agricultural Land Trust (TCALT). They administer 100 garden sites.
 - TCALT is recruiting new board members and encourages interested people to apply.
- Zainab shared that Youth Farm's annual fundraiser will be on Sunday, 9/16 from 4:00 pm – 7:30 pm.

9) Closing Circle (Tasha Powell, all)

10) Meeting adjourns

DeVon moved to adjourn the meeting. Zainab seconded, and the meeting adjourned early at 7:05 pm.

Next Food Council Meeting: Wednesday, October 10, 2018

5:00-5:30 pm pre-meeting presentation from Spark-Y

5:30-7:30 pm meeting; Spark-Y (*new location) Casket Arts Building, 681 17th Ave NE, Minneapolis