



## Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

5:00-5:30 pm pre-meeting discussion: NEON Food Business Incubator

5:30-7:30 pm Food Council meeting

NEON, 1007 West Broadway Ave N, Minneapolis

**Members in Attendance:** Alyssa Banks, Amy Maas, Beth Dooley, DeVon Nolen, Jaime Harris, Jason Walker, Kate Seybold, Kristen Klingler, Mary Vorndran, Rachelle Pass, Tasha Powell

**Members Absent:** Dana Boyer, Deb Brister, Ellen Kennedy, Heidi Ritchie, Mai Yang, Council Member Phillippe Cunningham, Sophie Wallerstedt, Suado Abdi, Zainab Youngmark

**Others in Attendance:** Tamara Downs Schwei (Homegrown Minneapolis/Food Policy Coordinator), Claire Baglien (Homegrown Minneapolis/Food Policy Program Aide), Kim Havey (City of Minneapolis Sustainability Director), Isabella Xiong, Ann Fix, Kathy Zeman, Miah Ulysse, Heidi Affi, Eliza Halverson, Emily Habegger, Ben Rengstorf, Sara Jane Van Allen, Katie Zender, Alexandra Cortes, Taryn Phaneuf, Tsega Tamene, Jodi Gruhn, Michele Manske, Karl Hakanson

### 1) Welcome and Opening Circle (Tasha Powell, Food Council Co-Chair; all)

Tasha Powell called the meeting to order.

### 2) Approval of October 2018 Food Council Meeting Minutes and November Agenda (Attachment 1) (Tasha Powell, Food Council Co-Chair)

Kate Seybold moved to approve October Food Council meeting minutes and November agenda. Beth Dooley seconded and both were approved unanimously.

### 3) Update: Food Council recruitment to fill four open seats (Tamara Downs Schwei, Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator)

Tamara Downs Schwei announced that almost 30 applications were received for the four open seats. An internal committee recommended four candidates for approval by the Mayor and City Council, which will be formalized through City Council process. Anyone who applied and is not selected is invited to continue participating in Food Council working groups and task forces as a community representative.

### 4) Presentation and Discussion: Remedies to Racial and Ethnic Economic Inequity in

#### Brazil: A Comparative Reflection (Miah Ulysse, Northside Fresh Coordinator & Policy Manager, Appetite for Change)

Miah Ulysse recently traveled to Brazil through the Roy Wilkins Community Fellowship program to attend an international forum and to learn about work being done to address racial and ethnic inequities. Miah provided background Brazilian social movements. During her trip, Miah's delegation visited a Quilombo, a community created and self-governed by escaped Afro-Brazilian slaves. There are more than 3,000+ Quilombo communities recognized in Brazil. Her group toured Quilombo farms, which grow and sell produce, tilapia, and herbs to the local government and schools. Quilombo farmers are also working on scaling cooperative growing operations for coffee beans. There was some discussion and a few questions from the group.



## **5) Presentation and Discussion: Local Food Advisory Committee Update New Local Food Innovation Team and Cottage Food Producer Conference (Kathy Zeman, Executive Director, Minnesota Farmers Market Association)**

Kathy Zeman talked about her work with the Local Food Advisory Committee (LFAC), which started in 2013, and shared details about the formation of the new Food Innovation Team formed by members of the LFAC. Kathy also announced that the first annual Cottage Food Producer Conference will occur in St. Cloud next year in January. There was some discussion and a few questions from the group.

## **6) Presentation and Discussion: Homegrown Small Business Fund loan and update on grant pilot (Ann Fix and Stephen Obayuwana, NEON; Alyssa Banks, Greater Twin Cities United Way; Tamara Downs Schwei, City of Minneapolis)**

Tamara provided an overview and history of the Homegrown Small Business Fund loan program and a new one-year grant pilot, developed in partnership with City of Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) and Homegrown Minneapolis, NEON, Greater Twin Cities United Way (GTCUW), Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD). The loan program provides financing through loans up to \$10,000 at 2% interest and technical assistance to Minneapolis-based businesses the process, grow, and manufacture food products. Eligible uses of the loans for qualified borrowers include processing, manufacturing, distributing, marketing, and working capital. There is a new direct URL for information: [www.minneapolismn.gov/homegrownfund](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/homegrownfund)

Alyssa Banks provided some background on GTCUW, highlighting their history working in food security and strategic investments in the local emergency food system, driving systems change through community collaboration, and supporting sustainable community food systems. Ann Fix spoke about the partnership with NEON and the one-year grant pilot and how it would function with the loan program. There were some questions and a discussion about the details and equity considerations of the grant program.

## **7) Updates: Food Council Working Groups and Task Forces (all)**

- **Healthy Food and Waste working group: Approval of food license insert regarding food donations**
  - Amy Maas mentioned the creation of an insert encouraging donations of excess prepared food, which will be designed by Hennepin County. The insert will be added to mailings that go out to businesses with food licenses. Kim Havey suggested the group also include information on the Homegrown Small Business Fund in the mailings.
- **Minneapolis 2040 update**
  - The second of two public hearings on Minneapolis 2040 occurred tonight, coinciding with tonight's Food Council meeting. Food Council members and community representatives are welcome to submit written comments online, write letters, or make phone calls to their City Council members.
- **All other working groups and task forces**
  - Rachele Pass shared that the Local Food Links group is working on prioritizing their work plan.
  - Kristen Klingler from the Healthy and Inclusive Food Access group reminded everyone that a public hearing to approve the changes to the Staple Foods Ordinance will be on Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Written comments are also being accepted by Council Members until next Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.



- Tamara shared that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board of Commissioners approved the Community Garden Policy. MPRB has recommended funding to hire a part-time position to help coordinate that program. More information will be available as the program is rolled out.

## **8) Updates and Announcements (All)**

- Karl Hakanson gave an update on the project he completed with backyard gardeners this summer. Participants tracked how much and what types of produce they grew, how much money they spent on supplies, etc. to show the feasibility of growing your own food in a backyard space.
- Kathy shared that 11 farmers markets in MN have piloted a wholesaler food license, allowing them to buy foods from their farmer vendors and sell it to restaurants and other institutions. The markets are hoping to increase cooperation between growers who otherwise would not be able to sell wholesale.
- Alyssa announced that GTCUW released an open call for RFPs for Community Investments, a shift from their previous grantmaking process. The RFP is open until January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and a component of the investment opportunity will focus on food security.
- Tamara announced a couple of opportunities:
  - The MDA's Good Food Access Program Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant application is open until January 17<sup>th</sup>
  - The MDA's AGRI Urban Agriculture Grant application is open until December 5<sup>th</sup>
  - There are open committee seats at the MDA's Good Food Access Program Advisory Committee

## **9) Closing Circle (Tasha Powell, Food Council Co-Chair; all)**

### **10) Meeting adjourns**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

**Next Food Council Meeting:** Wednesday, December 12th, 2018

5:00-5:30 pm pre-meeting presentation from Tracy Singleton, Owner, Birchwood Cafe

5:30-7:30 pm meeting and social time; Birchwood Cafe, 3311 E 25th St, Minneapolis