

**Food and Nutrition Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2017**

St. Paul Jewish Community Center, 1375 St Paul Ave, St Paul, MN 55116

The purpose of the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission is to provide long-range planning and associated recommendations for policy, systems and environmental change at neighborhood, city and county levels with the aim of increasing access to healthy food.

Members Present/Representation

Nadja Berneche | County District 5 (chair)
Karen Fangman | County District 1
Lebohng Moore | City of St. Paul
Elizabeth Zalanga | County District 3
Diane Dodge | County District 4
Amanda Karls | City of St. Paul
Rebecca Mino | City of St. Paul

SPRCPH Staff

Carissa Glatt | SHIP Grant Coordinator, Staff Liaison
Kaila Schoenberger | Intern
Franny Clary-Leiferman | Health Educator
William Moore | Health Educator

Guests

Amber Ferguson
Bernie Hess
Lisa Pawlowski
Julie Seiber

The meeting was called to order at 5:41pm. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made (question: What brings you to the table?).

Agenda Item #1: Legislative 101 (Bernie Hess) and Q & A session

Introduction

- Bernie is the Director of Special Projects with the United Food and Workers Commission (UFWC). He spends a lot of time at the Capitol lobbying for bills and policies related to food.
 - The UFWC represents a wide variety of workers and the primary focus is on food.
 - Stable food access can bring opportunities to communities. They see a need to keep food local and make sure everyone has access to it.
- Contact info
 - Email: bhesse@ufcw1189.org
 - Phone: 651-294-8976 (direct)

How to get started in public policy

- Follow things at the legislature
 - Find out who your legislators are and sign up for their newsletters
 - Find committees you are interested in and follow their agenda and bills
 - Meet with committee chairs
 - Track bills online

How to talk to your legislators

- Set up appointment, pull them off the floor/out of committee
 - When you are lobbying, don't lie. If you don't know something, get back to them, they appreciate that.
- They love to talk to constituents
 - YOU are a food resource for them
 - You can be their go to person/organization and serve as a sounding board for legislature as things move

forward

- Create a one-pager of information on an issue you are passionate about
- When issues aren't moving this session, keep the conversation going anyway
- Phone calls and letters are great! Emails are counted on issues too.

How to talk to your city council and county commissioners

- Set up an appointment and start the conversation
- Frequently check in to ask how they are meeting the needs of the city/county
- Most people don't know their county commissioner, so they will greatly appreciate a phone call or visit
- Appoint someone from FNC to give monthly updates about your work

How to start a bill

- Draft a bill and ask your legislator to send it to revision
- If it's not getting a hearing (happens frequently), ask for bill to be pulled out on the floor to be amended
- Let them know we are here

What is UFWC focused on?

- Land
 - New soccer stadium may or may not take out Rainbow Foods and possible food access
 - Asking planners and policy makers to ensure that there will be a grocery store and employees of Rainbow Foods will still have jobs
- State level
 - Work to increase food access and create jobs
 - A lot of good initiatives and bills have been heard, but the main concern is money to funds programs
 - Working on industrial hemp under the Department of Agriculture – hemp is a fuel and fiber and can be a food
- Good Food Purchasing Policy
 - Focuses on sustainability, eating healthy, buying local, labor standards, and animal welfare
 - Policy that they want different units of government to adopt because they purchase a lot of food (prisons, boarding care, etc.)
 - Currently working in coalition with the Minneapolis School District and has started conversations with the St. Paul School District
- Farm Workers
 - Bill moving forward with agricultural operations that need hand work
 - Some employees are abused and not paid
 - Working to implement consequences for not paying workers

State of Legislature Right Now

- This week is the first deadline for getting a bill out of either body (House or Senate)
 - 2000 bills have been introduced which is a big influx (typically about 2000 bills total per session)
 - Only about 3% of bills that are intro are signed into law
- Be alert for attacks on programs
 - SHIP – GOP wants to take money from programs seen as frivolous
 - But the Governor has a budget for SHIP
 - SNAP – work requirements and drug testing
 - Tobacco
 - Local policy groups
 - Health and Human Services cut

Questions

- How to influence the other side when your legislators are in the same party as your or have similar values?

- Meet with committee chairs on topics you are passionate about
- Start conversations with people to make your presence know
- Build connections with other food and nutrition groups across the state – these can be ways to reach legislators from different parties
- How can we influence the state from a city and county perspective?
 - Set up a meeting with the Department of Agriculture (they will probably have more money to fund programs than other areas)
- On the federal level, what updates do you have related to agriculture?
 - The GOP members of the agriculture committee are looking for innovation in SNAP
 - This translates potentially to more work requirements and nutritional restrictions
 - Talk with Franken, McCollum, and Klobuchar
 - They need continued education and updates on things like food labeling (country of origin) and other food and nutrition related topics
 - Farm Bill is coming up again soon

Final Suggestions

- Build coalitions with Minneapolis and rural Minnesota
- Take a tour of the new Capitol!
- Everyone needs money for their programs, but not a lot expected this session
 - Start approaching the Department of Agriculture for urban agriculture initiatives
 - Meet with commissioners who are always looking for new ideas
- The American Heart Association is part of coalition to support SHIP (Julie)
 - Sign the petition <http://act.yourethecure.org/ZRs2f2B>

Action Items:

- Educate yourself on Food items at the legislature
- Next meeting – discuss idea to appoint someone to provide updates to city council/county commissioners after FNC meetings

Agenda Item #2: Good Food Access Fund

- Purpose is to allow communities that have issues surrounding food to find solution (e.g. establish grocery store, replace broken refrigerator, start a mobile food market)
- Bill was passed in the last legislative session and funded at \$250,000
- Now seeking applications for available funds
- More information about the GFAF: http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/opi/pm/conf/docs/D4_Healthy_Food.pdf

Action Items:

- Support the GFAF <https://www.eatrightmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Petition-card.pdf>

Agenda Item #3: Strategic Planning, Part 1

- We will have a professional facilitator help develop a strategic plan in the next several meetings. They will provide an outside perspective and we can get our goals moving forward. Ultimately, we want to have document with laid out steps and a timeline.
- Current member survey to help capture perspectives and ideas – please fill out ASAP
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7VH7S7X>

SWOT Analysis

- Brainstorm about the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to the FNC
- Think about this both internally and externally to FNC and where we are at now rather than in the past

- Help inform the facilitator

Action Items:

- Take current member survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7VH7S7X>

Agenda Item #4: Housekeeping

- MN Food Code (Amanda)
 - MN Food Code is specifically about regulations for food safety.
 - Highlight suggestions at next meeting.
- MNISOTA Letter (Diane)
 - Support letter has not been sent
 - Please read and vote on whether to send or not
- Food Access Action Alert
 - Signed and sent off to Pres. Trump <http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/naho-signers-list-2017.pdf>
- Outcomes
 - Send outcomes to Carissa via email so we can keep track of the work FNC is doing
- Member appointment
 - New member coming from District 2!
 - Need 3 members from the city
 - No current applicants
 - Look to see where we have member gaps
 - City of St. Paul application link: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/mayors-office/committees-boards-and-commissions/boards-and-commissions-listing-and>
 - Need 2 member from the county (Districts 6 and 7)
 - Carissa has heard that county commissions are encouraging us to reach out to people we want to apply and then the commissioners will help push them though
 - Please let us know if you have anyone in Districts 6 and 7 that would be great assets to the group
 - County District 6 and 7 application link: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/volunteer/advisory-boards-committees>
- Current member survey
 - Help capture perspectives and ideas – please fill out ASAP
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7VH7S7X>

Action Items:

- Spread the word about current openings for FNC member appointments.
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Agenda Item #5: Updates and Announcements

- Communication
 - Please respond to emails that require a vote – look for “Response Required” in subject line
 - Facebook Page
 - Check for group updates or action alerts
 - Want something posted? Send email to Carissa with “Post to Facebook Group” in subject line
 - https://www.facebook.com/St-Paul-Ramsey-County-Food-and-Nutrition-Commission-169995346483282/?ref=page_internal
 - Urban farm and garden alliance is applying for a grant for project called Growing Health: Investigating Garden Prescriptions

- Letter of support may be needed in the future
- Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts
 - Program for artists who are differently abled
 - Creating musical that will be coming out in the fall – all about food justice
- Art of Food Project in Frogtown and Rondo
 - About food and art as it relates to food justice and community involvement
 - Meals from local food and farmers, story mobile, and greens cookoff
 - Diane will let us know of next event
- Carissa
 - Ann Barry (SPRCPH Public Health Director) wants to come to FNC meeting in April or May
 - Let Carissa know of any topics or questions to discuss at future meetings
 - Executive phone call meeting next Tuesday, March 14 at 4 p.m. (will provide call-in number via email)
 - SPRCPH just had RFQ for healthy eating in youth for communities experiencing health disparities -- will be funded soon and will give update when can
 - GIS maps are supposed to be done in about three weeks!
- Kaila
 - Hunger Solutions Day on the Hill
 - Practice speaking and meet with legislators; lunch provided
 - Next Monday, March 13 from 10 am – 1 pm
 - Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hunger-day-on-the-hill-2017-registration-31520452522?aff=HSMNewsletter>
- Lebo
 - Land Stewardship Project 12th Annual Family Farm Breakfast and Day at the Capitol
 - This Thursday, March 9 from 7-10 am
 - More details here: <https://landstewardshipproject.org/events/item/1006>
 - Capacity Building Funds to Support Food Networks
 - Many programs outside of the metro were funded
 - See attachment for details
 - Agriculture and food production in Maplewood
 - Organization has been working to transform 3 acres of baseball fields into land for agriculture and food production use! Probably for people that want to farm as a business.
 - The city and parks departments are on board; waiting for a few community organizations/meetings to get the final green light
 - Church next door has 1000 communities garden plots – hoping to create a strong partnership here
 - Working with permaculture folks into designing a space that is productive and regenerative

Action Items:

- Please respond to emails that require a vote – look for “Response Required” in subject line
- Want something posted? Send email to Carissa with “Post to Facebook Group” in subject line

Minutes taken by: Kaila Schoenberger

Motion to adjourn (7:33 pm) passed by affirmation of the committee.

Next Meeting

Date: Monday, April 3rd

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Location: Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 Dale St N, St Paul, MN 5510