

Food Access, Outreach and Education Task Force Meeting

November 25, 2013 at 3:00
Fargo Cass Public Health Room #3

Present: Kim Lipetzky, Cheryl Stetz, Nikki Johnson, Megan Ness, Courtney Milbeck, Dana Reith, and Rita Ussatis

On million square feet of food gardens

*first meeting November 8th, promotion goal of increasing current acreage of gardens to 1 million square feet in 2014

*tie promotion to One Vegetable One Community squash promotion for 2014, Prairie Roots Co-op, Botanical Society, Victory gardens promotion

*next meeting will be Dec. 6th, there are signup sheets for various work groups

Action step: Anyone interested in working on this promotion is invited to a future meeting – 12/6/13, 12/13/13 and 1/8/14 at 7:00am at FCPH basement conference room 1 & 2.

Continue discussion from last meeting on:

-SNAP at Farmers Markets

*ND is a priority state, will look for potential grants; work with producers/markets to assess interest.

-Mobile garden

* Plan to do again in 2014. Can reuse lumber and soil mixture from last year. Lynn can store items during winter and Anita will store garden again during growing season next year.

*Action step – Kim will submit NDNC mini grant application for trailer, trellis materials and canvas.

-Food Desert intervention

*Lloyd emailed a very informative Oasis proposal which was discussed. We have also been in touch with Amanda S. who runs the Lady Bug stand in the Kmart parking lot. She has already purchased a bus and plans to take a farmer's market to 4 or 5 Fargo locations in 2014; she has just started to plan the effort. Since a mobile grocery store will take some time to get off the ground, the group decided to potentially work with Amanda and see how a mobile food venue goes over. She is willing to look at the potential emerging food desert maps and consider locating the mobile market in some of those identified locations. She would also be open to investigating how she could take SNAP benefits.

Action step – continue to follow up with Amanda, assess how mobile farmers market is received in 2014 and feasibility to expand/modify it (Oasis concept)

Other/announcements/updates:

-Gardening workshop

*Extension Garden Saturday is March 8, 2014, focus is on individual gardeners

*Urban agriculture task force garden event will be March 14th public forum in evening and March 15th all day workshop; focus is on community gardening

-Prairie Roots Co-op membership drive – the drive continues, sign up if interested

-Anita has 400# of dried beans on hand; if interested in getting some beans call or email her – she has pink, black, red kidney, white/navy, pinto.

Next task force meeting – January 13th at 3:00, FCPH basement conference room 1 & 2