



General Meeting Notes | 15 March 2018 | St. Michael's Congregation | 1445 N. 24th Street

- I. Call to Order at 9:00 AM & Welcome—Nya Taryor, Jr.
 - Member Introductions
 - New direction of meeting organization – presentations on important work happening in MKE instead of in-house MFC discussions, such as committee reports, etc
- II. Equity & Justice (I) – Water Commons – Ann Brummitt – annbrummitt@gmail.com
 - <https://www.milwaukeewatercommons.org/>
 - Focus areas include: education and recreation; green infrastructure; water quality; arts & culture; drinking water
 - Drinking Water Initiative goal is safe, clean and affordable tap water for all
 - Water Commons work started before Flint crisis, and before lead happenings in MKE
 - City is now working on full replacements of lead service lines to residential properties
 - Call 414-286-CITY or visit Milwaukee Water Works website to see if your property has lead service lines
 - Recommendations: get young children (esp under age of 3) tested; remove screen and aerator from tap on monthly basis; purchase and install a filtration system; run cold water from tap; use filtered tap water for kids under age 6 and women of childbearing age
 - 5 µg/dL (5 micrograms per deciliter of lead in blood) is now the new highest market for what is considered safe (it used to be 15 µg/dL) – 0 is ideal, but is very difficult to achieve
 - **Q:** How efficient is “flushing” system (i.e. running all faucets in house for 5 min every morning)?
A: Filters on kitchen sinks and shower heads is preferred/more sustainable than flushing system
 - **Q:** Any programs in place to assist low-income households with access to filtration systems?
A: 16th Street Community Health Center did a small distribution of filters, Alderman Bohl has proposal in place for distribution of ~ 50,000 filters, some WIC offices will assist if resident's address matches list of homes that has lead pipes, discount available on certain filters (Aquasana brand) from City of MKE Drinking Water Filter Program
- III. Equity & Justice (II) – Hunger Task Force – Matt Stienstra – matt.stienstra@hungertaskforce.org
 - <https://www.hungertaskforce.org/learn-about-hunger/hot-topics/nutrition-and-lead/>
 - Nutrition & Lead Task Force started to help with community lead exposure education – HTF, City of MKE, UW-Extension, 16th Street Community Health Center, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Madison
 - Children absorb lead 5-10 times faster on an empty stomach – children who are malnourished are lacking key nutrients that help with the diversion of lead absorption
 - 9.3% of children in Milwaukee were tested for high lead levels
 - Lead exposure can happen from water, paint, soil, and nutrition – Task Force worked to narrow down key messaging and created digital and printed collateral
 - Still getting feedback on collateral from community to have it be more comprehensive
 - Over 90% of parents are buying bottled water – for convenience and assumed affordability
 - It is actually 35% cheaper to purchase a filter for sink faucet than to buy bottled water
 - Folks don't know where to get filters, which kinds, how to install them, etc
 - Recommendations: SOIL – take shoes off before entering house, use raised beds for gardening; PAINT – know what lead paint looks like, wipe surfaces with a wet paper towel & toss immediately, paint over with paint or sealant to coat; NUTRITION – emergency food to keep kids fed, working with MPS to change what is included in meals (i.e. fresh vegetables versus canned)



- **Q:** Who is working directly with schools? **A:** MPS has replaced bubblers, big buildings cannot have lead pipes due to infrastructure reasons, so most schools do not have them – if charter or religious school, contact leadership to find out what they’re doing (again 5 µg/dL is safe level)
- **Q:** Advocacy suggestions? **A:** Testing the soil for lead is inconsistent between City and State standards and required reporting (XRF soil contamination analysis is a screening tool used that does not have to be reported to the State)
- **Q:** Long-term sustainable solutions? **A:** For example, sunflowers and dandelions are great for regenerating the soil; not many conversations happening around such solutions at this time

IV. Economic Vibrancy – PRISM / UpStart Kitchen – Tom Keppeler – tkeppeler@prismcdc.org

- <https://www.prismcdc.org/upstart-kitchen>
- Parklawn Assembly of God (church that started PRISM Economic Development Corporation) used to serve meals often, but the kitchen had not been used recently, so they looked into how to make it a new kitchen and decided to make it a shared commercial kitchen space
- WEDC capacity building grant, UEDA as a key contractor, FEED Kitchens in Madison as inspiration
- Former Gee’s Clippers space by 45th St. & Fond du Lac Ave. will be new space for kitchen; 1300 sq ft. kitchen space with dry storage space of up to 800 sq ft
- Hoping to open in fall of 2018 and serve between 20-25 food entrepreneurs a month!
- They are currently looking for a kitchen manager! Someone to manage schedule for entrepreneurs as well as someone with previous kitchen experience
- **Q:** Opportunities for community members to use kitchen to host workshops? **A:** First focus is on resources and support for starting entrepreneurs, then will be available to community
- **Q:** Support system in order to follow regulations? **A:** They are currently going through the process of becoming a licensed and certified kitchen

V. Policy & Advocacy – MFC Policy Committee – Bruce Wiggins – brucewathome@gmail.com

- What does the MFC want to become as an organization in terms of policy and advocacy? With aspirations of changing the food system in MKE, we need to become an advocacy org
- BOD needs to develop clear policy on how the org can take position on certain issues (i.e. how do we come to consensus on establishing positions on certain issues)
- Currently working on advocating for more workplace CSAs
- **Q:** Engagement of community? **A:** Ideally, we would get feedback from community in order to learn what issues we should be taking a stance on

VI. Ecological Sustainability – Reflo – Barbara Richards – fmdfbar@gmail.com

- <http://refloh2o.com/>
- Started in 2010 due to two major occurrences: rain storm with major flooding in MKE, and the City decided to cut off fire hydrants for use by community gardens
- Sustainable water use, green infrastructure, and water management in urban environments
- Reflo helps with all the design work, then gets volunteers or contract work to complete projects
- Examples of projects include: rainwater harvesting for urban ag; MKE Water Stories mapping initiative/app; Cream City Farms underground system with a 40,000 gallon cistern; Fondy Park



VII. Food Culture – CORE El Centro – Angela Kingsawan – angelak@core-elcentro.org

- <http://www.core-elcentro.org/herbalism/>
- 2018 is the second year of herbal apprenticeship program that includes the traditional uses of plants and herbs, especially in alleviating disorders that are plaguing cultural peoples, and intergenerational learning with an aspect of spirituality
 - Internship applications are now closed for 2018
- Rooftop garden is fruit and vegetable gardening, as well as growing herbs, and teaching kids how to create own health, beauty, cleaning, and other products
- Promotion of seed sovereignty and indigenous and endangered foods
- Food as Medicine classes (herbal tea, cultural traditional foods, etc) are the second Saturday of every month: <http://www.core-elcentro.org/cooking-and-nutrition/>
- **Q:** Next opportunity to get involved in apprenticeship? **A:** Applications will open again in December for 2019; other ways to get involved include open garden shifts!

VIII. MFC Business: Committee Reports

- **Executive Committee:** there are new meeting locations! St. Rafael's Congregation for remainder of 2018 meetings; with new agenda set up, we need folks to sign up to speak! May meeting main theme is on Economic Vibrancy; email foodcouncilmke@gmail.com to sign up
- **Community Engagement Committee:** possibility of rebranding MFC (nothing drastic) by updating logo; working to develop a more succinct mission statement/elevator speech; looking for ways to wavier \$25 membership fee in order for community members to fully join who could possibly not afford fee; MFC networking and social happy hour events; MFC swag – lots of ideas!
- **Fundraising Committee:** submitted first grant as MFC 501(c)3 for capacity building and staff support; looking into UWM Work Study program as opportunity to bring in staff support; MFC swag as possible revenue
- **Hospitality Committee:** thank you as always to Outpost! This committee never meets – just need to show up early for meeting setup support! Email Paulette Flynn if interested in joining

IX. Announcements

- 16th Street Community Health Center workshops on lead, paint, and water safety titled “Lead-Safe Renovation Workshop” is on April 4th from 6 – 8:30 PM at Journey House
- UWM School of Freshwater Sciences has worked on lead and water issue and tested NSF 53 certified water filter and found it to be extremely effective and kids get 10-20% of lead intake from water, and the rest is from paint and soils (official report will be on School of Freshwater Sciences website soon)
- Milwaukee Winter Farmers Market is still going on through April 14th! Market Match (doubles Quest/SNAP/EBT/FoodShare purchases of up to \$20 per market) program ends March 31st
- Milwaukee Winter Farmers Market is moving next year – join Venue Search Committee!
- Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference coming to Milwaukee May 15th – May 17th
- UWM Food Center & Pantry is sponsoring Good Food Strong Communities book event on April 17th at 6 PM at the UWM Student Union Fireside Lounge
- Wisconsin Local Food Network is hosting the Health and Hunger Summit on April 9th and 10th in the WI Dells

X. Adjourn at 11:02 AM