

Brandon Food Council

July - Sept 2020

Quarterly Report



Prepared by Oliva Boyce, Brandon Food Council Coordinator

Ryan Whibbs, Brandon Food Council Chair

Brandon Food Council

Members

Sajjad Rao

Kathryn Giesbrecht

Justine Friesen

Lory George

Arianna Laluk

Bryan Hendricks

Grace Masse

Ryan Whibbs

Daylynn Nault

Nicholas Namespetran

Michelle Depner

Maya Rad-Spice

Our Vision

“Food for All. Growing a healthy and vibrant community.”

Our Mission

“To develop and implement a sustainable community-based food system through collaborative partnerships.”

Land Acknowledgment

The Brandon Food Council meets on Treaty 2 land, the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Assiniboine, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

Mandate

With the Brandon Food Charter as its mandate, the Brandon Food Council will strive towards a sustainable food system that promotes equity, enhances population health, reflects local culture, and ensures food security for all citizens through: strategy development, coordination and networking, supporting community projects, public engagement and education, and advocacy.

Summary

- New member accepted: Maya Rad-Spice
- Bi-annual meeting with City leadership
- Brandon Food Council Intern to assist with Urban Agriculture Planning
- Everyone Eats Brandon successful trial launch

Food Council Meetings

- No meetings were held over the summer months, three more meetings will be held in the fall/winter term

Key Activities & Outcomes

New Member

We are thrilled to welcome **Maya Rad-Spice** to the Brandon Food Council. Maya is passionate about food security and food sovereignty and is actively involved in this work throughout the province. We were excited to have her officially join our team this fall and for her willingness to jump right into the work. We are grateful for her many skillsets and experience in not for profit work and are looking forward to having her on the team. Welcome Maya!

Meeting with City Manager, Recreation Hub Coordinator, Director of Parks and Recreation

Established a biannual meeting schedule to touch base on topics related to Parks and Rec and Community Gardens.

What was discussed:

- Opportunities to plan for use of fruit trees that are already existing in the community including inventory and public education to encourage use of produce.
- Opportunities to include permaculture or edible landscaping in shared public spaces.
- Where fruit producing trees could be planted such as at a community garden.
- Increasing public use of community gardens. Engaging youth and community groups.
- Engaging other communities who have implemented foodscape development such as fruit trees on public spaces for ideas on best practice.
- Need to look for opportunities to use compost that the city creates at the landfill.
- Need to create goals and plan for city foodscape in coordination with community and city.

Brandon Food Council Intern

Zainab Kagbanda, Inner City and Urban Studies student from the University of Winnipeg has joined the Brandon Food Council for 16 weeks.

Her work includes collaborating with Food Council members and volunteers to define and plan for success in Urban Agriculture in the city as an intersecting topic that brings together diverse

stakeholders to strengthen the role of local food production, distribution and celebration in the community to promote social and environmental health, equity and economy.

After identifying key outcomes and goals to assess Urban Agriculture a community survey and community collaboration forum will be held to gather and discuss ideas for urban food production and distribution challenges and opportunities.

Everyone Eats Brandon

Successful trial launch of the pay what you can meal program Everyone Eats in June and July. At least 200 meals were prepared each evening on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays at BU's Harvest Hall. Delivery was offered by volunteer groups and community members to those in self-



isolation or with limited mobility.

The program was paused for a couple of weeks to analyze ongoing sustainability, reflect and make any changes needed. It was determined that the program could run successfully with ongoing community support and that it was filling a need for many households. The program reopened on September 16th with dedication from John Howard Society and Brandon University Food Services. Several grants and food donations were also made from community

members and partners to support the programs continued existence. An article about the relaunch was featured in the Brandon Sun: [Everyone Eats in the Brandon Sun](#).

If you are interested in volunteering as a contact free delivery driver contact:

everyoneatsbrandon@gmail.com. Donations can be made at

<https://www.everyoneeatsbrandon.ca/donate> Charitable receipts will be issued for all donations over \$20.00.

Communications

- Distributed second quarterly report for April – June 2020
- Planning and beginning to draft guiding statements for the Brandon Food Council, related to current food-systems issues
- Planning to increase online presence and accessibility (more details soon!)

Plans for the Next Quarter

- Urban Agriculture Public Survey
 - Seeking to understand community gardening, gleaning, and growing projects
- Online Community Collaboration Forum for Urban Agriculture Planning
 - Details TBA
- Brandon Food Council membership recruitment
 - Seeking Brandon's food movers and shakers!
- Actively seek funding to hire a part time coordinator for the Brandon Food Council
 - Research is ongoing; suggestions appreciated!
- Looking for volunteers to join the following sub-committees. Could this be you?

Research and Policy Committee to monitor local foodscape and keep up to date on leading edge community food system innovations.

Evaluation and Assessment Committee to identify community indicators to assess and measure success towards intended outcomes.

Engagement and Education Committee to create multipronged stakeholder engagement and education plan to foster connections with stakeholders, enhance and connect food-related initiatives from various sectors, engage citizens, industry, other levels of government, and community groups on food issues.

Funding Committee to identify funding opportunities to maintain a coordinator position and to achieve projects as determined by capacity and passion of the Council and community.

Creativity and Design Committee to develop the brand of the Food Council, advance professional image and increase outreach impact.



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