

By Gordon

Supporting Seed Libraries in Minnesota.

Whereas, seed libraries are a nonprofit repository of seed for the benefit of the public where free seed is distributed to promote seed sharing, provide increased access to healthy food, strengthen local food security, improve the health of our community members, preserve and promote local biodiversity, celebrate local varieties that are important to our community's cultural heritage and provide seed that is locally adapted to local soils and climate; and

Whereas, communities in Minnesota have begun operating seed libraries, including Duluth and Moorhead; and

Whereas, residents of Minneapolis and Minnesota have long engaged in interpersonal seed sharing; and

Whereas the Duluth Public Library has been informed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture that its seed library is in violation of the Minnesota Seed Law (2014 Minnesota Statutes §§21.80 et. seq.) the purpose of which is to protect consumers who purchase seed from inadequately or illegally labeled seed and to promote fair competition; and

Whereas, seed libraries do not "sell" seeds, as that term is commonly defined, nor are the members of seed libraries "customers"; and

Whereas, the sharing of seeds between individuals is a voluntary non-commercial activity; and

Whereas, strict compliance with the Minnesota Seed Law, as currently written, could result in the closure of seed libraries in the state of Minnesota and prevent citizen gardeners, schools, and community organizations from engaging in interpersonal seed sharing;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis supports legislation that allows for interpersonal non-commercial seed sharing as well as the continued operation of seed libraries and exchanges operated by libraries, educational institutions and non-profit agencies.