

Vancouver Food Policy Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 11, 2012
6:00-8:30pm
Town Hall Room, City Hall



Chairs: Brent Mansfield and Trish Kelly

Council Members: Maria Burtlehaus, Robyn Carlson, Zsuzsi Fodor, Kimberly Hodgson, Ilana Labow, Peter Ladner, Emme Lee, Pat McCarthy, Tara Moreau, Ross Moster, Nicholas Scapilati, Helen Speigleman, Kim Sutherland, Shelby Tay, Chris Thoreau, David Wilson

Liaisons: Theresa Dyunstee (MetroVan), Wendy Mendes (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Thien Phan (Social Planning, City of Vancouver)

Invited Guests: Bob McLennan (City of Vancouver), Erin Nichols (Farm Folk City Folk), Nicole Tuzi (MetroVan)

Regrets: Jason Apple, Joanne Bays, Claudia Chan, Paul Taylor, Heather Deal (City Council), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Aaron Jasper (Park Board), Rob Wynen (Vancouver School Board)

1. Opening Round
Members introduced themselves to council. Nineteen guests were present.
2. Motion to Accept Agenda and previous minutes
Moved by Emme, seconded by Kim, carried unanimously.
3. Staff Report - Wendy M
 - Food Strategy -FPC members were thanked for input in reviewing proposed actions. Next step is to discuss with City Manager in August.
 - Urban Farming - Tech Team has met 3-4 times, using recommendations from Urban Farming Society to examine different kinds of farms and appropriate levels of regulation. Regulation will be considered only where there is a strong need to.
 - Farmers Market Review -interim policy expired at end of April 2012; staff is working with several departments to prepare a report to Council in late fall, taking into consideration input from operators collected during Food Strategy consultations. Recommendations will be made to streamline the application process both internally and externally, and remove barriers to enable smooth operation.
 - Summer Intern - Naseam Ahmadi introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her project that assesses the success of the urban agriculture guidelines for developers (established in 2008).
4. Report Back from Working Groups and Other Business
Working groups were asked to convene and discuss action plans, leads/co-leads, partnerships (internal and external), time line for 2013, and to consider if actions require any budget lines.
 - Policy Soup - Tara
Mandate is to identify key policies at multiple levels of government that would directly or indirectly affect the work of the FPC and the CoV. Survey distributed to members and guests. Will also be circulated by email.
 - NFNs - Zsuzsi
 - FEDAP - Ross
 - Food Waste - Helen
 - Value Chain - not formalized as a working group, Pat agreed to lead the conversation in Joanne's absence.
 - Information, Accessibility, Literacy - Shelby
 - Urban-Rural linkages - Kim confirmed that she is unable to lead this working group.

The FPC was reminded that it also acts in an advisory role to the City on many issues (e.g. urban farming, farmers markets policy, food strategy).

Document distributed to working group leads, to be submitted to Chairs before September so FPC work plan can be in place.

5. Introduction of theme (Presentation by Erin Nichols, Farm Folk City Folk)

Presentation answers questions:

- What is your experience with this issue?
- Is there a policy or action you're asking VFPC to consider?

Erin described her experience with the Shared Harvest and Foodprint programs, in the context of 30-40% food wastage in Metro Vancouver. The goal is to Reduce (landfill portion)/Rescue (edible portion)/Compost (remainder).

Rescue component: addressed by Shared Harvest, an online resource where businesses can post food for sale or donation, and where charities/non-profits can post wish list. Erin outlined some challenges for Food Distribution Organizations and Food Businesses and how these were addressed. Her project worked with 6 organizations, and focused on uncut produce. Guidelines for food rescue organizations were developed, and they are now looking at expanding to one BC-wide Shared Harvest site. www.sharedharvest/bc

Reduction component: addressed by Foodprint program. Given that 40% of food (system-wide) in Canada is wasted (with 51% of that wasted in the home), efforts to recapture wasted food will relieve pressure on farmers in coming decades. The program focuses on strategies to educate consumers.

Erin is in the process of developing a program with Choices, looking for further funding, and wanting to learn from, and partner with, local and regional programs. She confirmed that the program does not yet have an intercultural aspect, and while she agrees that food packaging is an important issue, it is not currently examined as part of this project.

MOTION: The FPC, having received the presentation and seeing the value in the project, agrees to endorse the Foodprint project, supporting its fundraising initiatives through letters of support written by either the Chairs or WG lead.

Moved by Shelby, carried unanimously, with one abstention (Nicholas).

6. Updates: Bob McLennan, Solid Waste, City of Vancouver

The City has a program for family residential food scraps collection, and is looking at expanding. A pilot has been undertaken to include all foods scraps with weekly organics collection and bi-weekly garbage collection. A variety of communication strategies are being used in two neighbourhoods (4 areas total). Information is being compiled and a plan and budget are being prepared for report to council in Fall 2012, with hopes to phase in across city beginning in Spring 2013. Some operational issues have been identified such as how to handle changes in cart sizes. For example, 20% wanted to change size to larger garbage carts with bi-weekly collection. The target was 35% participation, but project has 45% participation (not including backyard composters). Diversion rate goal was 25%, actual diversion estimated at 50%. The City has a pilot for multifamily units with 3 buildings, may expand after single-family expansion complete. The City may provide collection and regulate it or require properties to provide. Trish reminded Bob that the FPC is available for support.

Nicole Tuzi (Solid Waste, Metro Van)

Metro Van has both an integrated waste plan and a food strategy, and recognizes the overlap between them. There is an emphasis on the food hierarchy - reduction at source through purchasing, then rescue to feed humans then animals then composting. A map with layers for food distribution programs, food retailers, wholesalers, and restaurants is being created. The New Hope Cuisine Project on the North Shore diverts 250 tonnes annually from the waste

system. They focus on pre-consumer food, receiving 70% edible produce and composting the other 30%, looking at partnering with farm for composting. Metro Van is looking to support this as a demonstration project, as they aim to divert ¼ million tonnes of organic waste from the landfill. They provide technical advice on the business case so others can replicate, and also communication to community.

Discussions with the Operations Manager at food bank noted that more education around Bill 10 is needed (Food Donor Encouragement Act), and have been working to edit the Act down to three sentences in plain language.

Metro Van is committed to an organics bans, and will invite FPC to help develop. Public consultations may begin in Fall 2012 with a workshop.

7. Raising of the question of food waste for discussion - Breakout groups
Participants broke into four groups to discuss the food waste theme and to suggest focus for FPC working group in the next months. Trish will type up notes from each group and pass on to working group.
8. Next Steps Discussion
Members were reminded that there is no meeting in August; next meeting is Sept 19th. Working groups were reminded to have their action plans ready for this meeting. Feedback on meeting format is welcome through email to Chairs.
9. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Ilana, seconded by Nicholas, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm