

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



Chair: Joanne Bays, Brent Mansfield

Council Members: Trish Kelly, Ilana Labow, Ross Moster, Kim Sutherland, Shelby Tay, Chris Thoreau, David Wilson

Liaisons: Heather Deal (Vancouver City Council), Arzeena Hamir (Richmond Food Security Society), Aaron Jaspar (Vancouver Park Board), James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver)

Regrets: Jason Boyce, Maria Burtleghous, Helen Spiegelman, Claire Gram (VCH), Rob Wynen (VSB)

1. Opening Round

Continuing council members, liaisons, and 15 guests introduced themselves.

Park board - Upgrades to many Parks (including edible landscaping) are underway - John Henry, Riley Park, Hillcrest, Hastings, Marpole - focusing on creating community spaces through integration of social services. The Park Board would like to work with FPC on integration piece.

2. Motion to Accept Agenda and November Minutes

Moved by Ilana, seconded by Ross, carried unanimously.

3. Staff Report - James O'Neill

Food Strategy - Phase 1 consisted of internal discussions with City departments to determine current responsibilities. The 2nd phase (Sep 2011) focused on outreach and engagement to raise the profile, spread the word, and collect stories. There has been participation at third party events and lectures while continuing to maintain social media. The 3rd phase focuses on substantive discussions; Wendy will draft policy based on input. In March, the policy will go back to departments and community stakeholders for feedback on specific elements. A less formal report, "What we've heard", will also be developed with key themes for a broader audience. It is planned that both will go to council as package around late June. City funds have been earmarked for all engagement efforts, including staff time. A launch event is planned for fall 2012, before the strategy is implemented. Community Food Animator's Toolkit has been created to allow citizens to engage with other citizens, and currently about 25 animators feed back info to food policy team at the City. ACTION: James will send Toolkit to Brent to post on blog and website. The document is focused on Food Strategy, but could be adapted for future use.

Multicultural Public Engagement - stems from the City's recognition of the need to engage diverse groups. Work has been done with immigrant-serving agencies so they can spread it to their networks. Recommendations have been made, but report is in draft form. The Multicultural Advisory Committee is aware of the initiative.

Community Garden Coordinators - are convening a meeting next week to talk of vision for community gardens in the upcoming years. The push has been to increase the number of gardens, but focus is shifting toward community gathering spaces, with a potential role of the City.

Storytelling event - To highlight and profile food strategy, the City is partnering with RainCity Chronicles on Jan 27th to present 'What Feeds Us' at the Salt Building in the Olympic Village. Tickets will be available on Eventbrite.

Procurement - Local Food Plus has been hired, and work is in early stages. An update will be provided next meeting.

Community garden expression of interest - Working with Engineering, Parks, and Real Estate to pilot a process so the City can be more strategic about how garden space is allocated. Citizens must apply

and provide a vision. Received in early Dec 2011, the preliminary applications are now being reviewed to determine which to push to the next phase and a full application. Next round is planned for the fall.

4. Getting the Word Out - Update Website/Blog/Twitter - Shelby Tay

Planning is underway to increase content on web and social media. Members are asked to assist with content (documents, summaries, resources). Social media - twitter has been updated, and a new Facebook page has been created. Contact info will be collected and organized to allow for easier communications. An effort will be made to build up a resource library, and organize files to facilitate orientation for new members. YouTube channel (and FPC website) has videos from the Neighbourhood Food Network event and Youth FPC. Urban Farming Forum and FEDAP event information will soon be added. Members are asked to be aware and encouraged to send info.

5. Reflections and Future Directions

FEDAP/Resiliency - Ross Moster

Concept from Transition Town movement. Group was convened in Sept, hired Herb as a consultant. It is a joint project with Village Vancouver and is expanding with new partnerships. Initial event was in Dec at MoV, where 125 people attended visioning session that had 40 diverse groups co-sponsor event. This is an ongoing project, with the next event on Feb 28th aiming for 100 sponsors. This group will be approaching all working groups for input.

Youth Food Policy Council - Ilana labow

Exists to give a voice to a diverse group of youth. From early meetings with youth organizations, the group now has up to 20 members with subcommittees and an engagement plan. An event is being planned with a facilitator to create a strategic plan and could lead to a Youth seat on the FPC. Funding will come from the FPC budget, if granted.

Urban Farming - Chris Thoreau

The group's aim is to educate about urban farming as an employment sector, to connect individuals and organizations, and to explore its connection to the City's GCAP. The first meeting took place in Nov 2010, and now, about 25 people meet monthly. Funds have been raised to pay for an urban farming census, a website, and workshops. In Nov 2011, an Urban Farming Forum was held to examine the business case, and included case studies from Seattle and Lantzville. There are now subcommittees looking at policies that support, or are barriers to, urban farming and for best practices in the sector. There was a suggestion to think about connections between the FPC and the UFN, perhaps through the policy subcommittee.

Food Procurement - Brent Mansfield

An event in Dec 2010 brought diverse stakeholders together, and now City departments are looking at the issues as part of GCAT. PHAC has received 175k in funding from the McConnell Foundation to create Farm to Cafeteria Canada to assess the connection and also the potential in the creation of a strategic plan. Joanne will lead a working group that will look at the connection between the farm and institution.

6. Reflections and Future Directions (Continued)

Food Secure Vancouver Study - Brent Mansfield

Many partnerships allowed for baseline of determinants for a report and interactive website of how secure Vancouver is (www.foodsecurevancouver.ca). The issue of how to connect it to research will be explored with new council members. It was recommended that marketing of it should also continue.

City Food Strategy - Brent Mansfield

The working group has met between meetings and has provided targeted input to the City's Food Strategy. There is still an opportunity to be involved in the implementation of the strategy and beyond, as a resource to city staff. The Council has a document of all the work

the City is doing in food and could be updated. ACTION: James will circulate it to the FPC members.

Neighbourhood Networks - Trish Kelly

Along with discussions with agencies about food, specific events have been held in neighbourhoods to allow for networks to develop (west side, south van). An event at the Roundhouse in Oct provided a platform for people to discuss. Members were encouraged to join this WG, and guests were reminded that they do not need to be on council to become part of a working group. There is lots of opportunity to expand the network. Zsu Zsi Fodor's Master's project focused on Neighbourhood Food networks and she may do a presentation in March.

Food Waste - Helen

Update not available. ACTION: Ilana will circulate what she has learned from relevant work being done in Chicago.

7. Budget Update

ACTION: Brent will circulate the 2011 budget.

8. Membership Update - Joanne

Call was released for interested applicants and 24 high quality applications were received. Ten spots are open, and interviews are currently being conducted. The list will be put forward to Council. City Council has a three-person nomination committee, and takes recommendations into consideration. The City has a separate call for all advisory committees. New members will likely attend in March. Current members are reminded that they also still need to apply.

Joanne announced that due to her new responsibilities, she will step down as co-chair but will remain until the replacement has been found. Trish Kelly indicated that she is willing to take over and can act as interim co-chair until the full FPC has been formed.

9. March Alumni/Orientation gathering

Tabled until February meeting.

10. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Arzeena, seconded by Ilana, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Smallfarmer.ca - website with resources in the lower mainland

Rooftop garden on West end community Centre: Anyone interested in working on that project, they are encouraged to join a volunteer board. Task forces are being formed, including integration in park work. Email Aaron Jaspar.

Food carts are part of Dine out Vancouver.

Feast Van is happening to fundraise for school backpack program. Trish will send to Heather.

Feb 1 6:30-9:30 Film event at UBC. Vancouvercityfarms.com