

Chairs: Caitlin Dorward, Zsuzsi Fodor, and Tara Moreau

Council Members: Veronik Campbell, Anna Cavouras, Rebecca Cuttler, Antonietta Gesualdi, Dirk Gibbs, Chashma Heinze, Will Jung, Emme Lee, Stephanie Lim, Pat McCarthy, David Speight, Colin Stansfield

Liaisons: Adriane Carr (City Council), Theresa Duynstee (MetroVan), James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Sarah Carten (Social Policy, City of Vancouver) Orlando Schmidt (MoAg), Michael Wiebe (Park Board)

Regrets: Janet Fraser (VSB), Kimberly Hodgson, Ilana Labow, Gabrielle Kissinger

Absent: Andrew Christie, Larry Copeland, Heather Deal (City Council), Corinne Eisler (VCH)

Agenda Items:

1. Motion to Accept Agenda and Previous Minutes (October 2015 Minutes)
Moved by Anna, carried by Stephanie, carried unanimously.

2. Co-chair transition update

Following on last meeting's call for a new chair, Caitlin put her name forward and has been working with current chairs. The proposed 'Leadership Committee' is being discussed with Emme, Zsuzsi, Caitlin, and Kim. If interested in joining, contact the Chairs.

James thanked Zsuzsi for her leadership as co-chair. Tara and James presented her with a small gifts on behalf of the FPC and the City.

3. Introductions

Members introduced themselves and gave one take away from their SWOT analysis of the Food Strategy.

STRENGTHS

- the strategy takes a systems-wide approach
- impressive that it exists, and that the actions are being completed
- builds more awareness and appreciation for the food producing lands
- raises food and food policy to another level in the city through its comprehensive policy, and heightens the level of awareness

WEAKNESSES

- too aspirational to have 22 farmers markets in Vancouver to make sense for vendors
- there is a gap between GCAP goals and on the ground work with staff (permits etc.) that needs to be bridged
- when considering the proposed charitable tax credit, there appears to be no flexibility for the Food Strategy to address emerging issues
- Action 5.4 is not reflected in the 'food access' section, indicating a disconnect
- decision to use the term 'food access' vs. 'food security' could be revisited
- the strategy is not target-focused, as targets require monitoring
- regarding the local food business incubator there is a gap in the ability to find those spaces; there are policy impediments to using private places
- the strategy does not contain anything about water restrictions and how that affects urban agriculture
- there is emphasis on engaging with the community but not existing businesses

OPPORTUNITIES

- there could be more municipal support for utilization of the finished composted product
- bees and hens could be money-generating if City buildings are used to host workshops
- could include support food access for new refugees
- one FPC role could be to offer advice on revising strategy for emerging issues
- with the discussion of the role of income and housing in the food system, the strategy could include actions related to that
- as a tool, the strategy could be more interactive and include links to each action on what has been done, to allow citizens to see how best to help

- FPC could bring in food system thinking together with renewable energy
- how to embed in public schools (more formalized participation from VSB)
- could include a broader definition of economic potential of food system
- there may be opportunity for private-public partnerships

THREAT

- if this document is seen as the ‘end’ then there will be no integration of new issues

It was suggested that the FPC could co-host a food strategy update for public with City. James noted that with time, there will be reflection on the strategy and what works and doesn’t. He clarified that 22 farmers markets correlates with one in each neighbourhood, but that this may need to be rethought.

10 guests introduced themselves.

ACTION: Caitlin will collect SWOT analysis sheets and compile them to circulate to the group.

4. Liaison Update

Leadership Committee has been discussing how to better structure liaison reports, and has suggested using the framework below.

- a. What? - Liaison reports on the item/issue
- b. Now what? - What they want us to do about it, or what they would like to happen as a result, or maybe they're not sure and they want to have a discussion about

WHO?	WHAT?	NOW WHAT?
James O’Neill (Social Policy, City of Van)	<p>Urban farming (UF) - Commercial purpose UF has been gaining momentum in Vancouver. James gave an overview of existing urban farms and their numerous benefits. UF legislation has been missing to date; they are operating in a regulatory “grey-area”.</p> <p>To address this problem, City wants to create business licenses to allow farmers to no longer operate in the gray area. James has been developing new UF policy recommendations which will be presented to council in a report in early January. He is seeking VFPC endorsement of these recommendations.</p>	<p>Wants VFPC endorsement of the UF policy recommendations. He will share the content of the recommendations with us so that we can discuss endorsing them.</p> <p>Come speak at the Council meeting on the issue when it’s announced (if you can).</p>
James O’Neill (Social Policy, City of Van)	<p>Food recovery/tax incentive motion on the agenda at Metro Vancouver - there is motion on the table at Metro Van to allow businesses to get a tax break when donating food to charities. How should we respond?</p> <p>Emme let everyone know that Brent Mansfield (BC Food Systems Network) will be asking VFPC to endorse a BCFSN document outlining these concerns. An email will be circulated about this.</p>	<p>Keep an eye out for the email RE: endorsement and respond to the poll when it comes out.</p>
James O’Neill (Social Policy, City of Van)	<p>Site-specific developments - Little Mountain (33rd/Main), subject to large-scale rezoning and therefore food assets are part of the rezoning process. Open house Dec 3rd @ 4925 Cambie St. (Vancouver.ca/littlemountain).</p> <p>They have their 3 food assets listed, but could use some input.</p>	<p>Show up at the open house or go online and review the rezoning package, and submit comments via email.</p>
Adriane Carr (City Council)	<p>Food recovery/tax incentive motion on the agenda at Metro Vancouver: Councillor Carr will be at the Metro Board meeting this Friday when the motion is on the agenda. Wants feedback from this group. Is hearing both sides (non-profits want donations, and also some negative impacts). Wants clarity and info from this group.</p> <p>There was discussion by VFPC members about the various concerns about this proposed tax incentive.</p>	<p>No action at this time. Discussion was held during the meeting.</p>

Adriane Carr (City Council)	GCAP Local Food Procurement Plan - Staff will likely be asked to do research into the impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership on local food procurement.	Can the VFPC help with this research? Councillor Carr can provide the data/policy report.
Adriane Carr (City Council)	Renewable City Action Plan	VFPC members - review the document. James - find out the process regarding how the VFPC can provide comments and feedback. Tara suggested a VFPC working group on renewable energy.
Adriane Carr (City Council)	City budget consultation: happening on Dec 9 th . Community gardens have asked for more green bins. Councillor Carr asked whether there is a shortage of green bins for community gardens in Vancouver. Several VFPC members agreed this is an issue.	VFPC can make a budget request for more green bins for community gardens.
Adriane Carr (City Council)	Viaducts: there was some consultation, Cottonwood gardens came out to speak about concerns.	False Creek Plan is the plan to review. Please have a look at this plan.
Michael Wiebe (Park Board)	Mt Pleasant Food Bank: the lineup at the Food Bank at the Mt Pleasant community centre is 3 hours long every Friday. Commissioner Wiebe is looking for creative solutions for reducing the line-up time.	Suggest solutions.
Michael Wiebe (Park Board)	Parks Board Concessions: PB to explore other models on concession strategy.	Please help with reviewing the food model for concessions. Wants a strategy for PB. Mike will keep us posted. Could use some VFPC to come and speak around February.
Michael Wiebe (Park Board)	Park Board fieldhouses: Parks Board (PB) is looking for food-related social enterprises to fill vacancies in PB field houses. Further info is available on the PB website about fieldhouses and Jill Weaving is the contact.	Spread the word about the vacancies. Make recommendations to Parks Board if you know of suitable candidates.
Michael Wiebe (Park Board)	Procurement (beverage providers in community centres): the City's contract with Coca-cola is coming up for renewal this November. Commissioner Wiebe is hoping to change the RFP to potentially open it up to other alternate vendors. The PB is interested in knowing what the VFPC wants to see in an RFP for beverage providers in community centres?	Commissioner Wiebe asked for VFPC help with developing the revised RFP. Commissioner Wiebe will ask PB to come and speak about this at a future meeting.
Theresa Duynstee (MetroVan)	Regional Food System Action Plan: is soon going to the Board of Metro Van. It will then be conveyed to Metro Vancouver municipalities for their feedback.	VFPC members should familiarize themselves with the Plan by reviewing the document.

Theresa Duynstee (MetroVan)	<p>Food recovery/tax incentive motion on the agenda at Metro Vancouver - the issue is moving fast going to Metro Board on Friday, and the Board wants to get support for this at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (meeting in June). The Board won't recognize the impacts of this policy that VFPC members and others such as BCFSN have identified.</p> <p>It was mentioned that Aart (CEO, Greater Vancouver Food Bank) and Brent Mansfield (BC Food Systems Network) are going to the Board meeting to speak</p>	VFPC will continue to follow the issue. No further action at this time.
Orlando Schmidt (Ministry of Ag)	Agri-food growth strategy: this was announced in Minister's mandate and will be released soon.	Orlando will share the strategy with the VFPC when it is released. No further action required.
Orlando Schmidt (Ministry of Ag)	Agri-tourism on ALR - land use in ALR is supposed to be agriculture, but non-farm use challenges exist EG. Weddings. Ministry has a discussion paper, and has asked for local govt to respond by Nov 30 RE: standards.	Comments from us are not required but if anyone wants to see the discussion paper, it is available on the agri-service website.
Orlando Schmidt (Ministry of Ag)	Agri-service BC website: - for people who want to get in touch with Ministry of Ag or access its services, this one-stop shop website/email/phone service has just been launched.	Just an FYI, no action required.

Theresa Duynstee and Orlando Schmidt clarified that they are not “official” liaisons from Metro Vancouver and the Ministry of Agriculture respectively. They attend meetings on a volunteer basis because they are interested. Theresa brings a regional perspective, deals with Agricultural Advisory Committees, and coming here gives her insights on what's happening locally. Orlando has strong interest in agriculture/processing etc., and feels that connecting with VFPC is important to the Ministry because food is grown rurally, but consumed in cities.

The VFPC acknowledged the importance of the regional perspective that Theresa and Orlando bring and thanked them for their contribution to our work.

6. Strategic Planning & Working Group

Tara reviewed the working groups that arose from the last strategic planning session. Emme gave an overview of what Working Groups are, and how they are meant to function.

Members then broke out in those groups that had interest from more than 4 members (Development/False Creek Flats, Food & Kids, Right to Food, Food Strategy Priorities, Distribution & Aggregation Infrastructure) Groups with less than 4 interested members were noted as potential areas of focus in the future (GE Foods, Procurement, Production, Soil & Waste, Disaster Preparedness, Renewable Energy).

Working groups were asked to meet before January and complete the project management forms.

ACTION: Emme will share the project management form by email.

All forms will be shared ahead of time and circulated before January. Working groups are also asked to let the FPC know when a meeting will take place.

7. Pending/remaining items

This section will be a standing item on the agenda to follow up on previous actions, and any other business.

Rebecca hosts a show on Roundhouse radio and encourages members who have relevant topics to contact her.

Soil Celebration - December 4 has been proposed as Vancouver Soil Day to honour the International Year of Soil. To celebrate, the City is proposing a free soils tour at City Hall, and would welcome the FPC as a co-host.

ACTION: The Chairs will circulate a motion and poll for the FPC to co-host Vancouver Soil Day by email.

Members were reminded that there is no meeting in December.

8. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Anna, seconded by Rebecca, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.