

Vancouver Food Policy Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 24, 2015  
5:45pm-6:45pm  
Social Policy, Woodward's Building



**Chairs:** Zsuzsi Fodor and Tara Moreau

**Council Members:** Veronik Campbell, Anna Cavouras, Andrew Christie, Rebecca Cuttler, Caitlin Dorward, Antonietta Gesualdi, Dirk Gibbs, Chashma Heinze, Kimberly Hodgson, Emme Lee Gabrielle Kissinger, Ilana Labow, Stephanie Lim, Will Jung, David Speight, Colin Stansfield

**Liaisons:** James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Theresa Duynstee (MetroVan),

**Regrets:** Adriane Carr (City Council), Heather Deal (City Council), Janet Fraser (VSB), Pat McCarthy, Orlando Schmidt (MoAg)

**Absent:** Larry Copeland, Nicholas Scapillati, Corinne Eisler (VCH), Michael Wiebe (Park Board)

### Agenda Items:

#### 1. Introductions & Updates

It was noted that the VFPC has been supportive of the Right to Food movement for several years.

Council members introduced themselves.

Tara is now on the Greenest City Advisory Council. The plan is 5 yrs old and at a refocusing point. Members are encouraged to share ideas over the next few months about the gaps and complete actions, especially related to food targets. The Greenest City Action Plan (GCAP) has spearheaded other strategies - food, adaptation, re-wilding, biodiversity.

Five guests were present.

#### 2. Vancouver Food Strategy Updates and the role of the VFPC in moving it forward

James O'Neill (see [HERE](#) for full presentation)

James provided an overview of the purpose of the food strategy. James will print another round of food strategies to make more hard copies available. The strategy includes a broad policy framework and a roadmap for action on how to move forward sustainably in Vancouver. There were a lot of disparate initiatives happening that the Food Strategy brought under one framework that is focused and can be shown to other departments. Policies have been integrated to align with the GCAP (e.g waste management, transportation, etc.) It was noted that food policy does not work in isolation; food goals add value and advance other goals as well (economic healthy cities, etc.) There are 5 key goals - 1. Support food-friendly neighbourhood infrastructure, 2. Empower residents to take action, 3. Increase access, 4. Make food a centerpiece of Vancouver's green economy, and 5. Advocate for a just and sustainable food system. The goals then lead to actions (production, distribution, food access, waste)

The City is doing well on community garden plots, city and non-city land, has revised farmers' market policy, and introduced food system grants. They are working with procurement to increase local and sustainable food, and incorporate food system assets. Some actions are site-specific and some are city-wide and some are led by other departments. Social Policy only has 2 staff. Community food markets - has been revised and funded some markets, including Colin's DTES kitchen project. Currently there are 14 markets which are focused on access to produce for better health and wellness, not necessarily on local or farmer direct.

Urban Farming policy work is ongoing, with hopes to present to council later in the year. Urban farming is being exploring as a defined use for zoning and land use. Creation of a business license is also being explored.

False Creek Flats area plan - led by Planning, will be 18 months of planning, with a major focus on food. No residential units planned. A consultation took place that generated many ideas.

Sustainable large development policy: The City now requires that projects over 500000<sup>2</sup>ft must build 3 of the proposed 6 food system assets on site. Each site is different, and must demonstrate where food system assets will

go. A handful of proposals have been received to date. (Policy document circulated)

A reminder was made that the City's Twitter handle @covfoodpolicy can be followed for opportunities for engagement. Food in one area in the Greenest City Action Plan and there may be opportunity for engagement - completing a survey, and attending the Roundhouse June 30 event. The Healthy City Strategy is planned to go to council in the next month, with an action plan, some of which are food-related.

The VFPC has a working group on GE plants and seeds. A reminder was made that non-members are welcome to participate in working groups. There are different points of entry for the FPC, can go through some actions (12 complete 21 ongoing, 26 in progress, 12 pending).

#### Discussion

Role of FPC in achieving Food Strategy goals: Members are encouraged to lend their expertise at public consultations (e.g. False Creek Flats). When an initial plan is drafted, the FPC can then provide input. James is assisting the Planning Department for the False Creek Flats development and it was suggested that they could present to our meetings. For urban farming, advice is needed on best practices and resources for soil testing if required. A working group was formed with Emme, Teresa, Rebecca, and Kim, with Dirk as Chair. ACTION: James will send a list with requests for information. It was noted that Engineering is seeking similar advice from FPC, as the City wants to celebrate soils and would like input. Other actions can be explored outside the food strategy.

Key food priorities for the City: to support for Neighbourhood Food Networks, increase non-profit access to food infrastructure (storage, processing). Urban farms and community food markets have some space requirements and can't store food etc. Analysis is needed - what is best location, how would it be used, costing, etc. The City's role in food access/justice beyond food strategy is also important.

Vancouver food strategy and Metro Van food strategy: The regional food systems strategy is very aspirational and high level. A detailed plan is being worked on, with a draft expected by the end of the year. Each of 21 municipalities is participating, and exploring the role of cities, and the role of Metro Van.

Context: There is a need to understand the larger context - the amount of food consumed in the city, the effects of policies, and how to understand what change occurs. There are goals and targets can measure aspects but there is no jurisdiction over how people eat; however where to access fresh, local food and role of food in community development can be identified. It is challenging to frame the issues to bring in actors like supermarkets. For example, the City doesn't have a role in grocery stores and cannot go beyond mandate. For example, GE free Vancouver is problematic for the City to implement, but Whole Foods will be GE free in 2018.

It was suggested that the FPC could come up with 3-5 food consumption habits to target and have a campaign. The question was raised as to determine targets of consumption to advocate for sustainable consumption and behaviors, and if data exists to help determine priorities. Kwanten is gathering some food-related data; Food Secure Vancouver is a few years old but was built to be replicable. A partnership with City Studio may be an option. The VSB may have data on vulnerability.

A suggestion was made to convene a future meeting with partners to focus on data needs to form the basis for a longer-term data sharing initiative, in an effort to determine what the most important points for the city to focus on is.

The following working groups were formed:

Prioritizing food issues: Gabi, Caitlin, Tara, Antonietta, Cheshma, Andrew, Teresa, Emme, Kim, Stephanie

False creek flats: David and Kim (chairs), Will, Anna, Dirk, Andrew, Colin, Ilana, Caitlin.

The formal part of the meeting adjourned at 6:51pm and Council and guests then traveled to the Carnegie Centre for the panel discussion 'A Right to Food in Canada'.