

Vancouver Food Policy Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 13, 2012
6:00-8:30pm
Town Hall Room, City Hall



Chairs: Brent Mansfield and Trish Kelly

Council Members: Jason Apple, Joanne Bays, Maria Burglehaus, Robyn Carlson, Claudia Chan, Theresa Duynstee, Zsuzsi Fodor, Ilana Labow, Emme Lee, Tara Moreau, Ross Moster, Nicholas Scapilati, Helen Speigleman, Kim Sutherland, Shelby Tay, Chris Thoreau

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

Regrets: Kimberly Hodgson, Peter Ladner, Pat McCarthy, Paul Taylor, David Wilson, Rob Wynen (Vancouver School Board), Heather Deal (City Council), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Thien Phan (Social Planning, City of Vancouver)

1. Opening Round

Members introduced themselves to council. Sixteen guests were present.

2. Motion to Accept Agenda and May Minutes

Moved by Helen, seconded by Joanne, carried unanimously.

3. Staff Report- James

Food Strategy - Next opportunity to engage is on Tues, June 26th at the Woodward's building. Following last month's presentation, the Strategy has been discussed with the Deputy City Manager, who provided positive feedback and suggestions to better position it within the context of the region, and emphasize the value it will bring to the city. Meetings have also taken place with other stakeholders (e.g. VSB, Metro Van) and are planned with the City Manager, as well as the General Manager of the Parks Board to discuss synergies with the Food Assets Task Force.

Urban Farming - An Urban Farming Tech Team has been formed with multiple departments to look at zoning, licensing and bylaw regulations over next 6 months.

Farmers Market Policy - Existing policy is interim, revisions are underway to include new use and accommodate pocket markets.

Community gardens- Media attended event with Mayor on June 6 to discuss community garden plots and their benefits, as well as the expansion of the city hall garden from 36 to 46 plots.

Local procurement - The completed report has five key recommendations, focusing on three key large community centres that sell 70% of food that city purchases. Over 100 locations of direct and indirect provision of food were identified. The report has been presented to the procurement committee within the city, although response and outcomes are unclear. **ACTION:** James to circulate report when publicly available.

4. Review of Previous Action Plan and Working Groups, Proposal of New Working Groups

The FPC currently acts in both an advisory capacity (for issues where the City is actively working) and a working capacity (for issues where the City has not/cannot take the lead). Given limited human and financial resources, existing Working Groups were reviewed to determine which role they would best fit under. The Action Plan will continue to include issues where the FPC acts in an advisory role, and staff will be expected to provide updates. Working groups will create work plans and continue to meet on a regular basis. Guests were reminded that non-members can join Working Groups.

It was decided that the Greenest City Action Plan, Food Strategy, Procurement, Urban Farming, and Farmers Markets be designated as 'advisory'. The Youth Food Policy Council was removed from the action plan to allow for its independent development. The following were identified as potential Working Groups: Policy soup (Tara), Neighbourhood Food Networks (ZsuZsi), FEDAP (Ross), Food Waste (Helen), Distribution/procurement (Joanne), Information accessibility and Literacy (Shelby), Urban-Rural linkages (Kim). It was noted that research and policy aspects could be explored in each group. Other suggestions for discussion included Food Secure Vancouver (and its marketing, especially to universities), support for the Food Assets Task Force, a deeper understanding of the existing food system, and connections to the Economic Strategy.

5. Working Group Action Planning

Members and guests broke into seven groups to discuss goals, possible actions, potential partners, leads/members.

6. Report Back from Working Groups and Discussion of Connections

Tara - Policy Soup (members: Sarah and Janis)

Mandate - to identify policy threats and opportunities that would directly or indirectly influence the work of the City and FPC. The group will do research scan, survey key stakeholders, identify collaborators, and report back.

ZsuZsi - Neighbourhood Food Networks (co-leads: Ross M and Trish K)

Group acquired three new members and will continue to convene, catalyze, and communicate to create new networks.

Ross - FEDAP (members: Brent M, Herb B, Thomas M, Anne P, Jordan B, Hanna C, Philip B, Chris T, Shelby T, and Jay P.)

In February, 40 people were interested in getting involved. Group will work on engagement. On July 11, Herb B will lead a food systems dialogue at Langara. Interest has been expressed from the Community Service Learning at UBC, as well as the faculties of Land and Food Systems and Economics. The next event will be held at the Museum of Vancouver, with the next meeting happening in July or Aug.

Helen- Food Waste(members: Alex H, Robyn C, Nicholas S, Emme L, Trish K, Peter L)

Group is interested in focusing on multi-family residences and businesses as the City is not active here. Will gather info to advise city.

Joanne - distribution/procurement - The Value Chain (members: Jason)

There is a desire for an assessment of distribution and understanding at multiple levels - i.e. what is involved for each size of producer to get food to market and how can each can get their needs met.

Shelby - Information Accessibility and Literacy (co-lead: Claudia)

First task is to convene a broader meeting to strategize and prioritize actions.

Kim - Urban -Rural linkages

At this point, it is unclear if this will become a working group, but there is a desire for more discussion to gain insight.

7. Next Steps in Developing Action Plan

Members encouraged to consider work plans for their working groups. Next steps will be revisited at next meeting. The goal is to have regular working group meetings and work plans by September.

8. Future Meetings Discussion - Trish

The following standard agenda was proposed:

- 1) Opening round
- 2) Motion to accept agenda and previous minutes
- 3) Staff report (request updates on advisory roles)
- 4) Working group updates (5 guiding questions have been put in Dropbox)
- 5) Break
- 6) Theme intro and presentation (external presentation 15-20 min), using guided questions. Ideas can come from WG or individuals. Response VFPC and external stakeholders
- 7) Next steps (e.g. are there policy recommendation? does it tie into a working group?)
- 8) Closing
- 9) Adjournment

Chairs may be contacted on specific, timely, issues from outsiders. As the slots fill quickly, these requests may have to wait approximately two months before being accommodated. The suggestion that Erin Nichols from FF/CF present in July on Food Waste Prevention was met with general agreement. Members encouraged to suggest other presenters, which will be followed up on at next meeting.

9. Any Other Business

Budget - \$3000 has been allocated to cover food and minutes for the meetings (est. at \$2000), as well as other minor expenses. MOTION: To release up to \$200 to spend on food for June 26th Food Strategy meeting. Moved by Brent, seconded by Joanne, motion carried. James offered that the City share the food costs for meeting. Members encouraged to RSVP to ensure adequate food.

VCH Forum on Social housing and food security - scheduled for April 2013. A letter of support has been requested, detailing how FPC can support the event. ZsuZsi and Brent are interested and will meet to discuss.

Next meeting - July 11.

Feast of Fields - tickets are now on sale, and volunteer opportunities are available (Aug 14 in Okanagan, Sept 9 in Vancouver, Sept 16 on the Island.)

10. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Claudia, seconded by Tara, carried unanimously.

Adjourned at 8:28pm