

Vancouver Food Policy Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 19, 2012  
6:00-8:30pm  
Town Hall Room, City Hall



**Chairs:** Brent Mansfield and Trish Kelly

**Council Members:** Joanne Bays, Maria Burtlehaus, Zsuzsi Fodor, Ilana Labow, Emme Lee, Pat McCarthy, Ross Moster, Nicholas Scapilati, Helen Speigleman, Shelby Tay, Paul Taylor, David Wilson,

**Liaisons:** James O'Neill (Social Planning, City of Vancouver), Heather Deal (City Council), Aaron Jasper (Park Board), Kim Sutherland (BC Ministry of Agriculture)

**Regrets:** Jason Apple, Robyn Carlson, Claudia Chan, Kimberly Hodgson, Peter Ladner, Tara Moreau, Chris Thoreau, Theresa Dounstee (MetroVan), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Rob Wynen (Vancouver School Board)

1. Opening Round  
Members and thirty-four guests introduced themselves.
2. Motion to Accept Agenda and previous minutes  
Moved by Nicholas, seconded by Joanne, carried unanimously. Moved by Ilana, seconded by Maria, carried unanimously.
3. Staff Report - James O'Neill
  - Food on city boulevards- policy and guidelines now exist. See [www.vancouver.ca/greenstreets](http://www.vancouver.ca/greenstreets) for more information.
  - Expression of Interest for Community Garden - last year's pilot program was used to identify new gardens. Applications for this year are due Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, with a goal of funding 5-6 new gardens. The focus is on City land, but other support may be available for private land. See [www.vancouver.ca/communitygardens](http://www.vancouver.ca/communitygardens) for more information.
  - Urban farming - process open for permits with zoning/regulations defined. Interdepartmental Staff Team went on tour of three urban farms.
  - Farmers market report - previous policy expired in spring 2012, and this report to council will provide an evaluation and some recommendations such as longer permit lengths to ensure similarities between parks/streets/zoned land, alignment of permit fees, and reducing requirement of fresh food from 80% to 60% to align with the BC Farmers Market Society. Community food markets (i.e. pocket markets) have been incorporated to give recognition and exemption from permits on zoned land. Report will go to council Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Food scraps - single-family dwellings can now compost ALL food scraps. A pilot program is underway looking at multi-family residences in advance of the MetroVan ban food scraps in 2015.
  - Procurement - research on five community centres by the consultant resulted in five recommendations and a person in the Sustainability office has been secured to look at the project scope and next steps.
  - Food strategy - staff is now working to complete, and is in discussions regarding the best approach to bring forward to Council
  - New Farmers Market at Boundary and Marine Saturdays from 10am-2pm.
  - Evergreen harvest celebration - Great Northern Way Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Discussion

Farmers Market report - will be available for review 1-2 weeks before going to Council. It was clarified that it does not address the New City Market project.

Process - currently, individual members are contacted for input on specific reports. James will provide an update at the next meeting regarding the process for wider FPC review of related reports going to City Council.

4. Update on Park Board Local Food Assets Task Force - Aaron Jasper  
Created in late spring, the Task Force has met twice and aims to provide recommendations to Park Board by June 2013. Three working groups were formed - 1. Land (chaired by Ross Moster) - urban farming, gardens, orchards, composting; 2. Facilities (chaired by Trish Kelly) - procurement, community kitchens, greenhouses, etc. and 3. Capacity building and programs(chaired by Ian Marcuse) - access and programs, Neighbourhood Food Networks, space. The working groups will meet twice before the main group meets again in December. The Task Force will be examining questions such as: What local food assets exist? Given the vision and Food Strategy, where are best opportunities to leverage assets to support local food (short and long term priorities? What quick actions can be done while planning underway? Who are key partners? What opportunities exist to leverage other resources and information? FPC members interested in participating in working groups are asked to contact Aaron.
  
5. Next Steps in Finalizing Work plans - Brent Mansfield  
The FPC is seeking clear actions with timelines from working groups. Brent to send out template for groups to complete (leads/co-leads, members, partner orgs, key actions with timelines, budget if needed). To be approved at October meeting, then posted on blog/web to generate more interest. Confirmed working groups: Policy landscapes, Neighbourhoods, FEDAP, Food Waste, Information/Accessibility/Literacy. Supply/Value Chain group may be integrated into other working groups. Emme, Shelby, Zsuzsi, Maria, Ross, and Veronique (guest) will meet with Brent to discuss role of Research.
  
6. Introduction of theme - Presentation by Zsuzsi Fodor, Neighbourhood Food Network lead  
Zsuzsi provided an overview of the report 'Sustainability on the table', which examines the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Food Networks (NFNs). Over the past three years, NFNs have increased, with ten now in existence. NFNs can be loosely defined as 'Coalitions of members and agencies who work collaboratively to increase capacity at the neighbourhood scale'. Although each network has evolved independently, all were born from grassroots movements seeking to address food vulnerabilities. They work to contribute to both human and physical community infrastructure, and are aligned with the Greenest City Action Plan to increase neighbourhood food assets. In the future, it is hoped that using concepts such as the New City Market, they could evolve into [community food centres](#) (such as [The Stop](#) in Toronto), to encourage social enterprise and a social economy. The report provided four recommendations - 1. Deepen and strengthen funding collaborations, 2. Build and bridge social and food systems capital, 3. Communicate the NGN movement, and 4. Align policy - including timelines and specific actions.  
Ross then explained the approach of Village Vancouver, which houses more informal food networks that host activities, collaborate with other groups, involving people based on their interests. Village Vancouver is also involved in broader initiatives such as the FEDAP project, an internal food strategy, and a pilot project in Kitsilano exploring a food resilient neighbourhood.

Discussion on potential roles for the FPC:

- The NFNs are working on an iBook project to be released at the Sustenance Festival and need an iPad.
- Access to space/facilities for meetings - Park Board Task Force members can advocate for this
- Help start new networks by provide funding for meetings, as in the past. This needs to be reexamined in current context.
- Communicate NFN movement to public.
- Convene meetings with policy makers, politicians, help with public forums, use contacts.
- Members can connect directly with local networks.
- Web developer is needed to promote networks (there may be an opportunity to post content on the City's Food Policy website when it is updated, which could lead to independent url).

- Help secure volunteers to increase capacity.
- Offer input to develop business case to advocate to funders to support coordinators.
- Help secure an intern for the West Side Food Collaborative.

While the NFNs have typically focused on low income communities they are looking at broadening to a food-systems perspective with equity remaining fundamental aspect. Village Vancouver has focused on a longer-term food security outlook.

7. Next Meeting Discussion

Next meeting is Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, and with World Food Day on Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, the next meeting's theme will focus on poverty, food access/justice and the role of the City and the FPC. The issue has long interested the FPC, and explores the intersection of charitable and public systems. Brent will participate in the Raise the Rates initiative to live on welfare rates for one week, and will circulate more info. Feel free to invite organizations and individuals.

Meeting themes can explore topics not addressed by working groups; contact chairs with suggestions.

The Neighbourhood Food Networks working group will be co-hosting an event with the Task Force on Oct 18<sup>th</sup> as part of the [Sustenance Festival](#).

8. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn - moved by Shelby, seconded by Joanne, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm