

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 9, 2020

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall



Meeting Co-Chairs: Jesse Veenstra and Martina Marsic

Council Members: Evan Bowness, Clare Cullen, Heather Escobar, Kaitlyn Fung, Tamer Mohamed Hussein, Joey Liu, Marc Schutzbank, Darlene Seto, Sarah Siska, Andrew Stephens-Rennie, Kelsey Timler, Emily Voong

City appointed liaisons: Caitlin Dorward (Social Policy, CoV), Trustee Gonzalez (VSB), Katelyn Ling (Park Board Staff)

Regrets: Councillor Wiebe (City Council), Commissioner Dumont (Park Board)

Absent: Jolene Andrew, Delphina Kejo, Patrick Johnson, Jason Yip, Councillor Bligh (City Council), Rachel Telling (Sustainability)

Minutes

1. Welcome/Call to order

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded homelands of the *w̓məθkw̓əy̓ əm* (Musqueam), *skwx̣ wú7mesh* (Squamish), and *seɬl̓wítulh* (Tseil-Waututh) Nations and give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

1.2 Quorum

There is quorum at the meeting.

1.3 Roundtable introductions

Members, liaisons and seven guests introduced themselves.

2. Consent agenda matters*

2.1 Previous Minutes

Motion to approve Oct 2019 minutes. Moved by Andrew, seconded by Kelsey, carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Nov 2019 Minutes. Moved by Joey, seconded by Kaitlyn, carried unanimously.

ACTION: Members will review the [Oct 2018 minutes](#), and will vote on approval next meeting.

2.2 Liaison Reports

- Councillor Wiebe - no report available. An offer was made via email to host a gathering in February.
ACTION: Martina will follow up on details. It was suggested to meet after the Feb meeting.
- Councillor Bligh- no report available
- Commissioner Dumont- no report available
- Trustee Gonzalez - a notice of motion has been submitted for the February Student Learning and Wellbeing committee meeting to endorse the Coalition for Healthy School Food, which will go to the Board for a vote at the end of February. Staff are working on forming the external working group; a report back is expected next week, likely with a Call for Applications. The group will bring together subject matter experts as well as staff to create the vision and values for food in the VSB, with particular attention to a universal school food program. It appears there is support from the Minister of Education, who will visit the [LunchLab](#) in February.
- Katelyn Ling (PB staff) - Katelyn is currently developing the RFP for the Local Food Action Plan. A memo to the Board on the approach for consulting services is planned for Feb 10. After April, the Park Board would like to engage the VFPC at a meeting.
- Rachel Telling (Sustainability Staff) - no report available
- Caitlin Dorward (SP staff) - has met with the urban farming group and will review current guidelines before reporting to council in May and will meet with farmers about challenges with the bylaw. The group may present to the VFPC in Feb, to give time in March for a short update, with a motion ready for April.

There has been a shift in the direction of the Greenest City Climate Emergency Plan, with the scope narrowed to focus on Transportation and Buildings as the biggest drivers of climate change. Other focus areas, including food, will be incorporated into other City strategies, including the Vancouver Plan. The City is launching public engagement [Bold Actions for a Climate Emergency](#) Feb 3 at the Orpheum. It was noted that the cost of tickets is a barrier to full participation. The goal of the event is to raise the profile, and bring positivity to the discussion.

The Vancouver Plan will be a more important strategy for food. Staff will be asking for direction on how food is incorporated and what the role for staff is. Members are encouraged to become familiar with plan and look for opportunities. There is [a website](#) where input is collected.

Discussion

The refined scope will allow focus on areas that would be the most impactful. There was a concern that by adding too many goals, the climate emergency plan will become confused with the Vancouver Plan.

It was clarified that the work done in Nov was used to shape draft actions that would have been part of public engagement. Those actions include how to influence food consumption to reduce scope 2 emissions, how city policy and planning can increase food production and harvesting, as well as a resilience-related action. Staff are now looking at those to see what policy windows are available to land those in other strategies. This piece only includes actions related to the environment.

The 2020 budget report was approved in 2019, and refers to commitment to renew food strategy in 2021.

2.3 Working Group Updates

- Food Cultivation & UbAg - are developing a strategy to develop the motion before it goes to City council. It was noted that the Urban Farming Forum will happen Jan 19 at the PNE with policy and non-policy streams.
- Development/Retail - is working on two main pieces - last year, worked with LFS class to do a preliminary inventory of green grocers, which will be analyzed to consider next steps. There is opportunity to work with LFS 350 to do an environmental scan of promising practices in municipalities that support local food retail. The group is aware of the study done by the Greenest City scholar.
- Food Waste - the Engineering report on single use plastics was released in Nov, and has not yet been reviewed. The group will meet soon and may bring a motion as part of next steps. The group will reach out to Councillor Wiebe and Katelyn Ling about composting. The group is looking for new Co-chair. Members will meet with Erin Nichols, and it was recommended that they connect with other staff in Engineering to see where there is opportunity for input, which could build on gaps in the first report.

Reports to council are confidential for one month before a council meeting, and are made public one week prior to the meeting. At this point, it is too late to make amendments. The process will be reviewed at the next meeting. ACTION: Caitlin will use the urban farming report as a case study to explain the process.

- Children & Youth - met recently and have action items to meet with VSB trustees, PB commissioners and City Councilors to raise awareness request support for a universal school meal program. Other FPCs may be contacted to explore their involvement. The group supports campaign #nourishkidsnow campaign, and is organizing a trip to LunchLab.
- Leadership Side - Three members (Gurjot, Bea, Erica) have stepped down due to unforeseen circumstances, and additional support is needed on the leadership team. Members are asked to let the Leadership team know if interested in joining. There will be a city-wide call around April for new members. The call is to fill vacancies in all advisory groups, and is, coordinated by Clerk's office. A subcommittee of City council makes decisions. The VFPC can do additional promotion to attract members that meet all criteria.

Working groups - A suggestion was made to create 'position descriptions' for working groups that include guidelines for commitment, as a reference for both current and incoming members. ACTION: Martina will draft these with Emily's help. Recommend to look at Member Resources tab in the shared drive.

- Community Food Prog.- drafted a notice for LFS class project to update food asset map. The group received an email about Evelyn Saller Centre, and is looking for clarification on what their role would be. ACTION: group will follow up to determine the process and timeline for involvement.
- CFC Canada - Community Food Centers are accepting Expressions of Interest from organizations that wish to become CFCs. After the deadline for the EOI passes, Kelsey can offer support for to local organizations.

3. Matters requiring discussion

3.1 Report back on outstanding fall work

- VCPC meeting - hosted an event on Nov 12 and was attended by two members. A report back will be presented at the next meeting. The event was related to planning a summit in May 2020 and discussions revolved around engagement and inclusive planning. Concerns voiced at consultation include the inability of the City to do inclusive engagement, meeting residents where they are at, and without multiple barriers. The May summit will focus on Housing, Climate, and Transportation.
- Blue Community draft Motion - The notion of a [Blue Community](#) was introduced by Councillor Wiebe and relates to protecting water and access to water. The draft motion was reviewed.

Discussion

- Suggest to add: BC will adopt the UNDRIP principles, which include reference to water and land use.
- A rights-based approach has not been seen much
- There is no focus on water focus in the City's climate emergency plan.
- If water bottles are banned in municipal facilities, there is a concern they could be replaced by sugar sweetened beverages; suggest to change language to "promote water". It was noted that Thunder Bay has a successful mobile cart at events staffed by volunteers.
- It was noted that the motion can be stronger than what City will accept.
- Citations are needed for all statistics.

MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council requests that the City of Vancouver join 27 other cities and First Nations across Canada in declaring a pledge to become a "Blue Community"; and that the City of Vancouver pass resolutions which:

- Recognize clean water and sanitation as human rights.
- Promote publicly financed, owned, and operated water and wastewater services.
- Ban the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and at municipal events; replace with tap water refill stations.
- Advocate for the conservation and protection of lands and forests in the watersheds and food cultivation areas serving the City of Vancouver

Moved by Clare, seconded by Sarah, carried unanimously, pending review and edits. ACTION: Kelsey and Sarah will help Clare finalize the motion. [see full final motion appended to these minutes].

- November GCAP – no further updates.

3.2 Work plan updates

- Population of joint work plan and Jan 13 Council of Councils meeting
Four members will attend the Council of Council meeting and will give a verbal update. ACTION: Members are asked to populate this work plan, which will be used at the meeting and as an ongoing reference.

3.3 Planning for 2020

- Upcoming meeting schedule [info sent prior to meeting]
ACTIONS: Members are asked to add meetings to their calendar with room info. Typically meetings do not happen in Aug or Dec, however, rooms have been booked just in case. Members are reminded that most of the work happens in the working groups. Meeting agendas are currently organically populated, however for future meetings, themed meetings and continuous learning sessions could be scheduled in advance. ACTION: Members are asked to add ideas to the Agenda Planning document in the shared drive. This can be updated every couple of months.

- Common Definitions - how are these being integrated to work plan?
Caitlin followed up with Spencer Lindsay regarding the request for a presentation to the VFPC and for advice on inviting members of the host nations (MST) to become liaisons to the VFPC. The advice is that it is not recommended to make such requests, as there is not enough capacity within the nations, and the requests are often extractive. With funding, facilitated sessions could be hosted. It was suggested to explore other approaches to reconciliation, including deeper learning for better understanding, as well as direct engagement. Suggestions included specific readings to be discussed, participating in an event or attending a cultural exhibit. ACTION: Sarah will create a Google doc and begin compiling resources, which members are asked to help populate. Another suggestion is to create an indigenous solidarity working group and show up to indigenous struggles. Members are asked to share relevant events, which could replace a formal meeting.

4. Adjourn Meeting

Moved by Clare, seconded by Martina, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm

MOTION Vancouver Food Policy Council Blue Communities Motion

Vancouver Food Policy Council

Passed January 2020

Background

The “Blue Communities” project is a response to protect fresh water in Canada. It has been proposed by the Council of Canadians and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), environmentalists, and Indigenous representatives as a vehicle to promote public water management and public drinking water.

In 2011, the Union of B.C. Municipalities passed a resolution supporting “Blue Communities” and since then, several B.C. municipalities have protected their water supplies from privatization and increased water rates, including Burnaby, Abbotsford, and White Rock. Across Canada, 27 municipalities and First Nations have also declared themselves “Blue Communities”, including Montreal and Thunder Bay.

Since water is integral to food and food lands, the VFPC can have a voice in supporting the City of Vancouver in becoming a Blue Community and passing resolutions that support access to clean water.

Motion: Advocate for Vancouver to become a Blue Community

WHEREAS in January 2019 the City of Vancouver declared a climate emergency; and

WHEREAS the potential for a global water shortage is one of the most significant impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) declares that Indigenous Peoples have a right to maintain their spiritual relationships with water, determine how lands and resources - including water - are used, and that the state must obtain free, prior and informed consent on all projects that may impact lands and waters¹; and

WHEREAS Bill C-262, an act to ensure that Canadian laws align with UNDRIP was passed in the House of Commons in April 2019², and British Columbia committed to being the first province to legislate UNDRIP³, and;

WHEREAS in July 2010 the United Nations declared that access to clean water and sanitation is a human right; and

WHEREAS a significant threat to clean water access globally is the privatization of water through the sale of community water access rights to corporations; and

WHEREAS embodied energy in the production and shipment of bottled water is the equivalent of approximately 160 million barrels of oil, representing up to 2,000 times the energy required to produce the equivalent volume of tap water⁴; and

¹ United Nations (2007) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Available here:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>

² Canadian House of Commons (2019). An act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with UNDRIP. Available here:

<https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?billId=8160636&Language=E>

³ Province of British Columbia (2019). Speech from the throne. 4th session, 41st parliament. Available here:

https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/data%20-%20ldp/Pages/41st4th/ThroneSpeech_2019.pdf

⁴ Gleick, P.H. & Cooley, H.S. (2009). Energy implications of bottled water. Environmental Research Letters, 4: 7. DOI: 10.1088/1748-9326/4/1/014009. Available here: <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/4/1/014009>

WHEREAS plastic water bottles pose challenges for waste management; and
WHEREAS clean water is an essential component of food cultivation, preparation and consumption; and
WHEREAS a significant threat to clean water access globally is the degradation of lands and forests that replenish the world's freshwater sources;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council requests that the City of Vancouver join 27 other cities and First Nations across Canada in declaring a pledge to become a "Blue Community"; and that the City of Vancouver pass resolutions which:

- Recognize clean water and sanitation as human rights.
- Promote publicly financed, owned, and operated water and wastewater services.
- Ban the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and at municipal events; replace with tap water refill stations.
- Advocate for the conservation and protection of lands and forests in the watersheds and food cultivation areas serving the City of Vancouver