

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting

Date: June 4th

Time: 6-8:30pm

Location: Virtual meeting via Web Ex

Members of the Public: [Listen in via this link](#)

VFPC Members and Liaisons: participate via the link in your inbox

Co-chairs: Marc, Martina

Homelands Acknowledgement

"We acknowledge that we are on the unceded homelands of the ʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and sel̓ílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and we give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands"

Agenda item	Time	Type of Action Required			Responsibility
		Info	Discussion	Decision	
0. Getting familiar with WebEx <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Microphone/Video ● Hand-raising ● Chat & Q&A ● Display layout 	6:00	X	X		Martina Rachel
1. Welcome/Call to order	6:10				Chairs
1.1 Land Acknowledgement	6:10				Chairs
1.2 Quorum	6:10				Chairs
1.3 Roundtable introductions	6:15				All (incl. audience)
2. Consent agenda matters*					
2.1 Previous Minutes	6:25			X	Chairs
2.2 Liaison Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Councillor Wiebe ● Councillor Bligh ● Commissioner Dumont ● Trustee Gonazlez ● Katelyn Ling/Rebecca Till (PB staff) 	6:27	X			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rachel Telling (Sustainability Staff) ● Caitlin Dorward (SP staff) 					
2.3 Working Group Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leadership Team ● Waste ● Urban Farming ● Children & youth 	6:35				
3. Matters requiring discussion*					
3.1 Discussion about Vancouver Plan and Food System/CoVID Recovery (Please See Attachment for updated information, below is static)	6:40		X		Chani Joseph & James O’Neill, CoV Planners on Vancouver Plan VFPC Members
BREAK	7:00				Font-line workers cheer
3.1 Continuation			X		
Grab Bag Items / Updates	8:00		X		
- Supporting Dignified Food Access and Food Security for Persons with Disabilities during COVID-19 (Discussion of letter of recommendations or formal statement to support dignified food access and food security for people with disabilities in Vancouver.) (See Link)	8:00			X	Kelsey Timler
- Motion in support of additional community gardens for Hastings-Sunrise (See Below)	8:10			X	Kaitlyn Fung
6. Adjourn Meeting	8:30				

VFPC - COVID-19 Recovery Brainstorm DRAFT

PURPOSE: Please use this document to capture ideas, questions and recommendations related to recovery efforts and food system planning Post-Covid 19.

AUDIENCE: Vancouver City and Parks Board Staff working on planning initiatives. At this time, specifically those staff working on the Vancouver Plan and Local Food Action Plan.

TIMELINE: Intention to provide Van Plan staff by **June 1st** in preparation for June 4th meeting (Assuming they can attend - TBC by Caitlin) and ongoing in support of Parks Board LFAP timeline into July (and as needed)

Related Docs:

- [VFPC Climate Emergency Brainstorming Session - Results](#)

GUIDING POINTS FROM STAFF: the City has struck a new Committee of Council that will be focused on recovery. This was approved on [May 14](#). The [Terms of Reference](#) for the Committee outline its connection to staff work across 7 recovery themes (see p.2 with the org chart - and snipped below).

A. Business Recovery	B. Community Recovery (Vancouver Plan)	C. Non-Profit & Social Enterprise Recovery	D. Vulnerable Communities Recovery	E. Development & Permit Process Improvements	F. Senior Government Advocacy	G. Stimulus Funded Capital Projects
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Vancouver Plan itself is scoped as Theme B - Community Recovery, so this is the area the two Van Plan staff will be most focused on. Given there will be food policy links in all areas, we've scoped this discussion broadly to include all themes. In addition, with the Park Board renewing the Local Food Action Plan this year there is opportunity to link that into the discussion. *Given we will have a separate session focused on LFAP, the main focus of this meeting is on potential City actions - with an overarching theme of build back better.*

Please add your ideas under the theme you think they best relate to (recognizing there are crossovers and some ideas could belong in multiple places).

Theme Area	VFPC Ideas, Questions Related to Food System Recovery/Build Back Better
Theme A - Business Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bolster support for independent grocery retail businesses such as Pro-Independent retail zoning aka “Formula Retail” controls (no franchises permitted et al). Other city examples: San Francisco, Port Townsend WA - Establish office or support systems targeted toward independently owned/operated businesses. - Ways to prioritize the hiring of low-wage or low-barrierskill labour instead of waiting for job creation to trickle down through job chains or spending multipliers? Explicit targeting strategies, including policy and funding support for social enterprises aimed at job creation (e.g., rental subsidies for landlords/building owners and tenants; expansion of low-barriers shared office/work spaces, including kitchen/food retail spaces); support for job training for young people facing barriers to employment (including knowledge sharing of federal and provincial opportunities);... - Microenterprise as a economic development strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leverage the resources of large anchor institutions (government purchasing, universities, hospitals... unlikely to relocate to other cities) - Economic inclusion strategies by shifting government spending to disadvantaged companies? - Affordable commercial tenancing programs to address displacement of small businesses in areas vulnerable to gentrification. E.g1. Portland Oregon has a program that also prioritizes businesses led by those who are underrepresented in business community. Eg 2 Neighbourhood Retail Preservation program, NY - What are the current efforts to address rising commercial rents/property taxes for independently owned/operated business? - Utilizing policies to support residential tenancy in certain commercial areas (i.e. legacy businesses, etc.) that are being re-developed - Operating or providing operating funds for a small business support line for minority owned businesses and others who may be unfamiliar with permitting processes, commercial lease practices, rent negotiations and rights, to prevent predatory commercial landlord practices, etc.) - Rent subsidies for food retail who meet certain criteria
Theme B - Community Recovery (Vancouver Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enable farming of vacant development sites - Identifying land for community food production (can low-barrier and dignified job creation be layered onto this)? - Establishment of neighbourhood food centres tasked with emergency support of each neighbourhood
Theme C - NPO and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See above under job creation - Facilitate collaboration between social enterprises (food and otherwise), eg:

<p>Social Enterprise Recovery</p>	<p>through networking with Buy Social Canada. Explore shared use of space. Rental subsidies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investment in neighbourhood-based food infrastructure that enables increased food production, food literacy, advocacy, and emergency food distribution accessible by walk / bike / roll. - Re-framing understanding of social enterprises as more than economic capital, but valuable re: socio-cultural capital and in relation to environmental health & sustainability. - Supporting creative use of public spaces to ensure accessibility & safety and support anti-racism and diversity, e.g., pop up restaurants and food events. - City support for small NPOs and social enterprises navigating bylaws/regulations, very time intensive and huge barrier to sustainability - City job fair matching supportive, safe food sector employment to people of colour and others who are interested in food sector/social enterprise employment - Support networking between larger corporations/donors and smaller social enterprises and SPOs. Catalogue of large businesses interested in giving back/supporting small local social enterprises.
<p>Theme D - Vulnerable Communities Recovery (Populations disproportionately affected by COVID)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID has exacerbated preexisting and entrenched inequities, however some responses have been incredibly positive. New networks and communication strategies across sectors need to be supported going forward, e.g., coordination across layers of government. A city-funded network map of food assets and networks during the pandemic could be helpful to reduce overlaps and ensure coordination. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A map, plus guidance and structure (ie how can existing organizations who have infrastructure already have emergency plans that they operational or when a disaster hits -align with earthquake and other emergency preparedness - Analysis of gaps in neighbourhood-based food assets by neighbourhood / by type (¿and incentives for orgs who will help to fill those gaps?) - City supported communities of practices or places for organizations to come together to share information and collaborate on programming/planning - - Advocacy to ensure continuation of safe drug supply post-pandemic, for basic universal income and ongoing increases to income assistance and PWD. Interwoven with food security. - Safe and affordable housing - realizing this is across layers of government. - How are the socio-emotional/spiritual needs of Indigenous Peoples being supported during the pandemic? As the City looks towards local food growth, are there opportunities for local Elders and communities to tend land for plant foods and medicines on (unceded) City land?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support grassroots mutual aid processes happening across the City (e.g., VF small neighbourhood grants) - Ensuring diversity and accessibility of outdoor spaces and food access that will be used for community gathering during the warm weather (e.g., accessible to seniors and persons with disabilities in their own neighbourhoods, safe and accessible to LGBTQ2+ folks, Indigenous peoples, other oppressed peoples). - Training VPD on intergenerational impacts of hunger, racism, oppression for Indigenous Peoples, integration of food provision into VPD scope (away from over-policing and surveillance) - City-funded memorial for victims of the overdose crisis. My colleagues in that community feel forgotten and invisible as the city moves towards “back to normal.” Public recognition that normal was harmful and violent for many people in the city, and support for communities to mourn/celebrate the lives of those lost (not specific to food, but important, could include culturally safe catering provided by local Indigenous restaurants/DTES organizations to provide an influx of funding to those community and cultural food assets). - Explicit messaging against anti-Asian racism. Strengths-based celebration of community members/organizations (e.g., the amazing things that Hua Foundation has been doing). Spotlights on restaurants/social enterprises/grocers/food sector folks with Asian heritage in the city - using food as strengths-based storytelling mechanism - As campaign to support inter generational awareness of Covid and maintaining Bonnie Henry guidelines
<p>Theme E - Development Permit & Process Improvements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - individual plans to serve customers in event of different phases for a pandemic(too onerous?
<p>Theme F - Senior Gov’t Advocacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Universal basic income advocacy - Greater focus on increasing domestic food purchasing and shifting away from imports on products Canada already produces (primary or secondary industries) - COVID has exposed existing vulnerabilities in highly concentrated food supply chains (e.g. 3 facilities = 95% of Canada’s beef processing). Advocating for policy that supports regionally focused, decentralized supply chains.(E.g.reforming BC’s meat processing regulations to balance traceability goals with need for improved access to slaughter/processing.) - Aggregation of data: VSB should be a point for all data regarding youth as their case workers have the greatest engagement with youth directly - how can that data either be shared with relevant stakeholders (charities in emergency food provision) or b, tie those families to services in their neighbourhood - ONE volunteer VANCOUVER app not 10.... get everyone talking to each other.

<p>Theme G - Stimulus Funded Capital Projects</p>	<p>emergency centres across the city - (food, medical treatment, etc, refrigeration, processing)</p>
<p>Vancouver Park Board (PB) - LFAP Renewal</p>	<p>Big questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How could the PB food assets, services, and staff best support/contribute to the short and long-term COVID-19 recovery process? ● What gaps, needs, opportunities, recommendations that concern PB Food assets and services are coming being highlighted as part of the COVID-19 shut-down? ● What will strengthen the resiliency of PB food assets and services in future emergencies? What are we learning? <p>PB Food Assets & Services Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilities (Community Centres including community kitchens, Food Field Houses, Concessions, Etc.) ● Park Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For restaurants to host ‘patios’ (ensuring accessibility of parks to all people, not just those who can afford to eat out). ● Buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For refrigeration ? ● Community Centre programming ● Community Centre meal programs ● Sunset Nursery/Van Dusen (currently growing veggie plots to contribute to the emergency food response - is there demand for this in the long-term?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Excellent test case for a food utility. ● Gardening staff time? ● Partnerships? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With urban farms ● Other? ● Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can the city deputize food hubs accross the city that will act as distribution hubs for emergency food provisioning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Not only in the case of a pandemic, but for earthquakes, other natural disasters ■ Help fund neighbourhood hubs that would develop food security pans and keep them updated year after year. ■ Help ensure that there are continuous staff to be in relation with each other and food providers “grocery store logistics, food banks, etc.)

Motion in support of additional community gardens for Hastings-Sunrise

Date: June 1, 2020 - Kaitlyn Fung

Background

As part of the ongoing need for urgent COVID-19 food responses, a coalition of organizations and individuals within the Hastings-Sunrise Food Networks (including Refarmers, Kiwassa Neighbourhood House, Wall Street Community Garden, and Lori Snyder - Artist in Residence at Hastings Community Center) recently submitted a proposal to the Vancouver Park Board for the accelerated establishment of two additional community gardens in the Hastings-Sunrise area, with proposed locations at Callister Park and Hastings Community Park.

Since the World Health Organization's declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020, existing issues of food insecurity in the Hastings-Sunrise neighbourhood have been exacerbated by the current instability and job loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, both of the proposed garden locations have been identified as being underused green spaces in the Hastings-Sunrise area, and using them to establish additional community gardens is in line with City of Vancouver's Greenest City goals to help residents alleviate food needs, improve access to nature, and reduce ecological footprints.

In order to take advantage of the current growing season, respond to increased food insecurity, and provide safe social-distancing activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the approval of this proposal for additional community gardens also requires swift and timely action.

Questions to consider:

Do you support the draft motion ([available here](#))?

What questions do you have?

Discussion.