

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, July 9 2020

6:00pm-8:30pm

Via WebEx



**Meeting Chair:** Jesse Veenstra and Emily Voong

**Council Members:** Jolene Andrew, Clare Cullen, Heather Escobar, Kaitlyn Fung, Joey Liu, Darlene Seto, Sarah Siska, Kelsey Timler

**City appointed liaisons:** Rachel Telling (Sustainability), Katelyn Ling (Park Board Staff), Councillor Wiebe (City Council)

**Invited guest:** Ben Liegly

**Regrets:** Evan Bowness, Tamer Mohamed Hussein, Martina Marsic, Marc Schutzbank, Andrew Stephens-Rennie, Caitlin Dorward (Social Policy, CoV), Trustee Gonzalez (VSB)

**Absent:** Delphina Kejo, Councillor Bligh (City Council), Commissioner Dumont (Park Board)

### Minutes

1. Welcome/Call to order
  - 1.1 Land Acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded homelands of the *w̓məθkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam), *sk̓wx̓ wú7mesh* (Squamish), and *sel̓ilwitulh* (Tsleil-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 invited guests introduced themselves. One guest attended the meeting.
2. Consent agenda matters
  - 2.1 Previous Minutes - Approve June 2020 minutes

Tabled until next meeting.
  - 2.2 Liaison Reports
    - Councillor Wiebe
      - The motion supporting corner stores passed by Council, and will be integrated into community planning. Council also passed motions to support patios and alcohol in permitted zones. Eleven percent of street space has been approved for alternative uses. There is more waste generated through increased take-out. The City is exploring opportunities to grow, produce, and process more feed locally.
      - PDAC - the committee will not be able to provide a formal endorsement until September. The VFPC work is appreciated, and the letter can move forward in the current state.
    - Councillor Bligh - no update available
    - Commissioner Dumont- no update available
    - Trustee Gonzalez- no update available
    - Katelyn Ling (PB staff)
      - LFAP RFP is open. A presentation to VFPC is planned for November.
      - The Park Board is working with the Kiwassa group to flush out their vision and evaluate feasibility. The Park Board is doing due diligence while limiting setbacks.
      - Recovery plans - there is much open now; community centres, fitness centres, indoor pools under review.
    - Rachel Telling (Sustainability Staff)
      - EOC has scaled to Level 1; staff are transitioning back to regular roles.

- Brainstorming document with VFPC input has been shared with VanPlan staff.
- Opportunity for action - food friendly neighbourhood motion.
- Climate emergency action plan will be presented to Council in November
- Staff are conducting a state of the sector (non-profit) report; Rachel is leading for environmental non-profits for operations (risk issues, looking forward, short and long-term needs, systemic changes needed? What can CoV do?)

#### Discussion

Caitlin had sent an email flagging the relevant motions coming forward. One directs staff to explore engagement through Van Plan about corner stores and policy options including zoning, recognizing the value in the context of 'Big moves', and especially in light of COVID. The Development working group liaised with Councillor Kirby-Young, and support the intent, but found the framing did not consider small grocers that meet the same needs for different cultural communities, to broaden the scope. Suggested amendments were accepted with other amendments to support restaurants to sell grocery items as well as farm gate sales for urban farms. The LFS report and recommendations will be summarized and shared with City staff.

- Caitlin Dorward/Sarah Carten (SP staff) - no update available.

### 2.3 Working Group Updates

- Food cultivation and Urban Ag - No update available.
- Waste - see item 3.3
- Community Food programs - no update available. Worked with LFS, finished work focused on Vancouver food asset map. In COVID context, there is much desire for resources. Another map has since emerged.
- Children & youth
  - Marc has been working with the COVID task force with VCH, VSB, CoV. Work slowed down toward summer. After the closing of schools, \$18k in gift cards were distributed to families.
  - Marc proposed that the VFPC host a post mortem to see what lessons have been learned. ACTION: Andrew and Marc will work to make this happen in fall; help is welcome. The working group has not formally met, but continues to participate in the national Coalition and BC Chapter. Farm-to-school grants - there is a concern around restrictions in different jurisdictions. Farm-to-school is connecting nationally with health and NGOs around which policies are being developed right now with guidelines.
- Leadership Team - no update available

### 3. Matters requiring discussion

#### 3.1 Update on the PWD letter and collaboration

Kelsey met with PWD committee, Councillor Weibe, and Caitlin. PDAC concerned over identification of cheque day for with people with disabilities. The VFPC can still do social media ahead of payment day.

#### 3.2 Update on documentary film screening (article sent previously)

The filmmaker hopes it will be taken by HotDocs and VIFS, so there are concerns about how to share in the community beforehand. Options include a bike-in screening or a showing after the festival circuit in fall, likely virtually.

#### Discussion

- Summer is preferred.
- Beaumont fits 49 people.
- Members reminded that funds are being held by Hua Foundation.

#### 3.3 Food Waste Working Group Motion [DRAFT motion sent prior to meeting] - Ben Liegly

In Canada, approximately 58% of food is wasted. Vancouver has a desire to be the greenest city, and achieve zero waste by 2040. Food waste is the third biggest greenhouse gas emitter, and the best solution to fight climate change. The Sustainable Development Goals aim to decrease food waste by 50% by 2030. Before the pandemic, 1 in 9 Vancouver residents reported not having enough money to eat properly.

Suggested measures CoV can adopt:

- Gather data and set a target to commit to SDG 12.3.
- Establish a staff committee staff to establish food waste baseline.
- Report food waste data from houses and businesses.

- Make it compulsory for Park Board and City-owned spaces to measure food waste.
- Organize events to increase consumer- awareness and educate residents.
- Support local projects that contribute to reducing food waste.
- Encourage business to reduce waste / surplus.
- Map existing food waste solution providers.
- Encourage restaurants, etc. to take a pledge to reduce food waste.

#### Discussion

- The high contribution to GHGs comes from the whole stream (e.g. food, water, deforestation, transport).
- In Canada, it was suggested that over-purchasing and conservative best before dates contribute to the problem.
- Statistics in the presentation come from Second harvest report & VCM international 2019.
- There is more food waste and packaging caused by pandemic.
- There is a need to know the numbers for Vancouver and set ambitious targets.
- The working group connected with Erin Nichols, who is in consultation with grocery chains. Committed to being part of “[Love Food Hate Waste.](#)”
- The last option for disposal should be the compost; landfill is not an option.
- There is a strong debate about using excess food for charitable food purposes - need to be careful.
- The transition must be a just transition. De-growth involves changing habits and everyone should be a part of it.
- With City staff, it was recommended that the working group ask for suggestions rather than prescribe actions.
- The City is discussing internal food waste, and has found that food is procured for the Park Board, and for provisions, and is a relatively small amount. Staff are working to advance the issue; this will be included as part of the LFAP update.
- Many restaurants underestimate food waste by a factor of 3-5x, which also have economic impacts.
- While the City cannot collect data on businesses that use private haulers, reasonable estimates can be made.
- Produce row helps reduce food waste as green grocers can get seconds and thirds.

#### Motion:

THAT the VFPC encourage the City to establish a baseline of food waste data in alignment with the SDG goals and to committee to put forward suggested solutions and actions to reduce food waste and both the city and bushiness levels, pending further consultation with Erin Nichols.

Moved by Jesse, seconded by Emily, carried unanimously. Darlene abstained from the vote.

It was recognized that a short time frame was allowed for a review, and that more time should be given in the future.

### 3.4 Anti-Racism and Tangible Actions for the VFPC

The intersections with food systems were recognized. Caitlin sent news release from Urban Indigenous Peoples advisory committee, and Clare shared an article about the lack of action. The VFPC has committed to making this a priority in its work. It was noted that the wording is important and that the framework of ‘food apartheid’ can be more powerful than ‘food desert’. The Toronto FPC has been sharing work from Indigenous and Black organizations to amplify their work.

#### Discussion

- When thinking about the working of a city, different units address Indigenous and POC issues, so the network exists. Regenerative and sustainable work includes a commitment to centre and value that work and uplift those who have been doing this work. A climate and planetary health food working group was suggested, to explore how we are all connected through food and land, and center ecosystems that are being impacted. Actions and policies should lead to stewardship and more harmonious practices for salmon and water.
- It was noted that the use of the word ‘reconciliation’ has been co-opted; a framework of ‘sovereignty’ is preferred.

- UNDRIP can be used as a starting point for discussion - the language is there.
- There is no official statement in the council structure.
- This work should be led by someone to ensure actions move beyond discussions.
- ACTION: Jolene will draft a guiding document, as she is familiar with language. The previous work on Wet'suwet'en will be re-shared, the issue is still relevant now as Wet'suwet'en are blocked from their traditional food sources. Kelsey and Sarah will help.
- It was suggested the VFPC could also support the motion related to street checks, as the over-criminalization of people prevents them from being nourished and healthy.
- While a formal motion is not possible, support can be expressed through council liaisons.
- Motion B4 is going to council, related to providing more support to community-led social and mental health support (not reallocating VPD funding).
- ACTION: Kelsey will draft statements of support for both motions. ACTION: Emily will support these on social media as well.

### 3.5 Resetting VFPC: priorities and actions for after August break

Members were informed there is usually no meeting in August; the next meeting is in September. A priority in the fall will be setting up next council to carry on work, as the term for the current members ends December 2020. Members need to reapply and wait to be reappointed. Current vacancies will not be filled before the new term. Other priorities include the post-mortem on school food work and the LFAP update in November

### 4. Adjourn Meeting

Moved by Clare, seconded by Joey, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.