



## VANCOUVER FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

### MINUTES

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

A meeting of the Vancouver Food Policy Council was held on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 6:04pm, by electronic means.

**PRESENT:** Jolene Andrews  
Evan Bowness  
Clare Cullen  
Heather Escobar  
Delphina Kejo  
Joey Liu  
Martina Marsic  
Darlene Seto  
Sarah Siska  
Andrew Stephens-Rennie  
Jesse Veenstra  
Emily Voong

**ABSENT:** Kaitlyn Fung, Tamer Mohamed Hussein, Marc Schutzbank, Kelsey Timler

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Michael Wiebe, Council Liaison  
Caitlin Dorward, Social Planner, Social Policy and  
Projects, Staff Liaison  
Commissioner Camil Dumont, Vancouver Park Board  
Trustee Estrellita Gonzalez, Vancouver School Board  
Rebecca Till, Environmental Stewardship Coordinator  
Vancouver Park Board

**RECORDER:** Vicky Baker

\*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

### WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged that we are meeting on the unceded homelands of the ʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), s̓kwx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and selil̓wiltulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

## Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Andrew Stephens-Rennie  
SECONDED by Joey Liu

THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council approve the Minutes from the meeting of October 15, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### 1. Opening (welcome, intros, housekeeping)

Council members introduced themselves.

### 2. Liaison updates

- Councillor Wiebe
  - Climate Emergency Action Plan is going to council soon. Would like to make an amendment related to the potential for food systems to reduce GHGs.
  - Accessible City Strategy – ongoing; through COVID those with disabilities have seen reduced access.
- Councillor Bligh
  - No update available
- Commissioner Dumont
  - No update available
- Trustee Gonzalez
  - The Long Range Facilities Plan is going through consultations, and includes the greening of schools and gardens in every school
  - Cafeterias in some high schools are reopening, which is important for students and staff.
  - Budget process will begin in January.
- Rebecca Till (PB staff) –see LFAP update.
- Rachel Telling (Sustainability Staff) – update presented by Caitlin Dorward
  - Council will finish hearing from speakers on Nov 17 about the Climate Plan.
  - Greenest City grants are open. Up to \$50k for 1-2 year projects with a food systems focus; deadline Dec 6.
- Caitlin Dorward (SP staff)
  - A report will be made to Council Nov. 24th, 2020 (title: ELER Quick Start Actions: Initial Zoning & Development Bylaw Updates to Support Neighbourhood Grocery Stores). The work in this report is led by Planning and meets Food Strategy goals to increase healthy food retail, and responds to June Council motions regarding action towards food friendly neighbourhoods. Rather than reporting specifically on other aspects of food friendly neighbourhoods, this report refers to ongoing work to advance food friendly neighbourhoods through Vancouver Plan, the urban farm guidelines review, and the Vancouver Social Infrastructure Strategy.
  - Discussion  
Members would like to know what is being proposed; ACTION: Caitlin will check to see if the report is available and will circulate once it is published.

### 3. Working group updates

- Leadership Team

- Small team is actively looking for more members, in particular those who will continue to the next term. It was confirmed that the VFPC will not meet in December. Invitations for 2021 will be sent soon; it has not been decided if meetings will be formal or informal.
- Food Waste – have not met.
- Food Cultivation/Urban Ag
  - The Food Sovereignty Coop is requesting the VFPC sign on to a Letter of Support and provide policy analysis and advocacy for a wild meat processing centre in the DTES. ACTION: Evan will circulate a draft motion that can be reviewed prior to next meeting and voted on. If time sensitive, a special meeting can be held solely to address this issue. An ad-hoc group can be formed to address the research needs. Jolene and Sarah can provide support.
  - A motion around a Proclamation to acknowledge UN World Soils Day (Dec 5) has been drafted. SPEC has done important research that can highlight the importance of healthy soil for urban agriculture, parks, biodiversity etc. The proposed motion is closely linked to a similar motion in 2015, where the VFPC hosted an outdoor event at City Hall.  
This could be promoted on social media, possibly with a gallery of photos of soil. Potential for collaboration with UBC Centre for Sustainable Food Systems to announce research. Possible interest in a creating an urban soils toolkit.

MOVED by Clare Cullen

SECONDED by Andrew Stephens-Rennie

### **VFPC motion for Vancouver Soil Day proclamation**

#### **WHEREAS**

1. Healthy soil is important for all living things; and healthy soils sustain life and society;
2. December 5 2020 is United Nations World Soil Day;
3. Soil is essential for food security, food production, food waste reduction and composts, all of which are linked to the creation of a just and sustainable food system to which the City of Vancouver committed itself to in the 2013 Vancouver Food Strategy;
4. A Vancouver Soil Day Celebration provides an opportunity for Vancouver residents to learn more about the role of soil in storing and filtering water, preventing erosion, cycling and storing carbon and providing for plants and animals;
5. A Vancouver Soil Celebration is an opportunity for people of all ages to share knowledge and learn about upcoming academic and community-led research about sustainable soil management;
6. A Vancouver Soil Celebration is an opportunity for people of all ages to acknowledge that soils are a solid ground for life, whether in a rural or urban environment, and therefore care for soils is imperative for overall community health;

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

THAT The Vancouver Food Policy Council moves that the City of Vancouver Council proclaim Saturday December 5 2020 as Vancouver Soil Day in the City of Vancouver.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Development/Retail – no new updates. ACTION: Those who want to review the first amendment to the food friendly neighbourhoods, contact Darlene.
- Children & Youth – have not met.
- Community Food Programming – have not met.

**4. Preventing and Reducing Food Waste in the City of Vancouver**

Motion was passed in July, then work was done to refine. While the intent is the same, the wording is different and formal motions are needed to reconsider the earlier vote, and to pass the amended motion.

RECONSIDERATION MOVED by Martina  
SECONDED by Joey

THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council reconsider its final vote, held on July 9, 2020, regarding the prevention and reduction of food waste in the City of Vancouver.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**  
(Darene Seto absent for the vote)

The reconsideration having carried, the amended motion was MOVED by Emily Vroong and SECONDED by Sarah Sitka.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

**WHEREAS**

1. The Greenest City Action Plan 2020 sets an ambitious target for the City of Vancouver to become the greenest city in the world by 2020;
2. The City of Vancouver has committed to becoming a zero-waste community, as outlined in the Zero Waste 2040 Strategy, through actions that include becoming a “leading city in food waste prevention” and identifying and pursuing “options to improve food rescue and redistribution systems”;
3. 58% of food produced in Canada is wasted, and avoidable food waste is worth \$49 billion;
4. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), if food waste were a country, it would be the 3rd largest CO2 emitter, just after China and the USA, and ending food waste is understood as the single most powerful solution to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis;
5. The United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal (UN SDG) 12.3 is to decrease food waste at the retail and consumer levels by 50% per capita by 2030 and other municipalities, including the City of Toronto, have committed to this target;

6. The City of Vancouver is a C40 member city and that C40 has committed to reducing “food losses and wasting of food at the retail and consumer levels by decreasing losses along production and supply chains, minimizing the production of surplus food, and facilitating safe food donation and by-products for feed production”;
7. Champions 12.3 have identified that food loss and waste “reductions can save money for farmers, companies, and households” a message that is particularly relevant now as Vancouver families and food businesses are feeling the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic;
8. A recent Restaurant Canada Survey found that 800,000 employees in the foodservice industry lost their jobs at the onset of COVID-19, yet food losses represent 7% of sales in the BC foodservice industry, exceeding the value of estimated gross profits for the sector (5% of sales);
9. Dignified access to food is a human right, and is recognized as such in the Vancouver Charter, and yet data indicates that 12% of citizens of British Columbia were food insecure in 2016; and estimates of food insecurity increasing exponentially due to the pandemic.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council recommend that the City of Vancouver commit to 50% food waste reduction per capita by 2030, including both commercial and residential food waste generated within the City of Vancouver;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council recommend that Council direct staff to:
  - i. Review the Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 adopted by the United Nations in relation to the City of Vancouver strategies: new GCAP goals, Zero Waste 2040, the Climate Emergency Response, and the Healthy City Strategy.
  - ii. Review and report back on the possibility of adopting the goal of 50% food waste reduction per capita by 2030, to be in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- C. THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council recommend that the City of Vancouver publicly reports food waste data every year.

**5. Vancouver Park Board Local Food Action Plan (LFAP) update and engagement session**

Tammara Soma (member of LFAP update consulting team) welcomed participants provided overview of the process and introduced the consultant team. Rebecca Till then provided background on the LFAP that was originally passed in 2013. This update will revisit the role of the Park Board in food work and contributing to a just and sustainable food system. For example,

food assets under Park Board jurisdiction were mapped in 2013 under the categories: land, facilities, and capacity building and programs. The map and the definition of 'food asset' need to be updated.

The LFAP has 4 priorities, 8 goals, and 55 actions. These have led to an increase in healthy food options, a 40% increase in procurement of local food, more community gardens, fruit and nut trees, food and medicine gardens.

Key learnings from engagement with the Urban Indigenous Advisory Committee, food practitioners, and the public will guide the work. Other layers such as VanPlay and the Sustenance Festival will be considered.

The meeting participants then broke out into small groups, arranged by theme, to consider the following questions:

- How do you think the park board can support a fair, sustainable, and just food system?
- What priorities have changed since 2013?
- How can the Park Board support food security in response to COVID and future emergencies?

Programs and events are typically run through community centres. Food is decentralized through neighbourhood food programs that are run by centres, based on local demographics, including meal programs for children and youth, and partnerships with food networks and organizations.

After public and stakeholder engagement meetings, the goal is to present to the Board in spring 2021.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Staff and Councillors thanked members who are not continuing in the new year for their service.

MOVED by Andrew Stephens-Rennie

SECONDED by Emily Vroong

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **Next Meeting:**

DATE: TBD  
TIME: TBD  
PLACE: WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 8:44pm

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