



VANCOUVER FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

MINUTES

January 13, 2022

A meeting of the Vancouver Food Policy Council was held on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 6:06pm, by electronic means. The meeting was open to members of the public.

PRESENT:

- Evan Bowness
- Miluska Bravo*
- Leona Brown
- Alice Briggs
- Emily Burkholder
- Sarah Common
- Katherine Cooper
- Clare Cullen
- Jyotika Dangwal
- Sharon Dong
- Ivy Leong
- Ben Liegey
- Joey Liu
- Michelle Reining
- Marc Schutzbank
- Kae Yee Tsai
- Carol White

ABSENT:

- Khalid Jamal
- Taelyr Keeley
- Rasoul Narimani
- Anthony Sullivan

ALSO PRESENT:

- Caitlin Dorward, Social Planner, Social Policy and Projects, Staff Liaison
- Jason Hseih, Social Planner, Social Policy and Projects, Staff Liaison
- Rebecca Till, Environmental Stewardship Coordinator Vancouver Park Board, Staff Liaison
- Caitlyn Harrison, Planner, Vancouver Park Board
- Trustee Estrellita Gonzales, Vancouver School Board
- Councillor Michael Wiebe, City of Vancouver

RECORDER: Vicky Baker

*denotes partial attendance

WELCOME

1. Call to Order and invitation to use chat to introduce yourself

The meeting was called to order. Eleven guests were present.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting is hosted on the stolen lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsilhqot'in Nations, and the Council will be working throughout the term to build commitment to this land, to listen to the leadership of the Host Nations, and to the voices of Urban Indigenous peoples, and to think always about who we are in this work together.

When we acknowledge the land in this way we work to acknowledge the colonial structure which continues to do violence to Indigenous peoples in our city and beyond, disconnecting people from land and food, community and culture.

As Ta7talíya Nahanee, Skwxwú7mesh decolonial facilitator offers: "A territorial acknowledgement is a personal commitment to, and appreciation for, the land you are in relationship with. It is a way to respect the Ancestors who cared for the land that is now caring for you. It can connect you to the medicine of the land."

3. Online meeting reminders

Staff explained that members of the public are muted by default, but can use chat. Council members were reminded that voting must be done verbally and that items in the chat are not recorded in the minutes.

Eleven members of the public attended.

4. Motion of approval of draft meeting minutes for three meetings

MOVED by Marc Schutzbank

SECONDED by Alice Briggs

THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council approve the Minutes from the meeting of October 14, November 8, and November 18 2021, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Katherine Cooper abstained)

5. Liaison Updates

- Councillor Wiebe
 - Year of the Salish Sea proclamation to council in February. City is working with first nations on how to improve health of waters.
 - Zero waste cups and brown paper bags – members are encouraged to send feedback.
- Trustee Gonzalez
 - New superintendent. Education plan be passed at end of Jan.
 - Food committee has met and will deliver vision to Board in June. Marc and Leona are on the committee.
 - Work is done in consultation with the VSB indigenous department. It was noted that one member (of 20) of the committee is indigenous. VSB meets regularly with the host nations, who have input into the education plan.

- Park Board – Rebecca Till and Caitlyn Harrison
 - Staffing – Caitlyn will be taking over from Rebecca as the staff liaison to the VFPC. She will manage the implementation for the LFSAP. Capital funding has been secured for the year. Expressions of Interest for food and culture garden infrastructure are being reviewed. An updated EoI for new food and culture gardens will be launched soon. Work includes internal advising on how local FSAP priorities relate to staff projects and teams.
 - Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation has completed engagement process and is preparing presentation to go to the Board soon. Report can be found here- <https://parkboardmeetings.vancouver.ca/2021/20210308/REPORT-BurrardViewParkProposedVancouverUrbanFoodForest-20210308.pdf>
- Social Policy – Caitlin Dorward and Jason Hsieh
 - Budget – an update has been requested, which CAITLYN will share by email. Caitlin and Jason are in the two funded staff positions, and have with limited temporary support for work on farmers market. The work plan is not confirmed; however staff are unable to work on the urban farming policy in 2022, and hope to in 2023. Staff are now working with procurement team, meal programs, park board, and events & meetings team to respond to the motion around increasing plant-based procurement by 20%. There are constraints around food equity, many reasons why some foods may be chosen over others. Contact Caitlin if interested in connecting.
 - Support for VFPC – the Clerk’s office will begin providing more support for admin tasks, including meeting scheduling, note-taking, and sending motions, to align with how other advisory committees are supported. The number of official meetings is reduced to six per year; the balance of meetings may be informal. Caitlyn will remain staff provide related guidance.
 - Vancouver and Broadway plan – staff met with VFPC in Dec, then worked with internally to find areas where some policies can be tweaked to refer to food systems, adding some specific food policies. Chapters are being drafted and reviewed, then food policy staff will review before public engagement (to ensure requested changes are included). Broadway plan is being written. Feedback was positive, no major gaps were identified, a few tweaks are being made.
 - Grants – staff are planning an open call for sustainable food systems grants, to fund community-based projects related to food access, work of neighbourhood food networks. JASON to share info when launched; support and info sessions will be provided.

6. Working Group Updates

- Brief update on progress towards workplan objectives, and identify if able to organize an upcoming meeting. Members of the public were reminded they can join working groups.
 - Food Waste – met with engineering to see what data is being collected. Only data for single-family residence, there is a gap in data collection for businesses. In 2022, the first food waste data should be publicly available. Solid waste bylaws are challenging as the City does not have capacity to enforce. Circular food innovation lab will be launched and facilitated by students, and linked to business. [Report](#) recommends that the City does a volunteer agreement or regulation. Met with the climate emergency action plan to understand why food is not included. Waste is 4% of CO₂ emissions, but this is only direct emissions, and not related to consumption or transportation. [Over 20% of consumption-based emissions come from food](#). Should be part of the next update in Nov 2022. It was recommended the group reach out to Vancouver Plan staff.

- Building Food Equity – planned educational/guest component to host Kanatiiio Gabriel at this meeting.
- Children and Youth – focussed on vision for VSB. Plan to help host event in March to speak around food policy, and excitement about a universal school meal program.
- Climate Adaptation- workplan included a request for a proclamation for Soil day, an event with Seth Klien, and hosting an all candidates meeting around food for the municipal election. Proclamation was successful, and event with Seth (founder of CCPA) is being planned. The date is not set, they looking for a venue, and hope to expand to a panel.
- Meeting Schedule: each WG has the opportunity to host a meeting's educational component
 - February 24 - CSA models & Systems Change
 - March 31 - Children and Youth WG
 - April 28 - Food Waste WG
 - May 26 – OPEN
 - June 30 – OPEN
 - July 28 – OPEN
 - September 29 - OPEN/Last meeting

7. Admin Team updates

No updates.

8. Bread basket (outstanding items)

None.

9. Kanatiiio Gabriel presentation on Indigenous Food Sovereignty

Sarah shared the story of how they met, working with honeybees at the Astoria urban farm.

Kanatiiio is Kanienkehaka (Mohawk), and has been here since 2005. He began with the words that come before all words, to lead an exercise in the tradition of giving thanks and expressing gratitude.

Kanatiiio explained his path to this work. His work on food sovereignty started in 1990 at Oka crisis. During the standoff, the ability to eat was subject to police and army. Once barricades left, were shown how dependant they were on the outside. He then worked on Royal Commission on aboriginal peoples, and when he toured the DTES and recognized his privilege. He noted the problem is not fixed, and has gotten worse. He now works in the Astoria garden, a space and opportunity to engage.

Discussion

- To Kanatiiio, 'working alongside' means to honour people's unique gifts, with the right support. In 1990, he began on his own then got support from allies. He was careful to manage things to stick to the original intention. He advises to take the time needed to face difficult conversations and find a solution that allows people to continue. Reiterate understanding, and if an idea is contentious, it can be put in the 'parking lot'. It is important to be open and able to speak honestly, and able to hear, being aware of emotional baggage. This develops trust and respect as a foundation.
- The power of the space at Astoria was recognized. Spaces built together bring connections, like bees working together.

- Many decisions at the City are made without reflection to past and into the future. What would this process look like ideally? The [Executive Summary](#) is a synopsis of his vision, and an invitation to deeper conversation. It allows a look back to see if it has been done right. Recognition of traditional knowledge is growing. A new model is needed.
- Kanatiiio was asked to describe the food hub vision. He described the four circles, representing 1) the indigenous worldview – a world in balance; 2) a dish with one spoon x 3 – raw ingredients to hot meals for DTES, raw ingredients to SROs for hot meals for tenants, annual surplus in crops anticipated; 3) retail options, serving food produced in DTES and permaculture – do not take more than you need, no waste, respect creation; and 4) rematriation – what we give back to mother earth and creation, clean earth, water, air.
- Process of right relations - much energy is spent on outcomes and ‘solving the problem’. What does this look like through a framework of ‘right relations’? Kanatiiio explained the timing was right for his involvement, and had an opportunity to share teachings. If ideas resonate, there is potential to work together.
- The importance was recognized of initiatives that get back to traditional knowledge, and have a positive effect on community.

The draft motion was presented. It was decided it will be tabled at a future meeting.

10. Adjournment (Motion to Adjourn)

Moved by
Seconded by

Motion to Adjourn.

Carried unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 8:34pm.

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