



VANCOUVER FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

MINUTES

April 28, 2022

A meeting of the Vancouver Food Policy Council was held on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 6:13 pm, via electronic means

PRESENT: Sarah Common (Meeting Chair)
Miluska Bravo*
Leona Brown
Emily Burkholder
Clare Cullen
Sharon Dong*
Ben Liegey
Joey Liu
Michelle Reining
Marc Schutzbank
Anthony Sullivan
Carol White

ABSENT: Evan Bowness
Katherine Cooper
Jyotika Dangwal
Ivy Leong
Maggie Mills
Aditi Rudra
Kae Yee Tsai

ALSO PRESENT: Caitlin Dorward, Staff Liaison, Social Policy
Vicky Baker, Recorder

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Brian Fukushima, Committee Clerk

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Meeting Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh People, that we are working to slow down and listen deeply to their leadership, and that of urban Indigenous teachers in being in relation with the land, water, food and community; that we bring who we each are into these meetings, as an important part of our acknowledgement; we notice the seasons of rain and blossom and new seeds growing from what we planted. The Meeting chair offered space for VFPC members to bring their voices into this acknowledgement and commitment to the land.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Sarah Common
SECONDED by Marc Schutzbank

THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Commission approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, February 24, 2022, as circulated.

CARRIED
(Clare Cullen abstained, Sharon Dong absent for the vote)

1. Liaison Updates

Caitlin Dorward provided updates on the following and responded to questions and comments:

- Upcoming grant deadlines
- Urban agriculture infrastructure funding application
- Capital plan work
- Vancouver plan work
- Plant-based procurement motion
- National Volunteer Week 2022

2. Allocating Funding to Food Policy Priorities in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan

MOVED by Sarah Common
SECONDED by Clare Cullen

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver set out in its 2013 Vancouver Food Strategy clear priorities to increase access to affordable, nutritious, culturally appropriate food; addressing systemic barriers to exclusion that result in vulnerability; and empowering residents to lead this work. And, the 2017 Food Strategy update re-affirms the importance of accessibility, and the challenges faced due to development and precarious access to land.
2. Access to food, nature and culture are social determinants of health, increasing well being and safety in our communities.
3. Our consultation work as VFPC is to put forward motions towards sustainable food systems that honour this land, and to offer feedback on plans – to bring the voices and concerns of our communities to this table, and to Council. In order to directly impact the communities we serve, however, our recommendations and any policy they may influence require allocations of funding to be implemented in a timely and meaningful manner.
4. We have seen how food connects people – especially throughout this pandemic – and in knowledge from time immemorial gifted by Indigenous peoples of these lands across Turtle Island. Including in discussions at VFPC alongside:

- a. Kanatitio Gabriel, Jan 2022 re: Indigenous Food Sovereignty, Working alongside the Land in Good Relations
 - b. Sonia Strobel, Feb 2022 re: Sustainable Fisheries and Returning to “Eating with the Ecosystem”
 - c. Lorraine Holubowich and Amy Weeks from the Strathcona Food Hub, Feb 2022 re: School Food Programs being essential through the COVID pandemic.
 - d. Dawn Morrison, Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty (WGIFS), March 2022 re: Call to Action for support at Strathcona Park Fieldhouse and resisting ongoing Colonial Violence
5. The proposed Capital Plan for the City of Vancouver 2023-2026, as presented to City Council March 30th, 2022 (presentation [here](#)) identifies several unfunded elements related to food systems, equity, and Indigenous Reconciliation, including:
- a. A \$2 million gap for “Urban Agriculture and Food Security” (impacting funding allocations to a South Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Centre, greenhouse infrastructure, and food growing sites); and,
 - b. An \$8.7 million gap for “Equity & Indigenous Projects” (impacting funding allocations to NPO Indigenous projects such as an Indigenous Food Hub, a kitchen renovation, and other cultural community and equity projects); and,
 - c. A \$1.8 million gap for “Capital Maintenance”, impacting funding allocations to the City-owned social facilities and operations providing critical low-cost food services.
6. These unfunded elements total \$12.5 million or .37% of the \$3.4 billion total budget.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Vancouver Food Policy Council calls on the City of Vancouver to:

1. Ensure the 2023 Capital Plan allocates the required funding, to the following areas:
 - a. At \$2 million, “Urban Agriculture and Food Security” so that we may continue to support the leadership, sustainability, and deepening of our urban food systems into connection with the land, accessibility for all.
 - b. At \$8.7 million, “Equity & Indigenous Projects” so we may address the issues and recommendations brought forward such as MMIW.
 - c. At \$1.8 million, "Capital Maintenance" so that key locations – where people facing food insecurity due to systemic barriers access food – may make needed repairs.
2. Ensure that the critical needs of our city’s infrastructure are paid for by exploring increased revenue goals: direct finance to develop additional strategies for revenue allocation and generation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Food Policy Priorities and PBS Funding in the Draft Broadway Plan

MOVED by Sarah Common

SECONDED by Marc Schutzbank

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver set out in its 2013 Vancouver Food Strategy clear priorities to increase access to affordable, nutritious, culturally appropriate food; addressing systemic barriers to exclusion that result in vulnerability; and empowering residents to lead this work. And, the 2017 Food Strategy update re-affirms the importance of accessibility, and the challenges faced due to development and precarious access to land.
2. Access to food, nature and culture are social determinants of health, increasing well being and safety in our communities.
3. The Public Benefits Strategy (PBS) in the DRAFT Broadway Plan assigns no funding to food policy, and yet states: *“Access to food is a basic human right and, for many of us, a defining element of our day to day lives. But food is also so much more; it is part of a system that includes people, infrastructure and processes that are required for production, manufacturing, distribution, sales, and waste management in community and in business contexts. This system plays a powerful role in connecting people to each other, to the land and water, and to their cultures, and can be leveraged by cities to build resilience, support human and economic health outcomes, and reduce environmental impacts.”*
4. Food is a central piece in Indigenous community care, land use, relations. If we are to truly be a City of Reconciliation then we must bring food into our priorities when we think about community land use.
5. The lack of funding in the PBS (page 52) will limit the ability to implement food policies included in the Community Well Being chapter (page 14). The current list of public benefits does not include any food-related items.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Vancouver Food Policy Council calls on the City of Vancouver to:

1. Ensure that food is recognised as a Public Benefit in the Broadway Plan.
 - a. Food assets can include: urban agriculture, farmers markets, community gardens, food growing space, cultural food assets, Community Centre kitchens
2. Assign funding to food policy within the PBS of the Broadway Plan.

3. Designate resources to enable land use allocations and zoning to support long term access to and sustainability of food and land focused spaces in this Broadway Plan.
4. Recognize Indigenous food systems as a critical public benefit to address reconciliation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Miluska Bravo absent for the vote)

4. Discussion

Joey Liu presented on the work of the South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, a neighbourhood-based food hub.

The Council discussed topics for upcoming meetings:

- May 26 -Food Waste WG, reflections from Climate Adaptation WG
- June 30 - Food Charter Update, Food Strategy Update
- July 28 - Plans and Actions, the role of VFPC in holding space for change, VFPC's legacy, Stop The Spray discussion and Defund discussion
- September 29 - Closing Circle, Reflections, Last meeting

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Sarah Common
SECONDED by Marc Schutzbank

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Miluska Bravo absent from the vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, June 23, 2022
TIME: 6:00 pm
PLACE: WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 8:30 pm.

* * * * *