



VANCOUVER FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

MINUTES

September 29, 2022

A meeting of the Vancouver Food Policy Council was held on Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 6:05 pm, via electronic means

PRESENT: Sarah Common (Meeting Chair)
Miluska Bravo
Emily Burkholder
Katherine Cooper
Clare Cullen
Ben Liegey
Ivy Leong
Joey Liu
Michelle Reining
Aditi Rudra
Marc Schutzbank
Kae Yee Tsai

ABSENT: Leona Brown
Sharon Dong (Leave of Absence)
Maggie Mills
Anthony Sullivan

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Michael Wiebe, Council Liaison
Trustee Estrellita Gonzales, Vancouver School Board
Liaison
Caitlin Dorward, Social Planner, Social Policy and
Projects, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Brian Fukushima, Committee Clerk

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the stolen homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh People. The Chair welcomed guests bringing their various perspectives and languages to the group.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Sarah Common
SECONDED by Michelle Reining

THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Commission approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, July 28, 2022, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Liaison Updates

Trustee Gonzalez provided updates on the following and responded to questions and comments:

- Schools reopened with higher than normal enrolment; and
- Election and budget.

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

- Rupert Renfrew plan;
- Rezoning policy for sustainable large developments; and
- Work plan.

Councillor Wiebe provided updates on the following and responded to questions and comments:

- Election; and
- Budget and food systems.

2. Annual Report

MOVED by Sarah Common

SECONDED by Marc Schutzbank

THAT the annual report be approved in principle.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Motion to Support Agricultural Land

MOVED by Marc Schutzbank

SECONDED by Joey Liu

WHEREAS

1. Productive agricultural land is critical to ensuring a local, secure food system for our city;
2. COVID food security challenges have highlighted the fragility of our border-crossing food supply chains;
3. Ensuring that Vancouver has a secure food supply is of critical importance to the City of Vancouver;
4. The Federal Government owns 220 acres of land on 192nd street in Campbell Heights, Surrey BC (the "Campbell Heights Lands") which are not in the Provincial

Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), and are designated as "mixed employment" in the Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy (RGS);

5. The Campbell Heights Lands are a critical piece of the region's food system and reduce reliance on food imports as they have been leased as farmland for over 100 years and are some of the most agriculturally productive in the region due to their sandy soil upon a level hill-top. These Lands never flood, can be planted or harvested on nearly any day of the year and have a special micro-climate suited for early crop production. An estimated 30-50 million servings of potatoes, carrots, cabbage, parsnips and squash are produced from the land annually, enough to put a vegetable serving on every Metro Vancouver resident's dinner plate for 2-3 weeks;
6. The Federal Government plans to sell the Campbell Heights Lands, which could enable them to be redeveloped to non-farm uses by new owners because they are not protected for agriculture by the ALR or the RGS;
7. In the face of climate change, agricultural land is at increasing risk due to flooding, fire, and other natural disasters, and;
8. Over 68,000 people have signed a petition to protect this farmland as of 9/12/2022¹;
9. The Metro Vancouver Agricultural Advisory Board have:
 - a) Indicated "There is sincere regret that such a valuable piece of land could be lost to agriculture";
 - b) Requested that Metro Vancouver advocate to senior levels of government to protect the lands for agricultural use;
 - c) Suggested a swap be discussed for a parcel of land that would not result in an abrupt halt in food production";²
10. The City of Vancouver has a seat at the Metro Vancouver Regional Planning Council and can advocate for increased protection of this farmland;
11. The City of Surrey supports maintaining this land as agricultural in nature.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends that the City of Vancouver advocate for amendments to the Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy to designate the Campbell Heights Lands as Agricultural;
- B. The Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends that the City of Vancouver advocate to the City of Surrey and the Province of British Columbia to include the

¹ <https://www.change.org/p/protect-early-farmland-in-bc>

² www.metrovancouver.org/boards/RegionalPlanning/RPL_2022-Sept-8_AGE.pdf

Campbell Heights Lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve, or take other actions to ensure their agricultural nature is preserved;

- C. The Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends the City of Vancouver advocate to the federal government to ensure that any disbursement of the Campbell Heights Lands ensures that their agricultural nature is preserved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Food Waste Reporting (motion)

MOVED by Ben Liegey

SECONDED by Marc Schutzbank

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 become a zero waste community, as outlined in the Zero Waste 2040 Strategy³ recommending to:
 - a) Support industry education strategies that increase waste diversion and circular practices, such as workshops, incentives, waste audits, tracking systems to monitor progress (1.2);
 - b) Establish clear measurement tools to audit and track waste reduction at city, business and resident level and enforce violations (5.7);
 - c) Review and update policies on zero waste infrastructure, facilities, technology and transportation systems, as well as measurement, tracking and benchmarking tools (5.8);
3. 58% of food produced in Canada is wasted, and avoidable food waste is worth \$49 billion⁴;
4. 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 2030⁵;
5. 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,⁶ and ending food waste is understood as the single most powerful solution to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis⁷;

³ <https://council.vancouver.ca/20180516/documents/pspc2a.pdf>

⁴ <https://secondharvest.ca/research/the-avoidable-crisis-of-food-waste/>

⁵ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal12>

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/3/bb144e/bb144e.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.drawdown.org/solutions/table-of-solutions>

6. The City of Vancouver's climate impact, taking into account greenhouse gas emissions linked to the consumption required by Vancouverites, is double those associated with Vancouver's direct carbon footprint, over 20% of consumption-based emissions come from food,⁸ and food is not part of the Climate Emergency Action Plan's 6 "big moves"⁹;
7. The City of Vancouver will publicly report annual food waste generated for the first time in 2023;
8. Vancouver businesses contract private haulers and the City doesn't have access to waste data;
9. Vancouver's industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sectors generate the largest share of food waste in the City of Vancouver;
10. The following food waste reporting and reduction measures are being implemented in municipalities, regions, and states around the world:
 - a) Every New York City agency operated by the city needs to report annual food waste prevention strategies;
 - b) Many California jurisdictions contract the hauling service providers, giving them the ability to include regular data reporting as a condition in the agreement;
 - c) In some jurisdictions in East Asia, businesses have to submit their industrial waste management plans and reduction strategies to the environmental authority, and waste measurement and reporting are mandatory;
 - d) In Singapore, restaurants are supported in their food waste reduction efforts by up to 7,000 CAD, the Singapore National Environment Agency can require the mandatory reporting of waste data and submission of waste reduction plans by any owner, occupier, or lessee of a workplace, and data needs to be reported on a monthly basis;
 - e) In Europe, all EU Member States were required to measure their food waste in 2020 and report data back by June 2022, and as part of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy, legally binding targets to reduce food waste will be introduced across the EU by the end 2023;
 - f) In the UK, the Government may introduce regulations¹⁰ to make public reporting of food waste volumes mandatory for businesses of a certain size. Businesses will be given at least a year after regulations are passed before they are required to report. Businesses will likely report food waste in 2024, for food waste measured in the 2023/2024 financial year;

⁸ <https://council.vancouver.ca/20201103/documents/p1.pdf>

⁹ <https://council.vancouver.ca/20201103/documents/p1presentation.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.euromeatnews.com/Article-UK-prepares-a-mandatory-report-of-food-waste/4871>

- g) Alameda County in California has developed programs that provide medium and large-scale food service operators with food waste tracking software, to measure and prevent pre-consumer waste. Participants receive free licenses of LeanPath¹¹ software for one year, as well as staff training and support from StopWaste¹². This represents a value in the range of \$4,500 to \$10,000 USD depending on which version of LeanPath is selected and how much technical assistance is provided;
- h) King County in California organized a challenge and awarded between \$24,000 and \$100,000 USD to seven food waste prevention programs between 2016 and 2018, and all projects were required to track quarterly the quantity of food waste prevented or diverted;
- i) In Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, a centralized industrial waste reporting system is already in place;
- j) In Qatar, a national food waste baseline is being developed¹³;

11. The Food Loss and Waste Standard is the gold standard waste reporting protocol¹⁴;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends that the City of Vancouver implement policy or regulations to require private waste haulers to track and publicly report on the quantity of food waste that they pickup on a monthly basis;
- B. The Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends that the City of Vancouver share publicly an estimation of the total food waste generated in Vancouver and of the annual savings potential in dollars, CO2, water, and land (what would be saved if this waste were eliminated);
- C. The Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends that the City of Vancouver set a food waste reduction target for food waste generated, to go beyond targets for food waste diversion;
- D. The Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends that the City of Vancouver amend the Climate Emergency Action Plan to add food waste policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Food Justice Town Hall report back

Joey Liu reported on the recent Food Justice Town Hall event.

6. Invitation to continue meeting monthly, informally

¹¹ <https://www.leanpath.com/>

¹² <https://www.stopwaste.org/>

¹³ <https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/05/04/2022/qatar-develops-national-food-waste-baseline>

¹⁴ <https://flwprotocol.org/>

Committee members discussed meeting informally after the term ends.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Sarah Common
SECONDED by Marc Schutzbank

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting: TBD

The Committee adjourned at 8:36 pm.

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