



Vancouver Food Policy Council

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11

MEMORANDUM

Sept 29, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Tina Penney, Director, Legislative Operations
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies

FROM: Vancouver Food Policy Council

SUBJECT: Vancouver Food Policy Council Report of Activities, 2021–2022

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Vancouver Food Policy Council for the period of May 18, 2021 to November 6, 2022.

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Food Policy Council was established by Council to advise Council and staff on the *Vancouver Food Strategy* as it is developed, implemented, and updated, and support groups developing projects to enhance the food system.

DISCUSSION

1. Significant Activities

DATE	MOTIONS and ACTIONS	GUEST SPEAKERS, PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS
November 8, 2021	MOTION: Support for the Vancouver Parks Board Local Food System Action Plan	Presentation: Overview of Draft Local Food System Action Plan
November 18, 2021	MOTION: Vancouver Soil Day proclamation request. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Outcome: Mayor	

	<p>Stewart declared December 5th, 2021 as “Vancouver Soil Day”.</p> <p>MOTION: Food Policy and Related Gaps in the City of Vancouver 2022 Operating Budget</p>	
January 13, 2022		Guest Speaker: Kanatii Gabriel “Think Tank” conversational presentation on Indigenous Food Sovereignty
February 24, 2022	<p>MOTION: Building Inclusive Committee Structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome: Chair connected with other advisory chairs to amplify calls to action, and the City Clerk’s Office responded with a full point by point on our motion. <p>MOTION: Indigenous Food Sovereignty Motion</p> <p>ACTION: Letter from Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty supported through VFPC Co-Chair attending meetings and forwarding concerns to Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, City Council and All Advisory Body Chairs</p>	<p>Guest Speaker: Sonia Strobel - Community Supported Agriculture, Skipper Otto;</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Lorraine Holubowich and Amy Weeks (Strathcona Food Hub);</p> <p>Poem: gifted to long time Minute-Taker, Vicky</p>
March 31, 2022	ACTION: Mayor Stewart proclaimed March 10th, 2022 as “Great Big Crunch for Healthy School Food Day”.	Guest Speakers: Children and Youth Working Group Presents: Jennifer Gaddis and Braden Etzerza: Policy and practice for creating universal school meal programs. Reaffirm previous motions supporting a universal school meal program.

<p>April 24, 2022</p>	<p>MOTION: Allocating Capital Budget Funding to Food Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outcome: Council approved and amendment the Capital Plan which assigned capital funding to the South Vancouver Food Hub and the DTES Indigenous Food Sovereignty Coop. <p>MOTION: Food Policy Priorities and PBS Funding in the Broadway Plan</p>	<p>Guest Speaker: Joey Liu, Food Security Manager at South Van Neighbourhood House: South Vancouver & food insecurity.</p>
<p>May 26, 2022</p>		<p>Guest Speaker: Food Waste Working Group presentation with reflections from Working Group on Climate Adaptation; and Grocery report from member Anthony.</p>
<p>July 28, 2022</p>	<p>MOTION: Right to Food: Stop the Spray</p> <p>MOTION: Right to Food: Access to Land</p>	
<p>September 29, 2022</p>	<p>MOTION: Annual Report</p> <p>MOTION: Agricultural Land in Metro Vancouver</p> <p>MOTION: Food Waste Reporting</p>	

WORKING GROUP	Motions, Events, Guests	Reflections
<p>1. Children and Youth</p>	<p>1. Engaged a well attended event with internationally renowned experts and the Coalition for Healthy School Food,</p>	<p>School food is an animating topic that has a lot of potential to do good</p>

	<p>with our guests: Dr. Jennifer Gaddis, Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and author of <i>The Labor of Lunch: Why We Need Real Food and Real Jobs in American Public Schools</i>, and Braden Etzerza, Indigenous Lead of the BC Coalition for School Food</p> <p>2. Created and supported the development of a Vancouver School Board Vision for universal school meal program. This is a leading document and process for schools to emulate. https://www.vsb.bc.ca/District/Board-of-Education/food-framework/Pages/Default.aspx</p>	<p>in our communities. Finding the appropriate engagement by the City is a critical part of funding, advocating, and supporting school food.</p> <p>There is substantial opportunity for the City to work with the School District to best support shared policy goals. However, this is dependent upon building strong relationships between staff in both organizations, which is critical.</p>
<p>2. Climate Adaptation</p>	<p>April 21, 7:00-8:30 pm Partnering with the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House and the Mount Pleasant Food Network, we celebrated Earth Day in person with a panel conversation titled “Community Talks: Addressing Food Policy in a Climate Crisis”. We invited author and activist Seth Klein to speak to the community about his latest book <i>A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency</i>. Following his talk, we invited panelists to speak to the climate effects on our food system in the Lower Mainland, and to develop solutions together. After seeing the impacts of climate change in our backyards last year, we felt it was time to understand how we need to adapt and what needs to change within our food system.</p> <p>Our MC for the evening was Dr. Yildiz Atasoy, a Professor of Sociology at Simon Fraser University and an Associate Faculty Member of the School for International studies and Department of Geography.</p> <p>In addition to Seth Klein, panelists included:</p>	<p>Following the event, our working group was motivated to bring a motion to the VFPC calling on the City to establish an emergency food plan. Priorities included supporting farmers that feed our city, adapting for resiliency and taking action on the climate crisis with bold measures. Due to the complexity of this issue and the limited capacity of the volunteer members, this motion has been drafted in consultation with City staff, but is on hold for now. There are hopes for this motion draft to be picked up in the new VFPC term.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eleanor Boyle, a Vancouver-based educator and activist for food that is sustainable, healthy, and just. 2. Jordan Bultitude (they/them), the Food Justice & Poverty Reduction Analyst at Gordon Neighbourhood House and a volunteer Donations Coordinator with the Vancouver Community Fridge Project. 3. Krystine McInnes, a pioneering entrepreneur, executive and Thought Leader in Sustainable Business, Sustainable Development and Local Food Systems. 4. Niki Sharma, a provincial politician and lawyer, who was elected to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia in the 2020 BC general election. <p>Additional highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had 76 people register, with about 30 attending in person • We struggled to find a space to accommodate our needs without a budget • Our conversation was very tight in time, and we didn't get to all of the conversation points we wanted to <p>Discussion topics included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers/challenges involving climate change and our food system • The need for an emergency food plan in our City • What can good policy look like to support our food system 	
<p>3. Food Waste</p>	<p>MOTION: Food Waste Reporting Motion (DRAFT)</p> <p>On May 26th, Food Waste Working Group members hosted a virtual community talk: "How to Solve Our Food Waste Problem."</p>	<p>External members joined the Food Waste Working Group to support with organizing the community talk on food waste, developing the database</p>

	<p>Topics covered during Talk:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current landscape of food waste in Canada 2. Municipal policy options we can implement 3. Groups using innovative tech to end food waste 4. The city’s Circular Food Innovation Lab <p>Guest speakers included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jamie-Lynne Varney, author of A “Right to Food” Framework for a Just Circular Economy of Food 2. Juan Martinez, author of Policies, Incentives, and Measurement Protocols for Food Waste Reporting by Businesses 3. Jake-Zeljko Pavlovic, VP of Procurement and Merchandising, Freshlocal Solutions Inc. (SPUD.ca) 4. Erin Nichols, City of Vancouver Senior Project Manager – Zero Waste 5. Danielle Todd, Founder and Director of Make Food Not Waste (video presentation) <p>Four meetings with Erin Nichols (City of Vancouver Senior Manager Zero Waste) to discuss:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City updates with respect to food waste 2. Food waste measurement and reporting 3. Possible changes to City business license application process (inclusion of question about surplus food donation) 4. Re-visiting business compliance program in place from 2017-2019. <p>Mapping of food waste solutions providers in Vancouver (database created)</p> <p>Recommendations for the City of Vancouver’s Climate Emergency Action Plan (inclusion of food waste) developed and shared with Brad Badelt (City of Vancouver - Assistant Director of Sustainability)</p>	<p>as well as meetings with City of Vancouver staff. This brought greater energy and capacity to the small, 2-member Food Waste Working Group.</p> <p>Overall, meetings with relevant City staff were informative for members and presented opportunities to share policy ideas/recommendations.</p>
<p>4. Food Justice for All</p>	<p>MOTION: Indigenous Food Sovereignty</p>	<p>Members of our group ended up taking strong</p>

	<p>MOTION: Right to Food: Stop the Spray</p> <p>MOTION: Right to Food: Access to Land</p>	<p>leadership roles in other working groups and ad hoc working groups, such as Admin, Children and Youth, and the Food Justice Town Hall.</p> <p>As a working group we didn't hold together, as most of us got involved in other emergent work with VFPC.</p> <p>In reflection, we would recommend more emergent based working groups in future terms, which we think would also help in leaving room for changing capacity of members.</p>
<p>5. Admin Team (Collective of Co-Chairs)/ Committee-Wide Action</p>	<p>MOTION: Building Inclusive Committee Structures</p> <p>MOTION: Allocating Capital Budget Funding to Food Policy</p> <p>MOTION: Broadway Plan</p> <p>ACTIONS: Letter from Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty supported through VFPC Co-Chair attending meetings and forwarding concerns to Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, City Council and All Advisory Body Chairs</p> <p>RESOURCES DEVELOPED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome package • Gifting protocol 	<p>Three co-chairs formed the core administration team and met between meetings to plan agendas, coordinate with working groups, send out Mailchimp invites to meetings, and collaborate on motions.</p> <p>Supported by our City Staff Liaison this was an effective structure and we'd recommend continuing!</p> <p>All motions were documented in an archive that has been continued between terms.</p> <p>Co-chairs shared responsibilities for chairing meetings, taking turns as chair depending on capacity, and passing to each other for different components of the</p>

		meetings.
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2. Future Directions

Recommendations to future VFPCs:

- Review and consider a Food Charter Update for City of Vancouver;
- Practice with moving meetings away from Robert’s Rules to consensus basis as a way to reduce barriers to accessibility of committee;
- Continue building protocol around how VFPC practices welcoming, inclusion, relationship and continuity/succession;
- Continue to build support for a universal school meal program with School Board liaisons;
- Consider basing working groups on emergent issues and member interest and capacity;
- Revisit this report in early meetings of next term of VFPC!
- Prioritizing understanding of how City budgets work and influence food systems in the city;
- Explore how urban Indigenous, and underrepresented people are included and centered in the VFPC;
- Offer mentorship working group on writing motions and speaking in Council/Parks meetings and how to continue bringing motion forward after VFPC.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing information is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.

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