

Vancouver Food Policy Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 15, 2015
6:00-8:30pm
Town Hall Room, City Hall



Chairs: Zsuzsi Fodor and Tara Moreau

Council Members: Veronik Campbell, Anna Cavouras, Andrew Christie, Larry Copeland, Rebecca Cuttler, Caitlin Dorward, Antonietta Gesualdi, Dirk Gibbs, Chashma Heinze, Kimberly Hodgson, Will Jung, Gabrielle Kissinger, Ilana Labow, Emme Lee, Pat McCarthy, David Speight

Liaisons: Adriane Carr (City Council), Heather Deal (City Council), Theresa Duynstee (MetroVan), Corinne Eisler (VCH), James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Orlando Schmidt (MoAg), Michael Wiebe (Park Board)

Regrets: Stephanie Lim, Janet Fraser (VSB), Colin Stansfield

Absent: Nicholas Scapillati

Agenda Items:

1. Motion to Accept Agenda and Previous Minutes (November 2014 Minutes)

Moved by Ilana, seconded by Will, motion carried. Nineteen guests were present.

2. Introductions - Meet the new Council

Often meetings begin with an opening round. Members were asked to answer the following: Why are you here and what are you hoping to accomplish?

Tara - works at the UBC Botanical Garden and is on the Board at SPEC. She is interested in and motivated to advance food policy and address local sustainability and food justice issues.

Zsuzsi - is a food systems planner. She is interested in many pieces of food system. Her intention is to refocus how the food policy council engages with policy and what interventions could be, while also representing members' communities.

Michael - is a Park Board commissioner. He has worked with the Business Improvement Association in Mount Pleasant and consulted with other BIAs. He introduced a motion at the Park Board to ban water bottles, and his interests are closely tied to food.

Dirk - is with Net Zero Waste. They do curbside collection in Abbotsford and make certified compost. He has background in agriculture in Saskatchewan. He is currently working on heat capture (growing all year with compost heat) and hopes to contribute to discussions on waste management, especially organics.

Chashma - has a food processing business making Vege Pate. She conducts community development in food policy in south Vancouver, and has a background as a chef. She hopes to contribute to issues surrounding regulations for small food processors.

Will - founded Bocoeco Partners, which uses bacteria to control odors, flies, and rodents. He has a background in horticulture, and is looking to help change policy around waste and organics in residential areas.

Rebecca - has a passion for growing food and blogs at abundancecity.net. She teaches at Hollyhock, works for Joel Soloman on wide range of projects, and is also on the Board at EYA. She is interested in contributing to policy, and exploring how we can continue to preserve food growing spaces in the face of density.

David - is the Executive Chef in Vancouver at UBC. He worked with Metro Van on the food scraps ban and has 20 years of experience in the restaurant sector. He also works with public schools to increase food literacy.

Anna - has a background in social work, social justice and food. She was at DTES Neighbourhood House but is on maternity leave. She is interested in how City policy affects non-profits. She worked on the impact of the food waste ban, and is interested in how the FPC can work with the sanctuary city movement, and on issues of access.

Larry - has a public health background, and has been involved at all government levels about food policy, with respect to standardizing food safety. He worked with the FAO at the UN on food safety system assessments in various countries, and hopes to contribute his expertise to council.

Kim - founded Cultivating Healthy Places. She is an urban planner and public health professional who works with local governments in the US and Canada to improve the food system and social equity policies. She would like to see the FPC provide guidance to the City as policies are being made (not at the end). She would also like to ensure that all populations are represented. She would like to plan a food tour of amenities for elected officials in July.

Caitlin - volunteered with FPC earlier on the Food Secure Vancouver project, and has worked at the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems as a researcher. She completed her MA at the Faculty of Land & Food at UBC. She hopes to contribute a regional perspective as Vancouver is supported by its surrounding agricultural lands.

Ilana - is the Co-Executive Director of Fresh Roots, who (with the VSB) builds Market Gardens where food is sold and distributed to the neighbourhood. Fresh Roots also runs programs for teachers and students. Ilana is driven by social justice and food, access to healthy nutritious food, and influencing good food choices for youth, as it is linked to academic achievement. She would like to continue the work on procurement, working with government bodies to ensure all voices are heard.

Veronik - works at the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at the UBC Farm. She looks at the three pillars of sustainability in the food system, and is eager for a fuller understanding of the objectives of the FPC.

Antoinetta - has a background in food, from fine dining to youth at risk. She wants to share her passion to help vulnerable populations access nutritious food.

Orlando - works at the Ministry of Agriculture. His family removed their back lawn and converted it to a small farm (Nicola Farms). He grew up on a farm, and works in government, and now has made the connection between them. The lower mainland has an amazing capacity to grow food - \$2B in food products/ year. In a global context, we have an opportunity to grow more (fresh vegetables). He would like to encourage the sustainable growth of the food sector.

Gabrielle - is a consultant on global food systems and impact on resources, and is keen to ask those questions on a local scale. How can we sustain our resources in the face of change (climate, markets)? What is in the scope of our mandate? She is also interested in the City's progressive approach where the FPC can have ripple effects.

James - is the City of Vancouver liaison, where food policy is 'based'. His interest is as an enabler to take issues and wishes to the appropriate departments, and also to seek advice of the FPC on policy. He noted that food is integrated amongst many departments.

Theresa - is the liaison from Metro Van in land use planning and policy analysis. Her background is in soil science and horticulture. She is here to learn and strengthen the connection between the region and the City on relevant topics.

Emme - studied food systems at UBC, and worked at Metro Van on food donations. She is currently doing her MA in Urban Planning now, exploring what food system planning means for people and local governments. How do natural systems fit into city life (with food being a sub-set of a natural system)? She noted that one can explore many aspects of society through a food lens.

Corrine - is a dietician and nutritionist. She works at VCH as the Coordinator of the Healthy Eating Program (chronic disease prevention). She would like to be aware of diversity at table, and work together on policy recommendations to move food policy forward in the Valley and the province.

Andrew - works at Gordon Neighbourhood House. As a food advocate he works on issues of equal access from a right to food perspective.

Adriane - is a City Councillor liaison. She requested an appointment to the FPC as she loves food and believes the challenge of our time is climate change and water security and the impacts on food. She would like to help ensure that Council policies are well-informed. She has put motions to Council for long term security for gardens.

Heather - is a City Councillor liaison. Her background is as a biologist, and has seen the high functioning of the FPC, and noted that the City is a better place because of it.

Pat - owns A Bread Affair and enjoys the meetings and is inspired by the commitment of those at the table. He supports local agriculture, and is now using a local heritage variety of wheat from Agassiz.

3. Introduction to the VFPC

- History (see presentation [online](#))

Tara gave an overview of how the Food Policy Council was formed. Beginning with nutritionists in the '90s, a City Council motion in 2003 created a Food Policy Task Force which led to the first meeting of the Vancouver Food Policy Council in September 2004. Tara also gave a sense of the highlights of the accomplishments over the years, noting the FPC's role of convener, hosting events, and contributing to policies. The Youth VFPC is beginning to solicit formal members. They have no formal connection with City but are exploring options.

The FPC is governed by the new Terms of Reference, the Code of Conduct, and procedure by law 9756 (all documents are available for members in the dropbox). Terms of Reference are new as of December 2014 and include guidelines on Policy Advice, Collaboration, Awareness and Outreach.

There are 20-25 advisory councils, it was suggested that the FPC liaise with other councils. There is a Council of Councils meeting on April 27th at City Hall at 5-8:30pm. James will circulate info. Several members have already RSVP'd.

The Terms of Reference outline the mandate, and breakdown of membership. There are 21 voting members -15 from 5 areas (production, processing and distribution, retail, access and consumption, waste management) and 6 at large. Eleven members are needed for quorum. This model has been reviewed and accepted. James will explore if all members can have a printed copy of the food strategy.

It was explained that members are volunteers, and terms are for 2 years. If members find they can no longer commit, please advise the chairs as there were over 100 applications. The Co-Chairs do not make decisions about members, and recognize that all members work in the food system. There was a concern that while the membership represents sectors in the food system, that demographic, geographic, and cultural diversity is not well represented. It was noted that with more applicants, additional layers are more easily addressed. It was also commented that connections can be made to broad sectors without formal representation.

Motion - To explore the development of a new matrix to add layers of demography, geography, and culture, to the existing food sector layers and ensure representation and connections in the broader population. Moved by Ilana, seconded by Andrew, carried unanimously.

- How We Work, Roles & Responsibilities

It was noted that liaisons are non-voting members. The goal is to advance the development of food policies that align with creating just and sustainable food systems. Meeting themes in 2014 were presented. Typically, the formal part of the meeting is followed by a speaker on a theme. The Chairs have worked to create an inclusive safe space where people can disagree. Past members also contributed their wishes for issues to move forward. At the May meeting, the FPC will divide roles and responsibilities - communication, meetings, outreach, and other. If there are topics that you would like to organize or discuss, please step forward. It was suggested that a standing agenda item be announcements for relevant events. The event 'Let's talk food policy' on May 7 is by invite only and there are 4 spots for FPC members. If interested, speak to Zsuzsi. The meeting will bring in provincial voice and is a regional networking event to support counterparts in other jurisdictions. It was suggested that a Google group be formed as an idea to avoid emails and improve communication. Tara will send out a Google group invitation. It can also be used to share documents (e.g. institutional memory). If members are interested in putting their applications (or just their bios) in Dropbox, Tara will create a folder.

4. Presentations by Staff

- Social Planning (James O'Neill)

James recognized and acknowledged that we are on unceded Coast Salish territories.

He then showcased the [video](#) made by City staff that speaks to food system. The video went viral and speaks to many aspects of food system. (Please see full presentation [here](#))

He continued by outlining the role of local government, and gave an overview of relevant departments.

The City uses food to break down barriers between departments to work for similar outcomes. Where possible and appropriate, there is integration and alignment with existing policies.

James provided an overview of different levels of discourse of the food system from Global to City, asking where our skills and strengths are as a municipal government, and what are linkages among them?

There are many context pieces - regional growth strategies, agricultural land protection, OCP and local area plans (see West End and Marpole), zoning and land use regulations (for example, how does urban farming fit in?), and business licenses. Specifically, the City facilitated the Food Action plan (2003), VFPC formation (2004), the Food Charter (2007), food aspects in the Greenest City Action Plan (2011), the Food strategy (2013), and the Healthy City Strategy (2014). See vancouver.ca/foodpolicy for more details.

The Food Strategy aims to integrate and align food policies and provide forward momentum with specific goals and

actions. Beginning with the vision and principles, 5 goals were established with 71 actions. It was borne from much consultation with the FPC, community, relevant stakeholders, and an online campaign.

Goal #1: Support food-friendly neighbourhoods.

Goal #2: Empower residents to take action in their own neighbourhoods.

Goal #3: Improve access to healthy, affordable, culturally diverse food for all residents.

Goal #4: Make food a centrepiece of Vancouver's green economy. (local food is largest sector)

Goal #5: Advocate for a just and sustainable food system with partners and all levels of government.

James will bring update of actions to next meeting. He gave an overview of the highlights and accomplishments so far, along with priorities for the future. Local Food Action Plan (Park Board) focuses on Land, Facilities, and Capacity and Programs. There will be a presentation at next meeting.

Questions:

What is role of food policy in implementation? James works mostly with the Chairs as direct liaisons but at times with individual members. He seeks input from the FPC, as when the City supported Neighbourhood Food Networks.

How do you measure progress on actions in the food strategy? Each year, the actions are reviewed. The low-hanging fruit was addressed first, and now the City is into working with other departments on initiatives.

Action list update could be available to the public.

- Vancouver Park Board TBC
Tabled until next meeting.

5. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Kim, seconded by Pat, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm