

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 15, 2019

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall

Council Members: Erica Commons, Gurjot Dhaliwal, Heather Escobar, Kaitlyn Fung, Tamer Mohamed Hussein, Delphina Kejo Martina Marsic, Marc Schutzbank, Darlene Seto, Kelsey Timler, Emily Voong Jason Yip,

City appointed liaisons: Caitlin Dorward (Social Policy, CoV), Trustee Gonzalez (VSB), Katelyn Ling (Park Board Staff), Rachel Telling (Sustainability), Councillor Wiebe (City Council).

Invited Guest: Erin Nichols (Solid Waste Strategic Services, CoV)

Regrets: Evan Bowness, Clare Cullen, Joey Liu, Sarah Siska, Jesse Veenstra

Absent: Patrick Johnson, Andrew Stephens-Rennie, Councillor Bligh (City Council), Commissioner Dumont (Park Board)

Agenda

1. Call to order

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded homelands of the *w̓məθkʷəy'əm* (Musqueam), *s̓kwx̓ w̓ú7mesh* (Squamish), and *sel̓l̓wítulh* (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

1.2 Quorum

There is quorum at the meeting.

2. Consent agenda matters

2.1 Previous Minutes

MOTION: To approve minutes from the July meeting, as circulated.

Moved by Martina, seconded by Erica, carried unanimously.

2.2 Liaison Reports

2.2.1 CoV Councilor Liaisons

No update available.

2.2.3 Park Board Liaisons

Katelyn is new to the role, and is currently working on a Stewardship Framework, updating license agreements for community gardens, new signage for parks and gardens, as well as reviewing the Local Food Action Plan (2013-2018), which has no recent review or updates. The Park Board appreciates transparency in collaboration with the VFPC.

2.2.3 VSB Liaison

There are no updates, as the VSB is on hiatus during the summer. Work will begin Sept 4.

2.2.4 Social Policy Staff Liaison

Greenest City Action Plan (GCAP) - the plan is being updated with new targets for 2030 and 2050. The plan includes a food goal, and other goals have actions related to food (e.g. waste). Work will be focused on update to the food target, which will inform and shape food policy work in the city. There are different levels of engagement - internal, stakeholder (incl. VFPC), and public. Staff will be forming a stakeholder advisory committee of core people to provide ongoing feedback. A representative from the VFPC could be on that committee. Staff could also provide updates at each meeting, or assist with a themed meeting in the fall to engage the whole VFPC. Stakeholder discussions will inform public engagement in the spring, which will inform the report to council fall 2020.

Discussion

- The City would like to include the Park Board and VSB in the stakeholder engagement.
- The scope of update is open (i.e. target goals/indicators may be completely different from previous), as this will be a new strategy. Many of the goal areas have been shaped by the climate emergency response, and will likely look different than current ones.
- The federal government is recruiting for the [National food policy advisory committee](#). Nominations close Sept 20, and must have strong group support. There is discussion about this at the Coalition for Healthy School Food, and a follow up message with a draft motion might be sent. If organizations or people are considering a nomination, the VFPC may be able to help support.

3. Matters requiring discussion

3.1 Liaisons

The VSB has formal liaisons with the Park Board, VSB, and the City of Vancouver. In the past, external liaisons have been invited - Metro Van, MoAg, and VCH. Representatives from Indigenous governments could also be invited. Often they have specific relevant knowledge, and the role allows for relationships to be developed and strengthened to encourage mutual support.

Discussion

- It was agreed that it would be beneficial to incorporate more Indigenous thinking/perspectives.
- There is a concern over who is invited and correct protocol. It was suggested to wait until Sept or Oct, as there was another round of recruitment that may result in an indigenous member.
- It was suggested that all external liaisons be on boarded at the same time.

MOTION:

THAT the VFPC contact the Urban Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee for assistance in reaching out to local indigenous nations for participation on the VFPC as external liaisons.

Moved by Darlene, seconded by Gurjot, carried unanimously.

It was noted that Intergovernmental department staff works with First Nations, who also may be able to assist.

3.1 UBCM Resolution

A resolution on food security is being put forth by the municipality of Revelstoke, who contacted all food policy councils for support. The resolution states that hunger and food insecurity requires income-based solutions, which is similar to a 2017 by the VPFC. Passing the resolution would support advocacy of this idea to the provincial government.

A draft motion was circulated prior to the meeting.

Discussion

- It was suggested that the motion, and Social Policy, use statistics from PROOF, which include marginal food insecurity. The rate of food insecurity in Vancouver is around 10%.
- A motion cannot be brought forward to City council before the UBCM; it was suggested that councilors be alerted to the specific resolution B69 and asked to ensure they are in the room and vote in support.

MOTION: (see full motion appended)

THAT the VFPC supports and calls upon the City of Vancouver to pass a resolution of support for the resolution before the UBCM to frame food insecurity as an income-based problem and advocate to provincial and federal governments for evidence based policy solutions to food insecurity.

Moved by Gurjot, seconded by Kaityn, carried unanimously.

3.2 Eat Think Vote events

An initiative of Food Secure Canada to ensure food is an election issue in the federal election. Several events are planned around Vancouver, including at UBC Farm and Kwantlen (Richmond campus). The VPFC could either endorse existing events, allowing use of the logo and VPFC channels to promote events, or organize and host a separate event. After some discussion, it was felt that it would not be feasible to host an event. To ensure meaningful endorsement, point people will be assigned. Emily, Delphina and Gurgot are interested, ACTION: Marc will follow up by email.

MOTION:

THAT the VFPC endorse Eat, Think, Vote campaign and its mission and objectives.

Moved by Emily, seconded by Delphina, carried unanimously.

3.3 Working Group Conversations

The link to a working group sign-up sheet was circulated prior to the meeting. Working groups are the heart of the VFPC, as they develop work plans and strategies to address specific issues. These priorities are influenced by the interest and capacity of members, as well as being responsive to emerging issues. There is an understanding that each member will be on at least one working group. Each working group should have a minimum of 3 members to be viable, and co-chairs are strongly encouraged. Each group is responsible for taking their own minutes. It was suggested that working groups each host a themed meeting or external events as a way to educate and advance those priorities.

The suggested groups were formed from the notes generated at the last meeting. It was suggested that there be some cross-cutting lenses - climate, reconciliation, food justice.

Discussion

- A definition of food justice is needed. The proposed group should have a specific focus, and not be too broad.
- An expert in reconciliation would be helpful to advise the groups.
- Each working group is encouraged to think through what those lenses would look like in their group.
- The VFPC mission and vision could be used as a base for all working groups, then each project charter can be reviewed and receive approval to proceed. Each group would create a work plan and present it.
- If a mandate was included to refer to the VFPC Charter, it would ensure accountability and discussion.
- A focus for the next meeting could be to work on a template for working groups, and how to operationalize them.
- An ad-hoc committee could define a framework for including the three topics in the mission, or it could be done by email.

Members will be appointed to start the conversation to create common definition - Sarah and Erica (reconciliation), Kaitlyn (food justice), and Caitlin will share the city's resources on the climate emergency and connect with other city resources. ACTION: A document with all three will be created for discussion in September.

GCAP - as a broad area, it was suggested that this also be a cross cutting theme. All working groups will provide input to the GCAP. A liaison (two recommended) would solicit and gather input and share with the City's GCAP Advisory Committee beginning in September.

The GCAP is informed by the climate emergency; both will go to council together in one plan. Working groups will identify actions to help support the GCAP with the lens of climate emergency. This includes helping the City to determine targets to measure, which is important as it determines *what* will be measured.

3.3 Working Group Break Outs

Themes suggested: Food waste, Children and youth, Food cultivation urban agriculture, Development / preserving diverse food retail. Other suggested themes - 1) Food programming (e.g. elders teach youth), including who runs the programs, ensures it's up to code, etc. This addresses a gap and would ensure that kitchens at community centres are used to their full potential. 2) Water systems - how to ensure water systems support fishing, crabbing, understanding the role of water in the local food system. 3) Labour in the Food System.

It was noted that members of the public can also join working groups. Members on the Leadership team should also be on a working group.

Food cultivation/urban agriculture

Clare will co-chair. There has been growth then a flatline of urban farming as people have learned how hard it is. The VFPC helped create policy, which is now up for review. This is an opportunity for changes. This group could also address water systems and cultivation. The goal is to provide resilience in the city.

Food waste

Using a broad definition including single use packaging, much depends on other members. The work could address composting, ocean dumping. There may be a compost set up in Stanley Park. Jason will join. Erin Nichols is working on zero waste 2040, incl single use, food waste is separate. Prevention (no surplus), and downstream (food rescue), education around compost. Love food hate waste campaign for residents.

Children and Youth

This group was active last term, primarily as a member of the Coalition for Healthy School Food helping to advocate for a universal school food program. The group is named Children and Youth as there is potential to address issues beyond the VSB if there is interest and capacity in the members. A co-chair is needed. Trustee Gonzales, Emily, Heather, Maddie, Naomi and Astrid will join.

Development/Preserving diverse food retail

Recognizing that low cost retail is important for access, and that due to constraint and pressure, some are closing. There is a strong need for development working group, as this is a large component of municipal work. There are parallel food systems within cultures with different production, distribution, and retail networks. Malkin Ave. will be developed where these exist, and conversation is needed. It was suggested to add small production (e.g. commissary kitchens). The City Plan will also have a land use focus, and it would be a good asset to provide input. Erica Heather, Maddie, Jason will join. Erin will support. The name of the group will be confirmed later.

It was noted that land use is an aspect of urban agriculture, however that group will address related issues, not those related to buildings. There is a zoning component to both.

Labour is an important issue, and may be included in Food Justice. Kelsey will be asked if she will lead this.

Food programming - is part of neighbourhood-based food issues. ACTION: Kaitlyn will add to sign up sheet.

Each group is asked to meet and discuss the development of a work plan. Members are reminded there will also likely be emerging issues that need to be addressed. ACTION: Leadership team will send a note regarding developing work plans for working groups.

All advisory committees submit work plan to the Clerk's office. ACTION: Caitlin will keep the VFPC updated on timelines.

The GCAP grant opportunities open Sept 3, 50% in matching funds (up to \$10k) are available to charities in support of GCAP goals. ACTION: Caitlin will send a note requesting permission to share VFPC member phone numbers internally.

4. Adjourn Board Meeting
Moved by Marc, seconded by Jason, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm

Passed Motion

WHEREAS 485,000 British Columbians, including 1 in 6 children, live in food insecure households, including over 90,000 individuals experiencing severe food insecurity; and 1 in 10 (10%) Vancouver households report being food insecureⁱ; and

WHEREAS in the “What We Heard Report” of the BC Poverty Reduction Strategy, “People told us about how the lack of access to quality, affordable and healthy food had a deeply negative effect on their lives. They spoke out about how not being able to afford good food made their lives harder and left them more isolated. It also left them fearful for the health of their children, and worried that they would be judged for relying on food banks and other forms of food charityⁱⁱ,” and

WHEREAS the Vancouver Food Charter endorses the position that “Food is a basic human right. All residents need accessible, affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate foodⁱⁱⁱ”; and

WHEREAS the Vancouver Food Charter position that food is a basic human right is supported nationally through Canada’s alignment with the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights^{iv}

WHEREAS the Vancouver Food Strategy references the growing income gap as a key vulnerability in the local food system^v, and calls on the City of Vancouver to, “Support the provincial government in creating a comprehensive antipoverty program that brings attention to the links between food, health and income^{vi}”; and

WHEREAS the Healthy City Strategy states “Income is a strong determinant of health and well-being. While Vancouver is a growing, thriving city, we also have high poverty rates, and many people struggle to make ends meet^{vii}”; and

WHEREAS food security organizations and poverty reduction initiatives acknowledge that sustainable and adequate sources of income for households are key to achieving sustainable food security, and

WHEREAS municipalities across BC and Canada are advocating for an increased focus on evidence-based income policy solutions to solve food insecurity^{viii}

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that

the Vancouver Food Policy Council supports and calls upon City of Vancouver Councillors to vote in support of UBCM Resolution 69 to frame food insecurity as an income-based problem and advocate to provincial and federal governments for evidence-based policy solutions to food insecurity.

AND BE IT RESOLVED that

the Vancouver Food Policy Council requests that City of Vancouver Councillors advocate to councillors and mayors from other municipalities to vote in support of UBCM B69.

ⁱ Priority Health Equity Indicators for British Columbia: Household Food Insecurity Report (2016). PROOF /BCCDC. http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/Household%20food%20insecurity%20in%20BC_full%20report.pdf

ⁱⁱ BC Poverty Reduction Strategy “What We Heard Report.” (2019) <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/initiatives-plans-strategies/poverty-reduction-strategy/what-we-heard.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ City of Vancouver, Vancouver Food Charter (January 2007). http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/Van_Food_Charter.pdf

^{iv} Ibid.

^v Food Secure Canada, The Right to Food in Canada (March 2013). <https://foodsecurecanada.org/right-food-canada>

^{vi} City of Vancouver, What Feeds Us: Vancouver Food Strategy (January 2013), 28. <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/vancouver-food-strategy-final.PDF>

^{vii} City of Vancouver, What Feeds Us: Vancouver Food Strategy, (January 2013), 122.

^{viii} <http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/vancouver-food-strategy-final.PDF> 7 City of Vancouver, Healthy City Strategy: Our Goals: Making Ends Meet and Working Well (2015). <http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/healthy-city-strategy.aspx> .

^{viii} As per Revelstoke’s City Council Meeting on June 25th <https://revelstoke.civicweb.net/FileStorage/1141BDD209B64BBE9DF92F2B9820044D-Delegation%20-%20Healthy%20Eating%202019-06-25.pdf>