

Vancouver Food Policy Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 17, 2013
6:00-8:30pm
Town Hall Room, City Hall



Chairs: Brent Mansfield and Trish Kelly

Council Members: Joanne Bays, Maria Burtlehaus, Robyn Carlson, Claudia Chan, Zsuzsi Fodor, Kimberly Hodgson, Ilana Labow, Peter Ladner, Emme Lee, Pat McCarthy, Tara Moreau, Ross Moster, Helen Spiegelman, Shelby Tay, Paul Taylor, David Wilson

Liaisons: Theresa Duynstee (MetroVan), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), James O'Neill (Social Planning, City of Vancouver), Kim Sutherland (BC Ministry of Agriculture),

Regrets: Jason Apple, Aaron Jasper (Park Board), Nicholas Scapillati, Chris Thoreau, Heather Deal (City Council), Rob Wynen (Vancouver School Board)

Agenda Items:

1. Opening Round
Members introduced themselves, and thirty-one guests were present.
2. Motion to Accept Agenda and previous minutes
March minutes, item 9, fourth bullet, to be amended to: Support - there are a handful of municipalities that are not in support of the project.
Moved by Joanne, seconded by Peter, carried unanimously.
3. Staff Update - James O'Neill
 - Food Strategy - has now been printed and is available online. Copies available from James. A 2-4 page executive summary will be available online soon, highlighting key priorities.
 - Food procurement - identified in Food Strategy. There are 2 contracts in progress to encourage local food in the City, which will be required to monitor and report on local content.
 - Park Board pilot at concession stand - will look at sourcing and uptake of fruits and vegetables from July - Sept.
 - DTES Kitchen Tables project - continue to support sourcing local food. Carnegie and Gathering centre are being monitored. Brent will send document with 5 Park Board priorities to include more language re: local and sustainable procurement. Target is 40%
 - Community Food Markets - defined as less than 10 booths, not all local product, with a focus on vulnerable populations. Policy has been developed in a 3 page document defining and where they are permitted and the process.
 - Greenest City Garden Workshops - July-Aug - RFP through Engineering to do neighbourhood-based workshops.
 - Blooming garden guidelines - for growing food on boulevards between sidewalk and curb. Available on vancouver.ca/greenstreets
 - Hayley Lapalme (My Sustainable Canada) - will conduct a local food infrastructure gap analysis (FIGA) for the City of Vancouver. Goal is to develop strategies to strengthen food infrastructure. This will be done through measuring supply/demand for local food, conceptualizing the food system, then creating and evaluating options. The project is seeking feedback through a questionnaire and recommendations of people to participate in focus groups and consultations.
4. Updates and Endorsements:
 - a. Cottonwood Community Garden
Following last month's presentation, the FPC has drafted a resolution to encourage preservation of the gardens. Two wording options were suggested - one with stronger language requesting the preservation of the gardens in their entirety and one requesting

the City to explore other options. After some discussion, it was decided that in this case, the FPC recommend the preservation of the garden in its entirety. However, the issue of land tenure for gardens should be revisited at the end of May, after the report from Councilor Carr's motion is complete.

MOTION - to adopt the resolution as originally drafted, asking the City to commit to preserving the gardens in their entirety. Moved by Trish and Ross, seconded by Joanne, carried unanimously.

- b. Kwantlen Institute for Sustainable Horticulture
At last month's meeting the project team had asked for endorsement, for the FPC to assign a liaison, and to take a request to council to endorse and support. Peter, Kim, Chris, and Brent are willing to be on working group. It was unclear whether support referred to funding contributions. Municipalities were asked to contribute funds to the project (30k requested of CoV). Funds will also be needed to implement Vancouver's Food Strategy.
There was some discussion about whether the VFPC should formally endorse the project, including encouraging the CoV to support the project, both through endorsement as well as through funds. As there was not agreement on this issues and there wasn't time for discussion it was decided that the liaising / working group will take input into consideration and meet to draft recommendation to present to FPC.
 - c. Succession Planning
Tabled for next meeting.
5. Working Group Updates
 - FEDAP - Partnering with Village Vancouver, the FPC, and the Museum of Vancouver, the 11 members host brown bag events and invite organizations to see how they can participate. The next event is in June.
 - Policy Landscapes - received a grant for 10k through PICS to partner with SPEC to hire an intern that will evaluate the policy landscape surrounding food waste.
 6. Introduction of Soup and Innovative Work at UBC
Chef Steve Golob, Place Vanier Dining Hall, UBC
Steve is involved with Think&EatGreen@School at UBC, and is on the Advisory Board for Farm to Cafeteria Canada. He works actively with all stakeholders to bring local, sustainable food to the dining hall and believes that there are no barriers.
 7. Introduction of theme: Innovative Strategies to Local, Sustainable Foods into BC's Public Institutions
Joanne Bays, VFPC Member and National Manager of Farm to Cafeteria Canada
The theme intends to illuminate and advance strategies to bring local food to institution.

The organization's objective is to increase the amount of local food (Including seafood and wild foods) in schools, campuses, and healthcare centres, through a national network that supports and links programs and policy. The main tasks are to conduct a national assessment, draft a strategic plan, and strengthen the network.

The survey revealed that while there is activity in each province and territory, BC, QUE, and ON are hubs of activity, and that there are 61 FPC across Canada. Institutional purchasers were targeted to quantify level of local procurement and identify benefits and barriers. The top benefit was improved taste and quality, while the top barriers identified were the cost and difficulty in sourcing. Institutions were also concerned with food safety and liability. There is momentum in changing behaviors in the schools, and positive economic impact through work on campuses. However, Canada has no student nutrition program. Schools need funding and health

facilities need support to negotiate trade agreements and food safety issues in order to achieve rebuilding regional food distribution.

8. Presentations:

Ken Babich, Vice President Canadian Public Procurement Council

While Director of Purchasing at UVic, Vancouver Island farmers approached Ken in 2008 complaining of discrimination. When contacts came up for tender, it was found that 46% could be produced locally. GHG values of \$25/metric tonne were incorporated; a local distributor won the contract and local content was increased to 67% by 2011. Challenges perceived include trade agreements, not enough supply, logistics, and getting staff (chefs and chef managers) on board. Ken clarified that items for resale are exempt from trade agreements. Outcomes include increased economic impact for producers, increased employment, fresh, healthier products, improved food security, and reduced GHG emissions. Currently, more land is needed in production, more fiscal and human resources are needed in farming, and public institutions need to specify and source products to minimize GHG emissions. Top-level buy in is needed, along with collaboration among ministries, and funding for Farm to Cafeteria.

Hayley Lapalme, Project and Research Consultant, My Sustainable Canada

Conducted a study with Ontario Health Care Group Purchasing. Local food was mapped; the baseline of 22% was increased by 15% resulting in 1.2 million input into the local food system at a neutral cost. Outcomes included new partnerships, spinoff pilots, origin audits, sharing of best practices, and improved RFP language. Challenges included budget, perceived barriers, trade and legislative barriers, BPS directive, food system supply and seasonality. In order to advance, policies and funding support are needed, along with inter-ministerial cooperation, and the demystification of perceived barriers. For more information, visit mysustainablecanada.ca.

Lana Popham, MLA, BCNDP, Agriculture Critic

As a farmer, Lana found that food activism wasn't effective so she became a politician. Agriculture should not be partisan, and needs stability and consistency. The NDP have a 3-part plan: Grow BC, Feed BC, and Buy BC. Grow BC - policies that support farming - protecting ALR, meat regulations. Feed BC - shift in spending in health care, will require 30% spent on BC grown food. Despite 1-2% higher cost to purchase local food, there are many multiplier effects. A pilot is planned for the Interior, with \$1 million committed. Incentives will be provided to encourage people to get into farming for a living. The name of the Ministry will be changed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems. Buy BC - reviving the marketing plan to include farmers, processors and consumers.

9. Roundtable and Small Group Discussion

- Funding - provincial support exists through the Ministry of Health for those programs currently running, although it has not been looked at for the long-term.
- Target - the NDP 30% target came from consultations with stakeholders and hopes to incent production and processing from the current 8-9% level.
- Funding - Farms provide food but also therapy. The community impact needs to be taken into consideration in the health care budget, not just procurement. It was suggested that institutions that are required to be carbon neutral could use the cost of ecosystem services to improve the local situation.
- Distribution - distributors are on board, now need to bring in dieticians. Large institutions can dictate criteria when tendering contracts.

10. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Ross, seconded by Joanne, carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm