

**Vancouver Food Policy Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 15, 2013**  
**6:00-8:30pm**  
Town Hall Room, City Hall



**Chairs:** Brent Mansfield and Trish Kelly

**Council Members:** Joanne Bays, Zsuzsi Fodor, Kimberly Hodgson, Ilana Labow, Peter Ladner, Emme Lee, Pat McCarthy, Tara Moreau, Ross Moster, Helen Spiegelman, 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), Maria Burplehaus, Claudia Chan, Robyn Carlson, Shelby Tay

CFIA definition changing to Local = within province

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **1. Opening Round**

17 guests had a chance to introduce themselves. UBC was very well represented!

#### **2. Motion to Accept Agenda and previous minutes**

Moved by Helen S. Seconded by Joanne and Dave!

#### **3. Staff Update**

James O'Neil- Social Policy

- Brought copies of the Food Strategy
- Staffing update: Wendy Mendes is back!
- Department is carrying on with implementation of the food strategy and FIGA.
- Urban farming policy, taking longer than hoped, but picking up steam, will want to check in with members of VFPC soon
- Food Procurement, working with staff in Sustainability group, a part time person, key deliverables: Parks Board piloting local food in concession stands (corn, pea pods).
- Farmers Market Policy was passed in January, then public hearing, all passed, is more opportunity for people to apply for Famers Market, possibility for 2 more – doing site analysis, one is a school)

#### **4. Discussion of Succession Planning for Co-Chair Role**

Brought up in meetings two meetings ago. Both Brent and Trish will term out at the end of this council term, and want to ensure that we build in some succession planning for co-chair/leadership. Trish would like to step down as co-chair by September and Brent is open, though would be open in the New Year.

Joanne: would it be better to be a newbie than someone in their second term?- **Yes.**

Tara: Is there an official job description? -We do have something, we can circulate it.

Joanne: Note- there are options for the structure of figuring out how you manage the commitment, ie more than 2 people involved and depth of commitment.

Ilana: How many hours per week?- Brent there are the bare bones and the deluxe version. Brent probably spends 2-5 hours a week. Trish says you can spend up to 10 hours a week working on VFPC stuff, but that is if you are looking to really leverage the opportunity.

Helen: Sees that chairs are like traffic cops, and the programming of the meetings has been great. We are so connected.

Brent: You do get to do awesome things! Some invites to speak or appear.

Joanne: The legacy continues, still gets invited to conferences because she is an ex-co-chair!

Expressions of interest:

Kim is interested, but she is pregnant! Perhaps works well to have her replace Brent in 2014?

Dave Wilson is interested. But would need to check with work.

Next Steps: Brent will send an email and members can reply with their interest. Brent doesn't doubt the skill level of the people in the room.

## 5. Upcoming Meeting themes

Thanks to Joanne for theming and coordinating the last meeting on procurement. We need to come up with meeting themes for the June, July and September meeting and through the 2013.

Tara: the right to food would be a great theme, as it is a nice framework.

Brent: Healthy food retail, mobile food options Kim and Zsuzsi agree in October

Zsuzsi: Urban farming practices research

Joanne: Connections to the hinterland what other food policy councils and committees

Joanne :ALR linkages

Zsuzsi: Active Transportation Committee and Multicultural Committee linkages

Brent: Trish and Brent met with Steve Eastman July 10th, and go to UBC Farm, and focus on Indigenous Food Sovereignty. Seconded by Dave Wilson!

Emme: Food Waste in early Fall - She will help lead topic.

Tara: Systems thinking around food

Kim: Translink 2040 plan is coming up- invite someone from translink?

Trish: Non-GMO- different approaches to labelling from various non-governmental levels.

Ilana: What are high school aged people doing around food in Vancouver- would help take an active lead on organizing.

## 6. Updates and Discussions

Meatless Monday proclamation

This has been given the greenlight by mayor's office. Thanks to Councillor Heather Deal for her help with that. Date is set for Monday June 10th. A facebook event page has been set up and community groups are encouraged to design events to celebrate it. Trish will email out info to VFPC list and ask folks to spread the word.

Cottonwood Gardens

Heather Deal has been given the motion that we passed, and has passed it on to councillor Geoff Meggs, who is taking lead on the project to explore removing the viaducts. Trish and Brent will be meeting with both councillors to further discuss. Also, Trish checked in with Davis Young, from Fresh Direct, one of the produce distributors on Malkin Avenue, and understands that consultation with the city has already been underway, and city engineers spent the day observing traffic flow on Malkin, so they ought to be aware of the challenges to distribution if Malkin is designated a thoroughfare.

Kwantlen Bio-regional Food System Project

Brent, Peter, Kim and others have met to begin discussing how the VFPC working group might plug in to the Kwantlen project headed by Kent Mullinix.

GE Free BC and Federal context

Canadian Health Food Association has recently started a working group to help create position statement and advocate federally for required labelling. , Cdn Chapter of the Organic Trade Association also has struck a working group., Cdn Organic Growers also has a position; Whole Foods Markets announced as of 2018 will require GMO

labeling.; In lieu of government regulation, organizations are responding to consumers concerns; Trish proposes a panel in fall to report on what those groups are accomplishing

Break – share food & socialize

#### 7. Revisiting of 2012-13 Work Plan and Working Group Check-Ins

Brent: After several meetings that were jam packed, this is a chance to check in and see where we are at, now that the Food Strategy and Local Food Asset Task Force.

Looking back at the work plan, we had tried to define where we are actively trying to push and catalyse new issues, and then we also have issues where we have more of a consulting role.

Perhaps now our role with the Food Strategy implementation, is that we stay connected and how they relate to the working group activity.

Budget reminder: if the working groups have needs and can articulate a budget need, the city has said that they can look at funding it. On a project by project level, we have some opportunity, but would also like to aim more to get a budget.

Kim: is the VFPC eligible to receive funds from grants? Brent says that no, as an entity, we can't receive funding on our own. We have to partner with other organizations, or under the umbrella of the city if the city qualifies.

#### **Tara Food Policy Landscapes Working Group- co chaired with Kim H.**

Got some funding with SPEC to hire an intern, and will start a policy scan on food waste. The data gathering is quite dense, so it was hard to do it as volunteers, so great to have a paid intern. There is a challenge as volunteers, and volunteers managing volunteers is even more challenging. meeting again next week. Have a good framework and scope, but thinks there needs to be someone leading the project. Maybe we are ready to have an ask for some funding from city.

Ilana: What is appropriate for council to take on as a project. Especially in terms of when we are hiring people, there needs to be a process. Is the call for feedback on the possibility of applying for grant money to hire a new intern.

Emme: The whole process was so last minute.

Brent: We will have to work out an actual protocol or policy for how we endorse/apply for funding. Brent will take lead and Emme will help develop the guidelines. Ilana, Dave will help.

Tara: in reflection, its been 30-40 hours of volunteer time to hire someone. Didn't realize how much it would take to do it.

#### **Emme: Food Waste Warriors co-chaired with Erin Nichols**

May 29th meeting happening. Mount Pleasant Community Centre. Guest speakers lots of activity on their own, and this meeting will convene all these great people. There are so many people working on these issues, in total isolation.

Brent: We ask ourselves what can we do uniquely that no one else can do? This is an issue where we can convene.

#### **Ross FEDAP Working Group**

Also having issues with funding. Started in 2008, in 2012, didn't have VFPC budget any more, and then were left scrambling. Got engaged with SFU semester in dialogue, and some work with Langara. Similar challenge of volunteer capacity. Some LFS UBC students did some work. Making connection From here to there 3, stories about Food Energy and transitioning communities, and another planned for the fall. Funding is one event at a time.

A paid coordinator for Food Secure Vancouver was really valuable. It's hard as a long term project, to go event to event.

#### **Neighbourhood Working Groups- co-chaired by Zsuzsi and Ross**

Local food assets task force, building assets with Park Board to build capacity of Neighbourhood Food Networks (Trish, Ross, Zsuzsi); group hasn't met as much, not as engaging to take on members external to VFPC, things are moving though; NFN doing their own work. Ian Marcuse from Grandview Woodlands Food Connection says that the network of Neighbourhood Food Networks received some funding in the NFN convening groups city wide.

Brent: What do you need help with from the VFPC? Let's revisit.

Joanne: Let's do less acronyms, for the new people.

Communications/Engagement working group- chaired by Shelby Tay

John Chow, working group member, reports 4-5 people met up in winter over potluck, planning session, focus on making sure information about meetings is more accessible (fb, twitter, webpage); archived the old site with updated information, working on posting more regular content, maintaining social media, updating with meeting info, photos etc.

Motion to Adjourn 8:09 pm. Joanne, and seconded by Ilana.