

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 14, 2010, 6:00-8:30pm
Strathcona room, City Hall

Chairs: Brent Mansfield and Trish Kelly (Acting)

Council Members: Daryl Arnold, Maria Burtlehaus, Erika del Carmen Fuchs, Ross Moster Cale Price, Carla Shore, Helen Spiegelman, Kim Sutherland, David Tracey, T'Uy'Tanat-Cease Wyss

Staff: Barbara Joughin,

Liaison: Heather Deal (City Council), Wendy Mendes (Social Development, City of Vancouver),

Regrets: Herb Barbolet, Andre LaRiviere, Yona Sipos, Aaron Jasper (VPB), Tara McDonald, Jane Bouey (VSB), Doug Aason, Jeff Nield, Joyce Rock, Janine de la Salle, Mary Clare Zak (UASC/Social Development)

Agenda Items:

1. Motion to accept agenda/Feb. minutes/requests for leave -
Moved by Daryl, seconded by Cale, carried unanimously. Andre has informed Brent that he will be stepping down from the council.
2. Brief update on 5pm meeting on Food Waste Strategy
Starting on Apr 22(Earth Day), citizens will be able to put raw fruit and veggies with yard waste to be picked up every second week. In early 2011, other food will be included for collection every week, with garbage pick up every other week. FPC to engage community around food waste.
3. Report Back and Discussion of March 10 Meeting
Proposed Strategy
Key Actions and Next Steps

Document distributed with summary of March meeting - includes the history of FPC, with Terms of Reference from 2004 and 2007, as well as role of VFPC. Action items need to be understood in context of FPC as a bridge between City Council and the community. Action plan table illustrates progress to date, combining thoughts from strategic planning session. Although new opportunities exist, the action plan doesn't need major overhaul.

Objectives are ways to fulfill role of FPC, and action items can address all objectives. Each group/committee can consider to what extent each activity will achieve objectives, how to prioritize actions, how to ensure community voice is heard, how to continue to build on progress, and how to respond in a timely way to requests from staff.

Comments:

- Suggestion to change 'influence' to 'advise' council.
- Policy is one tool of many at FPC to achieve the goal of a just and sustainable food system.
- Not always talking about abstractions, one role is to communicate activities, word from community to see what works and doesn't...more of a catalytic role.
- A volunteer council doesn't have the resources to act as a central hub.
- 'Assist and develop' city policy rather than 'influence'.
- Suggest to not 'reply all' on email unless necessary.
- More connectivity with regional/provincial work. (FVRD and Ag advisory committee will meet - agenda items can be passed to Kim or Daryl).

It was felt that the community is not clear on what FPC could do for them. Outreach for Food Secure Vancouver could be a good opportunity to survey organizations about FPC. There is a need for continued two-way communication between FPC and the community such as large-scale events that happened earlier. Despite perceptions that residents are not aware of the FPC, they are aware of its work (chickens, food carts, etc.). Objective #3 (developing community capacity) needs to be clarified

with respect to food precincts.

It was felt that the objectives may need to be refined, but will serve for the time being. Review of objectives from 2009 plan will be done in committees rather than in council.

4. Proposal of Concept of Working Groups / Subcommittees and Discussion

Focus could be on working groups that address on action items, following the structure and process laid out in the ToR from 2004. As such, all groups would 'check in' each meeting, then one hour will be dedicated to reporting out of working groups on a rotating basis.

Suggestions - anyone can pitch a committee to the group; committees of one can exist; non-FPC can be members; food secure Vancouver (research), food precinct (neighbourhood level outreach), and communications could be included as a part of all other areas. Check-in has not been effective recently, and the question remains as to how to ensure that communication is effective.

Is there a model to adopt that would benefit the city?

Despite good intentions, due to scheduling conflicts, the City liaison is not always well-informed of FPC activities. Clarification is needed regarding the procedure for Council members to approach the FPC with issues that need advice (e.g. food carts). FPC work plan is good for informing Council. FPC is not only an advisory council, it is a council itself with separate work plan and is different than other advisory committees (FPC has its own mandate which City cannot dictate).

Value of FPC is its connection to community, and its expertise for city. Precincts would be infrastructure for food networks (social capital) also working. City role is supporting the networks.

Reporting back should include what has been done and what is needed.

Proposal to restructure will be revisited later.

Working Groups tonight:

Urban Agriculture - Brent, David, Daryl, Kim

Food Security Vancouver - Carole, Barbara

Food Precincts - Trish

Food Waste - Helen and Cale

Peak Oil and Resiliency - Ross

5. Break into Working Groups / Subcommittees to Discuss Action Plan and Timelines

Groups were formed to answer five questions on back of agenda (potential actions, key opportunities, action plan, lead contact, and budget).

6. Report back from Working Groups / Subcommittees

Food Precincts-Trish - issue will be renamed. Next steps - meet with Erika and Wendy, list of organizations currently working, Trish will do more research. FPC role could be to catalyze community neighbourhood food groups. Trish will be main contact. Budget - to support local groups - \$800

Food Secure Vancouver - Carole - Much progress has been made, next steps are to assemble baseline information and a system to manage the data, then to make it available. Group is working with neighbourhood networks to get data. Barbara is main contact. Budget - \$5000 - \$3000 for outreach and staff and \$2000 for communications.

Food Waste - Helen - Cale is interested in commercial organics. Advance scoping could be started now by FPC for a year from now. Ban for compostable organics in 5 years. Read 2006 report and update. Meet with Andre Lariviere. Cale has done restaurant consulting, of which a part could be setting up a system. There is no budget request.

Peak Oil/Climate change/Food Energy Descent Action Plan - Ross - could be connection to

transition towns/Village Vancouver, who have 10 working group creating Energy Descent Plans which focus on education, action, and planning. Grassroots neighbourhood food networks are actively engaged with community. Resiliency piece feeds into other WGs. There is no budget request. It was noted that this is the only group that is forward-looking. FPC members could partner with VV food working group.

Urban Agriculture - Brent - Letter of Intent was submitted with other partners for application to Investment Agriculture to develop an urban agriculture strategy. The award requires matching funds, there is potential for this in the City. Brent will circulate the Lol. Kim and Daryl will help discuss regional aspects. Budget - \$5000 as matching funds. The project focuses on food production in the City, and will connect with other issues (local food economy), but details have not been decided. Metro Van is interested. If invited to submit an application, the next opportunity is end of May, then every 6 weeks.

Communications - If available, \$3000-\$5000 for communications and outreach. City website is being revamped and will connect with FPC.

7. Implications for and Discussion of 2010 Budget
Specifics will be discussed at next meeting.

8. Motion to Adjourn
Moved by Trish, seconded by Cale, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.