

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Present:

- **Council Members:** Aron Bjornson, Barb Seed, Brian Holl, Carol Ranger (Chair), Carole Christopher, Corinne Eisler, David Van Seters, Heather Pritchard, Herb Barbolet, Shefali Raja, Spring Gillard, Stephen Hall, Sue Moen, Susan Kurbis
- **Liaisons:** *Councilor Tim Louis, *Councilor Peter Ladner, VSB Trustee Andrea Reimer
- **Staff:** Devorah Kahn, Shannon Bradley, Mario Lee

Regrets: Miriam Palacios, Arran Stephens, Karin Schreurs, John Van Luven, John Bishop, Graham Riches, VSB Trustee Adrienne Montani

Absent: PB Commissioner Eva Riccius

* attended part of the meeting

Agenda

1. Introductions & Welcome

1.1 - VSB Trustee Andrea Reimer welcomed everyone to the VSB. Guests were requested to sign-in. All in attendance introduced themselves and their connection to Food System work.

2. Review & acceptance of the agenda

- 2.1 Additional item to include - discussion re: School Foods Forum
- 2.2 Discussion re: Food Policy Task Force
- 2.3 Agenda accepted with additions

3. Review & acceptance of the minutes from March 8

- 3.1 Change to item on 5.3 "Committee Reports" - Kathleen Gibson's view was that because there was significant networking with the task force in setting up the Food Policy Council it was not necessary to do *additional* grassroots work in drafting a Food Policy Charter.
- 3.2 Change to wording in 5.3.3 "...groceries *could* refer to access to fruits and vegetables (replace "should" with "could")

4. Business Arising:

4.1 VFPC Forum update - *handout circulated*

Devorah - recommendation to book Heritage Hall for June 23, 2005. All VFPC members are encouraged to attend since this is a presentation to the VFPC from the community. Devorah gave an overview of a tentative itinerary for the evening. Venue can accommodate approx. 15-18 tables and 150 chairs. Suggested that the VFPC accept five 15-20 min. presentations and an additional 15 presentations for displays. Suggested an ad hoc committee set up criteria for what presentations will be accepted. As of May 3, 2005, an intern will be starting and will assist in organizing this event.

VFPC COMMENTS: The VFPC needs more than 10 minutes to go over the work that they are doing.

Devorah suggested removing one of the 20 minute slots so that the VFPC could have time for a longer presentation. Another option is that the VFPC could set up a display table and answer questions from people.

Shefali suggested a 15 min. presentation by the VFPC as part of the introduction rather than a 20 min. presentation. This suggestion was supported and it was also suggested that people should make quick presentations and then in the networking session more interaction and discussion could take place. This would be easier to sit through and more people could present as there would be more time for more presentations.

Sue M. agreed that shorter is better. An executive summary would be more efficient and effective. Provide name tags so people would know who is on the VFPC. A shorter presentation would keep people's attention (20 min. may be too long).

Herb suggested 2 minute "elevator speeches"

Corinne supports each of these recommendations.

Brian suggested using a screening procedure for selecting presentations similar to how the VFPC screens projects. Also suggested striking a balance between short presentations (2 minutes) and something longer.

Devorah reminded the VFPC that they would be using money from their budget to cover costs of the Forum.

Devorah suggested that it would be better to select a wide framework of presentations, not just the "best" ideas. Agrees that less time for presentations would be better. Suggested an Ad Hoc Committee in order to reflect the VFPC wishes. Brian, Carole C., and Susan K. volunteered to be on the Ad Hoc Committee.

Action: Devorah will arrange a meeting of the Ad-Hoc committee to begin the design of the Forum.

5. Old Business & Reports:

5.1 Review sub-committee written summaries and goals (*handout circulated*)

Intention of these summaries is to act as a tool for VFPC members to speak about what the VFPC is doing, and to clarify to the media the work of the VFPC.

QUESTION: Does the VFPC support what the summary paper states?

DISCUSSION: Andrea - the media is interested in what VFPC is doing e.g. meetings, forums, etc;

David - suggested the paper be edited so that the wording is a similar style;

Shefali - suggested a context paragraph e.g. a paragraph indicating what the sub-committees went through to create these summaries;

Aron - once this is edited, the final draft should be sent out to the VFPC for review;

Action: Devorah will reformat it as per the suggestions and re-send it to the sub-committees for their review. The complete document (including the pre-amble) will be reviewed at the next meeting.

5.2 Staff Reports:

5.2.1 Food Policy Coordinator - Devorah described her current work:

- Continued effort with **Plant-A-Row** program;
- Working on VFPC Forum;
- Continued effort on UBC Farm Aboriginal Garden;
- Working on an edible landscape demonstration garden at City Hall. Has put in a proposal and is waiting to hear back;
- Developing communication materials - e.g. items for the Forum
- Working with Urban Agriculture community for possible display on urban ag. and what can be grown in the city for the Vancouver Garden Show in June;
- Meeting with representatives from the PNE in 2 weeks to discuss the possibility of including an exhibit on Vancouver's food system, community food system organizations and the VFPC;
- World Urban Forum (June 2005) - Staff has yet to discuss what they want to do and how they can be involved in this Forum;
- Community Food Security Conference (Oct. 2006);
- In conjunction with FP team, reviews and makes comments on re-zoning and development permit applications identified as relevant by Social Planner (designated position to review all applications on behalf of SP team);
- Refining role as an advocate for community groups in the city;
- Participating as key informant in the Community Food Action Initiative strategic session in May (BC Min. of Health Services funding for **Act Now BC** funding);
- Attending community network meetings throughout the city, educating community re: VFPC and staff work;
- Meeting with food security funders;
- Meeting with community-based organizations to determine their needs and make connections to others;
- Attending weekly Food Policy staff meetings to communicate & consolidate ideas for team efforts including policy development, internal communications and strategies, etc.;
- Supporting the efforts of the VFPC.

5.2.2 Food Policy Planner - Shannon B.

- East Fraserlands 126 acre site (community for 10,000 people and a site for edible landscapes, community garden plots, etc.) Attended a design charette and provided a briefing package with recommendations regarding food policy planning;
- Office of Sustainability - LEED standards to create energy efficient buildings - How can food policy be incorporated? e.g. composting systems, policy for edible landscapes (maintenance), and rooftop gardens. Where do frictions exist between city policies and actual implementation?
- Beekeeping in the City of Vancouver - there is currently a prohibition on beekeeping. She is currently looking at how to change this bylaw and reintroduce this practice into Vancouver's urban environment;
- Continuing work with urban agriculture;
- Working on an inventory of community gardens in the city and other opportunities for community gardens to take place. Working with the Parks Board on their policy redevelopment for community gardens to create a city wide strategy;
- Assisting work a food assessment report that is funded by Western Diversification. Has been doing some mapping work for this report;
- Attending a Council update on May 26th, 2005 as part of a progress report of food policy planning and what the staff has been doing.

COMMENT: Confusion between VFPC and the work of the Food Policy staff. How can the VFPC see how the work of the staff and the Council fits together? There will be further discussion on this under topic 6.2.

RESPONSE: Mario - Discussions should take place between the VFPC and the FP staff so that they can get feedback. Staff is open to having discussions to decide how to move forward.

5.3 Sub-Committee Reports:

5.3.1 5 min. "check-in" from sub-committees not presenting

Access to Groceries - Spring

- 3 active volunteers and 2 VFPC members have been meeting and are sharing their work among one another.

Institutional Food Purchasing - David

- Completed initial work to organize summary table of policy statements and a planning document for institutional food purchasing - What is being done within the city? What are other places doing? How do you implement the plan for the City of Vancouver?
- Liaising with CofV Office of Sustainability;
- Developing a proposal to obtain funding to do research to support the committee's work
- Plan to meet once a month;
- 3 volunteers working on different projects (utilizing volunteers as best they can);
- Working on a Logic Model (goals and objectives) for next meeting.

Food System Waste - Sue

- Narrowing down goals and objectives;
- Examining health regulations with regard to food;
- Looking at food rescue operations best practices e.g. Quest;
- Looking at compost programs and who might use them;
- Researching regulations that apply to composting (six different statutes that apply to composting) Will work on summarizing this information;
- Suggestion was made that committee could contact the GVRD and discuss the work that the GVRD is doing on composting.

5.3.2 *Sub-committee Full Report*

Food Charter (draft circulated)

- The process to create the Charter involved taking food charters from around Canada to see how they are organized and what factors are included;
- Certain languages and inclusions were found to be common throughout these charters;
- Used the charter from Victoria as a primary basis to create the Vancouver Charter.

The Committee would like feedback on the draft:

FEEDBACK:

- Additional attention to economic benefit of the Food Charter;
- Last sentence of #9 - objection to having breast feeding included in the Charter as a best practice;
- Change of wording on some points;
- Use Canadian spelling of words;
- With regard to process and format, the Charter needs to be useful to people (e.g. residents of Vancouver and City Council), and needs to fit into Vancouver's context. The Charter needs to be customized to Vancouver and to the integration of policy in city;
- What does "food as a right" really mean? What are the implications of this statement? Is there a need to reword this statement or make a note that the government should *facilitate* the right to food?
- Important to link policy statements in the Charter to other policy statements that may already exist e.g. policy that is in place in CityPlan;
- Name specific government jurisdictions that need to be involved;
- State preference for "local food" rather than "non-local food", but do not simply state one or the other within the Charter;
- Referencing certain items on the Charter in an appendix or addendum;
- Use consistent wording with regards to policy that has already been adopted by Council.

6. New Business:

6.1 Last minute additions to the agenda

School Foods Forum - Vancouver schools and community centres were invited to showcase healthier food choices in schools, how to provide healthier food options, how to implement them, and the existence of school community gardens, etc. How can the VFPC support these initiatives? Devorah recommends that they join the Urban Food Network, contact her directly by phone or email for assistance.

At this point guests and staff left.

Meeting moved in-camera to discuss item 6.2

6.2 Exploring linkages between the work of FP staff and council, and related issues.

Meeting came out-of-camera.

There was agreement by those present that the council would spend half of the May 24th VFPC meeting in-camera to continue this discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm