

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 8, 2009, 6:00-8:30pm  
Strathcona Room, City Hall

**Chairs:** Carole Christopher and Trish Kelly

**Council Members:** Daryl Arnold, Andre LaRivière, Joyce Rock, Janine de la Salle, Kim Sutherland, David Tracey

**Invited Guests:** Carol Ranger (Royal Roads), Mary Clare Zak (UASC/Social Development)

**Staff Liaison:** Samara Brock

**Regrets:** Doug Aason, Herb Barbolet, Carla Shore, Yona Sipos, Tara McDonald, Jane Bouey (VSB), Heather Deal (City Council)

1. Introductions - Nine guests introduced themselves to council
2. Motion to accept agenda and requests for leave- **MOTION:** To accept agenda, previous minutes, and requests for leave. Moved by David, seconded by Janine, carried unanimously.
3. Staff Update- Samara

**Chickens** -Council had many questions when presented with the issue. Samara is researching answers and will compile a list to pass on to her replacement. A letter from the Minister is being sought to address concerns of avian flu, and a brief Q&A has been posted on the Social Planning website to answer other common questions. Samara will work with Daryl on response from poultry associations.

**Farmers markets** - Working with Parks and Engineering to secure locations for the summer.

**FPC liaison** - Mary Clare announced that due to budget restraints at the City, all auxiliary positions will end at the end of April, and Samara Brock will no longer act as liaison to the FPC. In the interim, a co-chair (or other member, as appropriate) from the UASC will attend meetings. The City Clerk's office can also offer administrative support.
4. Review Strategic Plan - Carole

*Draft plan distributed.* UASC priorities were integrated into the plan as follows:

  - 2010 gardens - part of previous plans, this item has been passed to the city. Engineering is preparing guidelines; UASC is looking for land and exploring the idea of an umbrella organization to coordinate gardens. FPC will be consulted as appropriate, and could facilitate discussions with other City departments.
  - Farmers Markets-could integrate into Food Precinct idea and with Objective #4 on Action Plan (partnerships with government). VSB involvement is strongly encouraged.
  - UA Design Guidelines- exist within development service. There was a suggestion to speak to the planning commission.
  - Food distribution - some proposed new members work with vulnerable populations and could provide policy/programming ideas. Green Table is working with Metro Vancouver to do possible pilots for organics recycling and food recovery, looking at a new model of food recovery.

Other discussion included the following -

- Food Secure Vancouver Study has been tentatively put under Objective #1 (influence City policy). Action plan needs to include timeframes and individuals. **ACTION:** Janine to see if Bob has this info. Andre and Janine to review plan prior to next meeting.
- Ideas from new members will be incorporated into the plan on an *ad hoc* basis.
- There was a suggestion that FPC could explore the creation of a wiki page to allow ongoing updates and inputs to the Action Plan, and may also provide a way to stay in touch with the community. **ACTION:** Andre to investigate and report back.
- Due to a conflict of interest with her position at the City, Barbara Joughin has stepped down, but would like to contribute to the communications committee. **ACTION:** Committee to meet and discuss strategy.

5. Review model of VFPC co-chairs

Due to time constraints, Trish K will be stepping down as co-chair. The FPC has evolved since its inception and it may be time to rethink its structure, as the current model is unsustainable. David and Joyce will take part in discussions. **ACTION:** Carole and Mary Clare to meet with Clerk's office.

6. Updates:

Motion re: Chickens -Trish K

Chickens will be added to UASC priority list. Draft will likely come back to FPC before formal changes are made. **ACTION:** Samara to include draft motion and guidelines to be passed on.

**ACTION:** Trish to follow up with Mary Clare by the end of April to see who at the City will handle the issue.

Draft Motion re: food/beverage guideline - Maria B

Attempts to contact both Heather Deal and Andrea Reimer have been unsuccessful. Building on work with recreation centres, City support could encourage potential funding to further develop the initiative. **ACTION:** Maria/Melanie to send email to Heather Deal outlining timeframe.

Food Secure study update - Brent M

Near the end of Phase I, the baseline report provides a framework which will be amended to the Vancouver context with relevant indicators. Gaps in the data are being identified and a summary will be sent out shortly for distribution to the food sector. The December forum and the work of the UBC students have helped to inform next steps, which will include working with partners to establish a work plan and incorporate community feedback. Part of this work will be to define indicators in food policy and security which are currently lacking. A budget request will be put forward for \$6,000 as seed money to hire a coordinator (with matching funds to be sought separately). Selection will happen through a RFP, and a pool of talent may be established for future projects. Please send suggestions to Carole by April 15<sup>th</sup>. City Clerk's office will be consulted regarding any conflict of interest issues.

The baseline report will allow measurement of progress toward the goal (policy actions that lead to increased food security). Goal should also include non-policy practical issues such as better infrastructure. Joyce will work with committee to include qualitative input (including successes). **ACTION:** The committee will circulate the executive summary and come to the next meeting prepared with justification for both a \$6000 and a \$3000 amount, clearly outlining the boundaries of the study.

7. Draft Budget- tabled until next meeting. Members are asked to come with requests prepared.

8. Other

Fundraiser with Barbara Jo (Books to Cooks on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.)- Herb

FPC has been approached with the idea of having a section of recommended books. Members would write reviews (also could be posted on blog) and in turn FPC would receive 10% of the sales.

Janine, Andre, David, Brent, Joyce, and 2 guests (Robin Roff and Amanda McQuaig) agreed to participate and it was suggested to prepare a display of FPC materials.

Correspondence from Luca Pella - David

Current bylaw restricts height of objects in front yards to 4 feet. Resident was required to remove 6' raspberry trellis due to bylaw. **ACTION:** UASC will be consulted regarding bylaw. **ACTION:** Luca to send Samara related info, and after incorporating answers to potential questions, info will be sent to Heather Deal.

9. Membership Committee - Carole C (*in camera*)

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

4. **ACTION:** Janine to see if Bob has info on timeframes and individuals. Andre and Janine to review action plan prior to next meeting.  
**ACTION:** Andre to investigate wiki page and report back.  
**ACTION:** Communications committee to meet and discuss strategy.
5. **ACTION:** Carole and Mary Clare to meet with Clerk's office.
6. **ACTION:** Samara to include draft motion and guidelines for backyard chickens to be passed on.  
**ACTION:** Trish to follow up with Mary Clare by the end of April to see who at the City will handle the chicken issue.  
**ACTION:** Maria/Melanie to send email to Heather Deal outlining funding timeframes.  
**ACTION:** The food study committee will circulate the executive summary and come to the next meeting prepared with justification for both a \$6000 and a \$3000 amount, clearly outlining the boundaries of the study.
8. **ACTION:** UASC will be consulted regarding height bylaw.  
**ACTION:** Luca to send Samara related info, and after incorporating answers to potential questions, info will be sent to Heather Deal.