

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 9, 2008, 6:00-8:30pm
Strathcona Room, City Hall

Present:

Chairs: Andrea Reimer, Carole Christopher

Council Members: Chris Miewald, Trish Kelly, Barbara Joughin, David Tracey, Yona Sipos, Melanie Kurrein, Carla Shore, Eva Riccius, Tara McDonald

Staff: Samara Brock, Devorah Kahn (Social Planning)

Regrets: Herb Barbolet, Janine de la Salle, Daryl Arnold, Doug Aason, Kim Sutherland, Andre LaRivière
Susan Kurbis, Joyce Rock

Absent: Matt Low

1. **Opening:**

- 1.1 Introductions - 7 guests introduced themselves to Council.
- 1.2 Review Meeting Agenda - **MOTION:** to accept agenda. Moved by Yona S, seconded by Trish K, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- 1.3 Consent Agenda - March Minutes - **MOTION:** to adopt March minutes. Moved by David T, seconded by Eva R, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- 1.4 Requests for Leave - **MOTION:** to accept requests for leave. Moved by Chris M, seconded by Eva, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. **Updates:**

2.1 2010 Gardens

Urban Food Co-op - David T

(document distributed at March meeting). This co-op would be of mutual benefit to all stakeholders (individuals, orgs, City) and act as a hub for sharing resources and knowledge for the development of community gardens on both City-owned and private land. The co-op model was chosen to allow it to be transparent to members, and also allow for municipal participation as an active member. The proposed budget suggests a 50% financial investment by the City. It was clarified that this would be a pilot project over 2-3 yrs, and would not preclude agreements with other City departments. **ACTION:** David to send background document to FPC members. VCAN is seeking FPC endorsement of their concept to City Council, with the recommendation that the City become an active partner, and support the development of the project. Separate research into the feasibility of an umbrella organization is being conducted with SP, and should be complete by Fall 2008. Although the Community Garden Guidelines recommend the creation of an umbrella organization, the co-op would also apply to gardens on non-City lands. The importance of speaking with other groups was noted, and it was felt that other groups should have the same opportunity to present other models to the FPC. **ACTION:** David to address concerns of the FPC by email and present motion at next meeting.

Community Gardening Manual - Andrea R

Launch of updated manual will take place in May to allow for participation of the students who created it. Old version of manual was previously endorsed by the FPC, the class would like FPC as a partner for the press release. **MOTION:** to support the launch of "Growing Gardens", 1st edition and to participate as a partner in the event. Moved by Eva, seconded by Tara, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2.2 Farmer's Market Sub-committee - Samara B

Samara met with SP, who provided contacts for a future meeting. **ACTION:** Tara to chair subcommittee and liaise with staff. After YLFMS breakfast briefing, a meeting will be called to discuss specific strategies and recommendations.

- 2.3 Forum Committee - Carole C
It was felt that the timeframe for planning a travelling forum was too short for May, but that it may be feasible in the fall for approx. \$200/person for bus to Portland and hotel for 2 nights. It was suggested to research train as transportation. Andrea volunteered to help raise funds to provide subsidies. **ACTION:** Carole will report in May after consultation with contacts in Seattle and Portland.
- 2.4 Eco-Density Input - Barbara J
Document proposing draft FPC positions and input to the EcoDensity consultation with City was distributed for review prior to meeting. Contents of the draft document met with approval from FPC. Brief discussion included how to participate meaningfully in the development and implementation of EcoDensity initiative, involvement in Eco-Density could include liaising with Mary Clare Zak (SP), who is on the steering committee. Andrea or Carole will also join the consultation with EcoDensity staff.
- 2.5 VFPC position on BC Agriculture Plan
Herb B not present to report.
- 2.6 Staff Update - Samara B / Devorah K
FPC annual report - Has been working with Barbara, will go to City on May 15. **ACTION:** Samara to send complete draft out next week.
Opportunity - Andrew Pask (SP) is conducting research on the cost of a local food basket and is looking for volunteers. **ACTION:** Samara to ask Andrew how study differs from 'The Cost of Eating in BC'
Opportunity - A group of Sri Lankan micro-processors will be in town for May meeting. It was tentatively decided to stay 15 min after the next meeting to meet them. Trish and David volunteered to help connect them to local groups.
Funding - Olympic Legacy funds, through the Community Celebrations Program, will be allocated over 3 years to City Departments and for Community Grants to support legacy activities that will be around after the Olympics, but would not have occurred otherwise. Deadline is May 15 for the first cycle of funding. It was suggested that, following the vision of the 2010 motion, a departmental grant for Social Planning could be used to bring people who are growing food together. Ideas included holding a tour, creating a blog, events at community centres to share harvests, involve community kitchens. It was felt that this merits a larger discussion, and will be revisited in New Business.

3. Announcements

- Windermere School garden is progressing well with involvement of all stakeholders

4. Presentation - Trout Lake Cedar Cottage Food Security Network - Paula Luther

Paula gave an overview of the development of the group. Four areas are being explored:

- Growing Together: Looking at land to develop community gardens, one under Skytrain tracks at Victoria and one on Vaness. There is strong community support for both, land status needs to be clarified.
- Eating Together: New community kitchen will partner with community garden
- Learning Together: EYA interns will do workshops throughout the summer.
- Working Together: has proved the most challenging, takes time.

For more info - Tlccfoodsecurity.blogspot.com

Beekeepers Association - Allen Garr

Document distributed re: guidelines for beekeeping in Vancouver. Bees are important pollinators that can increase production and are a good tool for education. Would like a process to ensure responsible beekeeping in community gardens. Education is needed to avoid bee stings and swarms, and it was suggested that a beekeeper work with gardens wishing to

have bees. Idea was met with agreement from members, as healthy bee populations are key to food security. **MOTION:** to include content related to beekeeping in the Community Garden Guidelines. Moved by Carole, seconded by Barbara, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** **ACTION:** Devorah to work with Allen on content.

5. **Action Items:**

5.1 Presentation to UBC/Metro Committee re: UBC Farm - Andrea R
FPC has sent letter of support. If interested in participating in the consultations, contact Andrea.

ACTION: Samara to send out date for public consultations for UBC Farm.

5.2 Vending Cart Motion follow up - Devorah K

It was unsure if SP or Engineering will undertake action on this. **ACTION:** Devorah will meet with SP to discuss and report back. Trish, Chris, Carla to participate.

6. **New Business**

Legacy celebrations - contact Devorah if interested in developing concept, working on the application, helping to implement (mid-Sept). Possibilities exist for repeat funding. Goal is to increase engagement in 2010 gardens. Hire coordinator to do it first, then centres could do it ongoing. **ACTION:** Devorah will send message to chairs detailing request for involvement.

Community Groups presentations - The idea of a 5 min presentation and 5 min Q&A was met with agreement. **ACTION:** Trish will draft questionnaire for groups to target presentation.

ACTION: Melanie to send list of groups to Devorah and Trish.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

- 2.1 **ACTION:** David to send Urban Food Co-op background document to FPC members.
ACTION: David to address concerns of the FPC by email and present motion at next meeting.
- 2.2 **ACTION:** Tara to chair Farmers Market subcommittee and liaise with City staff.
- 2.3 **ACTION:** Carole will report in May after consultation with contacts in Seattle and Portland.
- 2.4 **ACTION:** Andrea and Carole to consult with Samara re: Eco-Density document.
- 2.6 **ACTION:** Samara to send complete draft of FPC annual report out next week.
ACTION: Samara to ask Andrew how SP study differs from 'The Cost of Eating in BC'
- 4 **ACTION:** Devorah to work with Allen Garr on beekeeping content for Community Garden Guidelines.
- 5.1 **ACTION:** Samara to send out date for public consultations for UBC Farm.
- 5.2 **ACTION:** Devorah will meet with SP to discuss Vending Cart motion and report back.
- 6 **ACTION:** Devorah will send message to FPC chairs detailing request for involvement in legacy funding proposal.
ACTION: Trish will draft questionnaire for groups to target presentation.
ACTION: Melanie to send list of community groups to Devorah and Trish.