

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 21st, 2007

Present: Council Members: Melanie Kurrein, Chris Miewald, Herb Barbolet*, Barb Seed, Heather Pritchard, Susan Kurbis, Janine de la Salle, Yona Sipos, Barbara Joughin, Andrea Reimer*, Karin Schreurs*
Chairs: Carol Ranger (retiring), Carole Christopher, Andrea Reimer (to be acclaimed)
Staff: Devorah Kahn, Mario Lee
Liasons: Spencer Herbert (Parks Board), Shirley Wong (VSB), Peter Ladner* (City Council)

Regrets: Spring Gillard, Aron Bjornson, Andre LaRivière, Doug Aason, Deepthi Jayatilaka

*denotes partial attendance

1. Opening

- 1.1 Introductions - Samara Brock, Social Planning staff
- 1.2 Consent Agenda - Added approval of January minutes
- 1.3 Changes to Meeting Agenda
 - 6.2 Tabled until next meeting.
 - 6.6 Devorah K - additional item

2. Special Business

- 2.1 Acclaim co-chairs and Steering Committee
Carole C and Andrea R acclaimed as chairs, Carol R's leadership appreciated.
Affirm steering committee - consists of both chairs, Herb B and Karin S.
- 2.2 Welcome Park Board Liason, Commissioner Spencer Herbert
Noted lots of room for growth in policy and minor initiatives within Parks Board. He is looking for ideas for forwarding urban agriculture agenda within Parks Board. ACTION: Spencer H to look into possibility of FPC presenting a report to Park Board.
- 2.3 Resignation - Heather Pritchard
Heather P noted importance of 'farming voice' on Food Policy Council.
 - 2.3. - ACTION: Carole C to send email re: meeting of membership committee.

3. Updates

- 3.1 Staff Reports
 - 3.1 A) FPC Coordinator Report (Devorah K) Presentation and discussion with FP Council
Update on 2010 Garden Initiative document (emailed prior to meeting).

Overview of various UA projects under 2010 initiative:

Objective 1: Strategize with VFPC on its involvement.

Looking forward to working with the FPC to determine strategies for the 2010 initiative.

Objective 2: Secure resources: funds & land

1) Funds: a) .25 FTE staff support from Social Planning, b) .25 FTE staff support Engineering, c) \$45,000 from Vancouver Coastal Health to fulfill the Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI) Three-Year Action Plan (addressing Food Security in Vancouver). The CFAI Three-Year Action Plan included several recommendations including more community gardens. Funds came from Ministry of Health CFAI program. Each of the five health authorities around the province are given funds and determine how to best use them.

2) Land: Devorah has been working closely with the Public Benefits Committee and the Engineering department to secure under-utilized city owned land for community gardens. Land to create five new gardens will become available this

Spring. This is in addition to 3 parcels of land that were approved for gardens in 2006.

Objective 3: Secure community partner

Partnership formed with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) to provide Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI) funds to an NGO for more community gardens. Vancouver Community Agriculture Network (VCAN) was awarded VCH/CFAI funds. VCAN is made up of EYA, Tree City & UBC Faculty of Land & Food Systems. EYA and Tree City will work with food-insecure vulnerable communities to develop more gardens while soil sampling will be done by UBC grad student.

Objective 4: Continue to support gardens in development or approved in 2006
Working closely with Law Department to develop a city-wide community garden license and Engineering Department to clear available land, install water hook-up and deliver compost.

Update on gardens in development:

MOBY has 45 plots, are still developing wheelchair accessible plots.

Pine Community Garden: has started on east side of 6th and will now go to west side, want to build an orchard. Decisions are made by the community within a framework provided.

La Cosecha: partnership between REACH Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) program and 4 Latin American groups. Garden is close to transit, will be beautified, and may include a car garden.

East Boulevard on 57th: a call has been put out for groups interested in gardening this space to submit a letter of interest.

Objective 5: Seize opportunities for new gardens as they arise

Developer of East Fraserlands wants to include community gardens in private and public realm. Park Board policy does not support develop of community gardens until community is living there and asks for it. Developer is offering gardening opportunity on land that will sit idle for years in advance of its development. This is being offered for 2 reasons, 1) land is available and sitting fallow, and 2) this is an opportunity to show the Park Board a community wanting to garden exists. There is no guarantee that a garden would remain after the development begins.

Rooftop gardens are included in the 2010 initiative. A concern regarding a question of insurance coverage for green roofs arose. Devorah understands that the insurance companies will cover green roofs and roof top gardens if contractors must meet specifications. Some contractors feel that the specifications outlines by the underwriters is too costly to provide for gardening or green roof purposes.

Discussion:

Ideas for F P Council members to support 2010 community garden and other projects:

- Seek more partnerships to increase funding resources for coordination and community development. Spencer H noted that a garden has been approved by Parks Board for China Creek South (Clark and Broadway)
- Look at FP Coordinator objectives together with FP Council objectives to identify overlap and where expertise can be used (e.g. waste management for SEFC)
- There are 3 land owners (Parks, VSB, City) at the table each with different procedures. Potential for developing expertise in Inter-jurisdictional communication, consultation and partnership. Shirley W - Issue has never come up at VSB, asked about possibly making a presentation to Planning/Facilities committee.
- Organize a Community Forum to showcase how the community can get involved. Many organizations exist in Vancouver but need mechanism for networking. Part of VCH/CFAI funds to research feasibility of forming network to act as hub.
- Use outreaching capacity of FPC to do workshops in community. Experience with Food Charter Workshops, affirmed energy in the community for development of UA.

- Need to clarify potential for fundraising and how to channel it into projects in the community (i.e. 2010 community garden project.)
- Eco-Density Workshop March 3, 4. There is a UA component. Members are encouraged to read info on-line and attend event.

3.1. B) Mario Lee - Mario, Devorah and Mary Clare Zak will meet (22nd Feb) with City Clerk to discuss; clerical support, budget clarification, membership issues. Will report next month.

3.2 Communications Committee

Workshop Coordinators both absent. General agreement amongst those who attended that it was very successful. Peter L- Cautioned re: speaking on behalf of the City. Only 4 people are authorized to speak on behalf of FPC and they are so advised.

3.3 Food Charter- Barbara

FPC congratulated and thanked Food Charter Committee for work well done, both in the community* workshops and in gaining unanimous adoption by City Council. Also thanked Carol R and Carole C for meeting each city Councillor. Clr Ladner noted that these meetings were worthwhile.

*noted that the Access Committee is being revived, using outreach approach similar to that done on behalf of the Food charter. They will specifically use approach developed by LifeCycles for exploring how to work in the community.

4. Strategic Planning re: Objectives (from Strategic Planning Session - Janine dIS

Objective 1: Roles/Relationships/Responsibilities - brief overview of co-chair's meeting with Director of Soc Plan to explore how to enhance the advisory role of the FPC. The workshop on the Social Development Plan is re-scheduled for April as Mario Lee will be out of town in March. Workshop will give overview of the plan and discuss how the work of Food Policy Council fits in.

Objectives 2, 3, 4: People worked in small groups for 20 min to create an action plan for each objective. They were asked to sign-up for one 'subcommittee.' Notes to be typed for next month.

5. Presentation* - Humane Treatment of Food Animals

Bruce Passmore of the Vancouver Humane Society (VHS), and Geoff Urton and Alyssa Stoneman of the BC SPCA

VHS - Gave an overview of farm animal welfare in Canada www.chickenout.ca
 SPCA identified the elements of SPCA certification in B.C.: more space, better housing, pain mitigation, vegetable feed, no antibiotics. They are also developing standards for transport and slaughter. Over 100 local farmers participate. www.sPCA.bc.ca/farm .

Requests that the FPC:

- Work with animal protection groups on the humane farming issue;
- support the Vancouver Humane Society's initiative for the City of Vancouver to go cage-free with respect to eggs in city-run facilities.

ACTION: Bruce, Alyssa and Geoff will collaborate and consult with Clr Kim Capri to fashion a proposal to submit to the VFPC for March Meeting.

* *longer report attached*

6. Other Business

6.1 SEFC Urban Agriculture-Janine dIS

Report is in final stages. SEFC office commissioned study, held 4 workshops that focused on design, management, technical considerations. Aimed to be inclusive of broader community. Will be available on the city website soon.

6.2 Van Dusen event - Tabled until next meeting.

6.3 Child's Health Initiative - Tabled until next meeting.

6.4 Fact Sheet (from Vancouver Food Assessment - 2005) - Chris M

Centre at SFU has put out two page summary of key points in FORC Report. Contact Chris M with any feedback. This document will go on FPC website soon.

6.5 Letter of support for UBC Farm - Yona S

Consensus reached that letter be sent out on behalf of the FPC. ACTION: Chairs to sign, letter to be sent. Shirley W and Spencer H encouraged to take this issue back to respective boards. ACTION: Andrea R to send draft letter to Peter L and ask for support. ACTION: Devorah K to send letter of support as individual.

6.6 Devorah K - asks that VPFC members identify themselves as such when attending meetings/public events. She noted that she has attended several events in the recent past where several other FPC members were in attendance though she was often one of the few, if not the only, person to identify her connection to the FPC. She reminded FPC members that identifying one's connection to the FPC shows the community the FPC's involvement, interest and support of their initiatives as well as facilitating the community's opportunity to meet FPC members.

6.7 Devorah K - Community Kitchen Project has invited FPC to participate in a CK worksop that would include preparing a meal together as a community building experience. Would be separate from regular meeting. ACTION: Andrea will send out an e-mail surevey to determine interest.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18

Summary of Actions:

- ACTION: *Karin S (and others?)* to bring food for next meeting.
- 2.2 ACTION: *Spencer H* to look into possibility of FPC presenting a report to Parks Board.
- 2.3 ACTION: *Carole C* to send out email asking for participation in membership process.
5. ACTION: *Bruce (VHS), Alyssa and Geoff (SPCA)* draft a proposal for specific proposal for the VFPC to come to March meeting.
- 6.5 ACTION: *Chairs* to sign, letter to be sent. *Shirley W and Spencer H* encouraged taking issue back to respective boards.
ACTION: *Andrea R* to send letter of support to Peter L and ask for support.
ACTION: *Devorah K* to send letter of support as individual.
- 6.7 ACTION: *Andrea R* to send out survey re: Community Kitchen Project.