

# Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting

## Tuesday, February 8, 2005

### Present:

**Council Members:** Aron Bjornson, Carol Ranger, Carole Christopher, Corinne Eisler, David Van Seters, Heather apritchard, Herb Barabolet, John Van Luven, Karin Schreurs, Miriam Palacios, Shefali Raja, Spring Gillard, Stephen Hall, Sue Moen, Susan Kurbis.

**Liaisons:** Councilor Tim Louis, Trustee Andrea Reimer

**Staff:** Devorah Kahn, Shannon Bradley

**Regrets:** Graham Riches, John Bishop, Commissioner Eva Riccius, Trustee Adrienne Montani, Barb Seed, Brain Holl,

**Absent:** Arran Stephens, Councilor Peter Ladner

### 1. Introductions

### 2. Review & acceptance of the agenda

2.1 Revised agenda - order of items 5.2 and 5.3 reversed.

2.2 Additional items added under item 6.3.

2.3 Agenda accepted with additions/changes

### 3. Review & acceptance of the minutes from January 11

3.1 Note: Barb S. is not the main contact for her group - she is volunteer contact only.

3.2 Add Spring Gillard as present.

3.3 Minutes accepted with changes.

### 4. Business Arising:

4.1 *Meeting date change update.* Devorah thanked everyone for responding to the survey circulated. Still sorting out best dates for upcoming meetings. Decision to be made by next meeting.

### 5. Old Business & Reports:

5.1 *Follow-up on ideas re: liaison with other CoV volunteer committees.* Discussion surrounding how to best liase with the volunteer committees that share common interests with VFPC. Ideas included circulating briefing notes to all committees, sharing minutes and linking appropriate sub-committees with volunteer committees.

**ACTION:** Put forward a description of the VPFC and its 4 themes. Sub-committees should identify relevant volunteer committees to circulate this descriptor to in hopes of recruiting volunteers.

#### 5.2 Staff Reports:

5.2.1 *Food Policy Coordinator* - Devorah described the work she has been doing, including:

- Regular communication with VFPC members and co-chairs and coordination of VFPC activities;
- Monthly information sharing and strategic planning meetings with the Office of Sustainability;
- Managing SCARP intern (Stephen) who is working on compiling databases for Vancouver community gardens and C.G. policies around North America;
- Ongoing consulting on policy development with the Social Planning department;
- Working with MOBY (My Own Back Yard) to develop community garden under Broadway Station Skytrain guideway;
- Working with Food Bank on "Grow a Row" program - Discussion around program and its educational components followed;
- Meeting regularly with food security community-based agencies to learn of their activities, challenges with or needs from the City, assist as needed and as appropriate and connect organizations that do not know of each other to build their capacities;
- Reviewing and commenting on development and re-zoning applications to the City to incorporate aspects of the food system as appropriate.

5.2.2 *Food Policy Planner* -Shannon B. described her current work:

- New Developments and Urban Agriculture: participate in SE False Creek development hearings and working with technical teams for both SEFC and the East Fraserlands;
- Attended Planning and Environment Committee meeting with the Park Board to review how to collaborate with the fruit trees on park property initiative;
- Presenting at the BC Association of Landscape Architects AGM, March 4;
- Updating website;
- Facilitating mapping research for the Food Assessment by Forum of Research Connections for Food (FORC);
- Ongoing policy development with the Social Planning department and continued outreach to city staff.

### 5.3 Sub-Committee Reports:

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

**Food Charter** - has had 2 meetings. Working on creating a draft charter. Deciding where to go from here - council input? public input? Suggested to present longer report at next meeting.

**Food Waste/Coordinated Effort** - circulated draft overview. Would appreciate any feedback on this document.

**Increased Access to Groceries (Food Access)** - Met twice. Currently identifying target audience for message, doing research on studies that have already been done by other food policy councils. Specific direction is still to be determined.

REMINDER: Groups who would like to present at the next meeting need to book time on the agenda with Devorah in advance.

#### 5.3.2 Institutional Purchasing Policies - David V.

David V. presented on behalf of his group. Circulated overview and table. Requested additional topics or comments. It was noted that Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver School Board and City of Vancouver be addressed as separate entities.

Suggestion that starting with educational programs to create a groundswell of support may allow for a better outcome when going before Council. Communication and educational strategies need to be emphasized. \$3.77 million spent by City on food. Sustainable food purchasing policies should highlight the positive health benefits. Education has 2 targets - purchasing and policy/awareness.

Comments on Table

Food waste/recovery - not relevant to purchasing

Add packaging as part of waste reduction

Another category for antibiotics/processed food.

Add category for foods that are high in sugar/fat content?

Put animal welfare under ecological integrity?

Devorah mentioned that CoV staff responsible for purchasing are displaying a heightened sensitivity to suggested purchasing policies due to the recently accepted ethical purchasing policy. As a result, it would be wise if the VFPC looked at creative strategies for policy change such as a food miles or other awareness raising activities which would lead to ownership of any proposed changes.

ACTION: Research additional institutional food purchasing policies. Contact other cities and large U.S. universities that have FPCs and seeing what they have identified.

#### 5.3.3 VFPC Goals/Objectives - David V. Handout circulated.

Discussion around the pros/cons of setting measurable goals. Goals and objectives are important - whether they be measurable or more broad. More discussion is necessary. Mission statement can

help to guide goals/objectives. VFPC mission statement is included in minutes of November 29 meeting.

Next step - Demonstrate the effectiveness of the goals/objectives outlined in handout by completing logic model.

**ACTION:** Each subcommittee should submit a simplified goal for distribution to media, other groups etc. when such information is requested. David will prepare logic model and report back to council next meeting.

## 6. New Business:

### 6.1 *Creation of Public Relations committee - discussion*

It was determined that rather than a public relations committee, the current need is for a speakers list. Devorah has received requests for VFPC speakers to address outside groups/classes. All members indicated that if they had the time, they would be willing to present or speak to a group especially if there were resource materials (Power Point, leaflet) accompanying the presentation. Corrine E. and Andrea R. identified themselves as being willing to be on a speakers list. In future, Devorah will send out a broadcast request to all members when a request comes in. If no volunteer comes forward, she will then call the person(s) who might be the most appropriate for the topic or audience.

**ACTION:** Prepare Power Point presentation about VFPC to accompany speakers at future speaking engagements.

### 6.2 *New additions to the agenda*

#### 6.2.1 *Habitat+30 meeting update - Herb B.*

Herb has sent out a message to the listserv that Habitat+30 Conference is coming to Vancouver. More information to come soon.

6.2.2 *Receiving outside presentations to the VFPC - discussion* - Graduate students have approached staff to present their findings to council at some point. How do we incorporate these requests? Is it premature to accept presentations at this time while council is still working on goals and objectives? Conversely, presenters may have valuable information to share with Council. Further discussion required. To be discussed at next meeting.

6.2.3 *Terminator seeds legislation* - council members can send individual letters to PM and MPs if they wish. No group action needed.  
**REMINDER:** please send emails - even urgent ones, to Devorah first to be forwarded to council.

6.2.4 *False Creek Development Plan Public Hearing.* Reconvening Mon, February 14. 7:30pm Council Chambers. Still opportunity to get on speakers list.

6.2.5 *Devorah presenting on behalf of Graham Riches* - School of Social Work is having 2 day symposium in September to honour its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Looking for volunteers to work on planning committee to create a day devoted to food, health and social well being. Contact Graham directly.

6.2.6 *Communication with Task Force* - How are we communicating with the task force and LMFC? How will continued communication be facilitated? To be discussed at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27pm

**NOTE:** Subcommittees may send working notes to Devorah to include in next pre-meeting email. Reminder: Let Devorah know which subcommittee would like to present at next meeting.