

Vancouver Food Policy Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 9, 2011
6:00-8:30pm
Strathcona Room, City Hall



Chair: Brent Mansfield, Joanne Bays

Council Members: Doug Aason, Daryl Arnold, Maria Burtlehaus, Trish Kelly, Ilana Labow, Tara McDonald, Ross Moster, Carla Shore, Helen Spiegelman, Kim Sutherland, Shelby Tay, Chris Thoreau, David Tracey

Liaisons: James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Mary Clare Zak (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Allen Blakely (VSB)

Regrets: David Wilson, Carole Christopher, Aaron Jasper (VPB), Herb Barbolet, Jason Boyce, Janine de la Salle, Bill Manning (VPB), Wendy Mendes (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Arzeena Hamir (RFSS), Cale Price, T'Uy'Tanat-Cease Wyss, Heather Deal (City Council), Jane Bouey (VSB)

Agenda Items:

1. Motion to Accept Agenda and January Minutes
Financials added to agenda under Budget. Moved by Kim, seconded by Daryl, carried unanimously.
2. City's Urban Health Framework - Mary Clare Zak
In the past months the City has been in talks with VCH to envision what a healthy city would look like, and are developing a framework to explore priorities. Six common themes have been identified, and while a citywide approach will be taken, the DTES will be the focus of many of the fourteen Phase I projects. Challenges, including growing income disparity, will be addressed using all tools on the spectrum from Advocacy to Service Delivery. However, the initiatives are interconnected and go beyond the focus on inequities. Next steps are to further partnerships with VCH, advisory bodies, and other non-profits before consulting with the wider community.
3. Staff Report on City's Food Policy Activity - James O'Neil
 - Roles in Social Policy - James will be main contact for FPC, assisting with e-bulletin, community gardens, GCAT, and pocket markets. Terra will be working on procurement and urban farming. Wendy is working on food carts and neighbourhood food networks.
 - Community garden accessibility guidelines distributed - started by Disability and Senior's advisory committees, are looking for endorsement from City. New gardens will need minimum 5% of the plots to be accessible. FPC will review and provide feedback to endorse next meeting. Will be posted on City website and apply to all new gardens.
 - Urban Food Strategy - work will begin in April, with consultations in summer-fall. Pieces exist in various departments and documents, but this would apply cross-city and include targets.
 - New City Market - Mary Clare will be lead.
4. Introduction of New VFPC Members and Liaisons -Ilana and Allen
Ilana - originally from Chicago, Ilana became interested in sustainable agriculture studying in Israel before studying in the Faculty of Land and Food at UBC. She has interned with Growing Power to focus on urban growing and has facilitated youth projects and worked with diverse communities. Last year, she co-founded Fresh Roots, delivering 20 CSA boxes from 7 sites, bike driven. Now has partnership with Queen

Alexandra with mini urban farm and is talking with more schools. Would like to be a study case for RFP applicants to maintain Earth Tub.

Allen - is now retired, provides support to teachers and staff to further food initiatives. He was an active member of BCTF and NGO that helps Latin American unions to further develop their capacity. Allen is looking forward to learning more and becoming involved.

5. Presentation on Climate Change and Food Production in the Fraser Valley - Kim Sutherland

Globally, food production must be made more sustainable while ending hunger and not depleting biodiversity. Land is being lost to urban development and degradation and food shortfalls are being forecasted. Irrigated land produces 40% of the food base on 17% of land. Many factors are responsible for price increases and the situation is precarious in many parts of the world, highlighting the importance of sound food and agricultural policies. Climate change is destabilizing production and is hard to predict. More irrigated land in BC is needed to meet consumption in BC. Of ALR land, very little is irrigated, most is rangeland. Fraser Valley is the most productive land base in Canada. Temperatures and rainfall are predicted to increase with climate change, but the Fraser Valley is fairly robust in face of this. Supply managed commodities ensure supply meets demand with limited excess. Green house and small fruits are also in high demand worldwide. Farming here is a good business, earning more than Canadian and urban counterparts. Many non-farm uses for ALR land is a challenge. Creating markets and local sourcing help, and the City must work directly with the Province on concerns and enhancements. Directly affects the health of Vancouver, and can increase resilience.

6. Update on 2010 Budget

Budget for 2010 distributed. Vancity statement of account for Food Secure Vancouver account also distributed.

Budget for 2011 is \$15,300. It was suggested that 2010 amounts be correlated with projected budget for the official year-end.

7. 2011 Work Plan and Budget

Action plan distributed. May be updated but not fully revised.

Carla - website. If website will be dynamic, suggests \$500 rather than current \$300.

Trish - *distributed Neighbourhood Food Network Document.*

Support development of four new networks: 4 x \$600 = \$2400

Two neighbourhood level food security summits: \$1000 + \$1500 = \$2500

Events tie into GCAT and will help identify food assets and gaps while providing the community with information and support.

Helen - working through GCAT to crosslink food and waste. Waste focus will be shifted to neighbourhood level, and will work with network of neighbourhood food networks. There is no budget request. Composting for FPC meetings is not available by the City.

Food Strategy - those interested in the Food Strategy should contact Brent. Objective is connected with all others so there is no budget needed, but it was recommended that some funds be put aside for contingency.

Chris - urban farming network. Goal is to more fully develop network, funds needed for external working group. Two meetings, one Q&A with city staff (including other cities), and one for urban farmers; \$1000 is requested for both. If other grant money materializes, these could be reallocated.

Ross - food resiliency. Using transition town model to work back from 2030 vision. Requests \$1500 to hold 2 open space sessions to imagine the possibilities (\$600 each + \$300 for other costs/reports).

Food Secure Vancouver - will launch March 1. Would like to do a hard launch at a forum in late May/early June to report back not only about FSV, but all initiatives. \$3500 is requested for an event for 200 people, plus translation.

Ilana - youth engagement. Inspired by Youth Food Policy councils in other cities, to expand conversation to a more diverse demographic. Request \$2000 for small event late spring to flush out what a Youth Food Policy Council for Vancouver would look like. In fall, host another event to spread the word before launching next year. Plans are to connect with Youth Politik and Vancouver Foundation Youth Task Force.

Meeting expenses have been at \$2300 but may be revisited.

Discussion - website kept at \$300 until more capacity developed, urban farming reduced to \$500, FSV to \$3000. \$800 allocated to Food Strategy/contingency, as needed.

Website	\$300
Neighbourhood Food Networks	\$4900
Urban Farming	\$500
Food Resiliency	\$1500
Food Secure Vancouver	\$3000
Youth Engagement	\$2000
Meeting Expenses	\$2300
Food Strategy/Contingency	\$800
TOTAL	\$15,300

It was noted that many events could be merged with Neighbourhood Food Networks.

Motion to approved budget as outlined, to be revisited. Moved by Trish, seconded by Chris, carried unanimously.

Action plan circulated and members asked to sign up for different working groups. Dave Wilson added to Procurement group.

8. A Proposal and Discussion of the Shape of Meetings
Tabled until next meeting

9. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Chris, seconded by Kim, carried unanimously. Adjourned at 8:45pm