

# VANCOUVER FOOD POLICY COUNCIL MINUTES

## January 11, 2005

### Present:

**Council Members:** Carol Ranger (co-chair), John Van Luven (co-chair), Aron Bjornson, Brian Holl, Corinne Eisler, David Van Seters, Shefali Raja, Susan Kurbis, Herb Barbolet, Barbara Seed, John Bishop, Stephan Hall

**Liaisons:** City Councillor Tim Louis, Trustee Andrea Reimer

**Staff:** Devorah Kahn

**Regrets:** Heather Pritchard, Karin Schreurs, Carole Christopher, Sue Moen, Commissioner Eva Riccius, City Councillor Peter Ladner, Graham Riches, Trustee Adrienne Montani, Shannon Bradley

**Absent:** Arran Stephens, Miriam Palacios

### 1. Introductions

### 2. Review and acceptance of the agenda

2.1 Additional agenda items added under Item 6.3. Agenda accepted with additions.

### 3. Review and acceptance of the minutes from December 14

3.1 Minutes accepted as written.

### 4. Business Arising:

4.1 ***Report on other City of Vancouver volunteer committees.*** Sue sent Devorah the research that she did on other CoV committees and recommends that the VFPC liaison with the following:

- Development Permit Board Advisory Panel
- Advisory Committee on Disability Issues
- Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues
- Urban Design Panel
- Vancouver City Planning Commission
- Vancouver Economic Development Commission

The complete list is attached as Appendix A to the minutes. FPC members are requested to review it and send any other suggestions to Devorah.

4.2 ***Report on review of VFPC objectives.*** David V. distributed the work that this sub-committee had begun with their review of the objectives/goals of the VFPC as they are currently written in the *Terms of Reference*. Comments were received on the first draft. The committee members (David, Andrea & Shefali) will meet and present the next step of the process at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. It will be attached to the minutes as Appendix B. Please review & send any additional comments to David.

### 5. Old Business:

#### 5.1. ***Reviewing Terms of Service for VFPC members.***

All 20 VFPC seats are filled with the following members sitting for the following terms:  
2 years:

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| • Arran Stephens   | • Miriam Palacios |
| • Barb Seed        | • Shefali Raja    |
| • Brian Holl       | • Spring Gillard  |
| • Carol Ranger     | • Sue Moen        |
| • Corinne Eisler   |                   |
| • David Van Seters |                   |

3 years:

- Aron Bjornson
- Carole Christopher
- Graham Riches
- Heather Pritchard
- Herb Barabolet
- John Bishop
- John Van Luven
- Karin Schreurs
- Stephen Hall
- Susan Kurbis

6. New Business:

6.1 *FPC meeting dates conflict with 2005 City Council meetings.* Devorah announced that she will be sending out a survey to all VFPC members to determine a new meeting date for the FPC starting in April 2005. Please be sure to return it very soon after it is sent to you.

6.2 *Work-Group Reporting Methods.* Council discussed and agreed that the work groups are committees of the whole council. Accordingly, it was decided that the council would like to be educated on each committees work, and have an opportunity to provide input or debate where appropriate. With the goal being that all council members would be able to speak knowledgeably to their peers about each project.

The process for reporting would work in the following way

1. Each group would have 5 minutes at each meeting to do a quick "check-in". This quick report will act more as a "functioning check" as opposed to a "content" report. This will allow the whole VFPC to be updated on how well each sub-committee is working.
2. In addition to the 5 minute monthly check-in, each working group will give a detailed report in the form of a "presentation" at least once every two months to the full council. These presentations may take up to an hour or more, depending on the needs of the committee. They are an opportunity to educate, to utilize the expertise at the table, and to engage in full debate about the issues.
3. The content of these "presentations" will be determined by the committee's needs. They may range from a report, to a brainstorming session if the group is stuck, to a debate. They will be used to set the stage for questions, answers and decision making in order to proceed to the next step of the committees process.
4. Sub-committees are requested to "book" time on the agenda to give their presentation.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Sub-committees shall prepare their presentation information in advance and e-mail it to Devorah for inclusion with the upcoming agenda. This advance information may also include questions for consideration from the sub-committee to the larger group. Presentation information should be submitted one week in advance of the meeting.

**DECISION:** All agreed with and supported this process.

6.3 *New agenda items:*

6.3.1 **RA-1 zoning.** Devorah mentioned that the much of the Southlands neighbourhood in Southwest Vancouver is zoned as "Restricted Agriculture" the last of any agricultural land in the City of Vancouver. Re-zoning applications have been received in the past to change the zoning from agriculture to other uses, such as single family housing.

The standard process for any re-zoning application within the CoV involves sending the application to Social Planning for comment. Any comment from our department is included in a report to City Council.

Due to the opportunity to make a comment, Devorah distributed copies of the definition of the RA-1 zoning and asked the FPC to review it in order to draft a response to any future request for re-zoning of RA-1 lands. She suggested that we spend time at the February meeting drafting this response.

*N.B. Since January 11, Devorah has learned that Vancouver's RA-1 zoning is within the ALR. As a result, it is unnecessary for the FPC to make further comment since Vancouver City Council passed a motion on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004 stating the following: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Vancouver go on record and inform the BC Agricultural Land Commission that the City of Vancouver opposes the removal of land from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).*

- 6.3.2 **Urban Planning Intern.** Devorah stated that Food Policy staff plan to request a student intern from UBC's School Of Community & Regional Planning (SCARP). The internship is one day a week for 14 weeks. FP Staff has taken on Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture as part of their own work-plan. The goal of this project is to understand the needs of current Community Gardens within the City of Vancouver and determine the feasibility of developing a new Community Garden policy within the context of a larger Urban Agricultural framework.

**RECOMMENDATION:** David V. requested that the FPC consider how future interns be utilized.

**DECISION:** The VFPC supports having a student intern research Community Garden issues in the City of Vancouver.

- 6.3.3 **Attendance Concerns.** Though the concern hasn't become serious yet, we are beginning to see meetings with significant numbers of FPC members absent. John V. mentioned that there are others who have expressed interest in being on the Council if the FP Council has turned out to be something other than what FPC members first thought. There was general agreement that if a FPC member misses 2 -3 meetings that Devorah will follow up with that person. All agreed that Council members would be expected to contribute to their working sub-committee even if other commitments temporarily removed them from the Council's monthly meetings.

- 6.3.4 **Staff Reports.** A request was made that a report from both staff members be included as a standing agenda item. All agreed.

**DECISION:** Both the Food Policy Coordinator and Food System Planner will present an update on their work to the VFPC at each scheduled meeting.

- 6.3.5 **Community Report.** Corinne E. reported on an innovative conference in Prince George on February 7-10, 2005. Click here for more info:  
<http://www.healbc.ca/Conference.htm>

7. **Work Plan - continued work from December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. *Moving into action:***  
 Devorah contacted those that were absent from the December meeting and asked them to sign up for a sub-committee. Work-group committees are as follows:

<b>Food Charter</b>	<b>Increased Access to Groceries</b>	<b>Institutional Food Purchasing Policy</b>	<b>Coordinated Effort re: Unused Food (Food Recovery)</b>
Carole Chrisopher	Karin Schreurs	Aaron Bjornson	Susan Kurbis
Corrine Eisler	Spring Gillard	Shefali Raja	Heather Pritchard
John Van Luven		David Van Seters	Brian Holl
Graham Riches		John Bishop	Sue Moen
Barb Seed		Herb Barbolet	
Stephen Hall		Miriam Palacios	

Each group (except for Groceries) met during the last hour of the meeting and reported back as follows:

**Food Charter:**

- Need to find a definition of a “charter” .
- Should the Food Charter be related to the goals of the VFPC?
- Reviewed Food Charters of other cities
- 3 roles of a Charter identified: rights to groups, protection to people and equity
- Barb S. will be contact person
- 1 volunteer from outside of VFPC requested

**Institutional Food Purchasing Policy**

- Reviewed what types of purchasing policies exist in other jurisdictions
- Need to do research on “action plan” for implementing
- David V. will be contact person
- 1 volunteer from outside of VFPC requested
- prepared to give a 30 minute presentation at February VFPC meeting

**Coordinated Effort re: Unused Food (Food Recovery)**

- Recognition of enormity of task
- Wants to focus on many levels, need to determine where to start
- Needs to look into Good Samaritan Act and liabilities re: donating of food
- Wants to look at waste from restaurants, major food retailers, city institutions, hospitals, etc. to assess direction
- Susan K. will be contact person
- 2 volunteers from outside of VFPC requested

All VFPC members who were unable to attend the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting are requested to contact a member of your sub-committee in order to attend upcoming work meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next meeting, Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 9:30 pm - Strathcona Room/City Hall