

Vancouver Food Policy Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 12, 2011
6:00-8:30pm
Strathcona Room, City Hall



Chair: Joanne Bays, Brent Mansfield

Council Members: Doug Aason, Daryl Arnold, Herb Barbolet, Jason Boyce, Maria Burtlehaus, Carole Christopher, Trish Kelly, Ilana Labow, Tara McDonald, Ross Moster, Janine de la Salle, Carla Shore, Helen Spiegelman, Kim Sutherland, Shelby Tay, Chris Thoreau, David Tracey

Liaisons: Bill Manning (VPB), Wendy Mendes (Social Development, City of Vancouver), Arzeena Hamir (RFSS),

Regrets: Cale Price, David Wilson, T'Uy'Tanat-Cease Wyss

Mary Clare Zak (Social Development, City of Vancouver), Heather Deal (City Council), Jane Bouey (VSB)

1. Opening Round

Members and thirteen guests introduced themselves to council.

- Doug (Food Bank) - received support needed to meet demand, and are planning new initiatives around education.
- David (writer, designer) - excited about food at meeting
- Bill (Park Board liaison) - noted that BC Landscape and Trades association newsletter speaks about agrisustainability tours
- Carla (public relations consultant) - Board of Trade Sustainability Committee is developing Green Awards program with the City, and son is collecting cans for the foodbank
- Chris (urban farmer) - excited about being an urban farmer
- Kim (BC Min of Ag.) - while in Scotland, met with head of Scotland's Food and Drink about disconnect between farmers and marketers there.
- Herb (SFU/FFCF) - moving forward with New City Market, new kitchen incubator in DTES
- Ilana (urban farmer) - Fresh Roots urban farm. Proudly slaughtered first chicken.
- Carole (SPEC) - excited about SPEC project with school gardens and related curriculum.
- Daryl (chicken farmer) - also sits on Metro Van ag committee, and Surrey ag committee. Likes to eat.
- Maria (VCH community nutritionist) - VCH hired consultant to evaluate food networks funded by CFAI
- Wendy (Social Planning) - gave presentation to Council on new street food program. Report to go forward next week
- James O'Neill (Social Planning) - moved from Community Planning
- Terra Kaethler (Social Planning) - job sharing with Wendy, also works at Agricultural Land Commission.
- Vicky - is hosting 'open coop' this weekend
- Janine (HP Lanar) - has been asked to speak at Federation of Canadian Municipalities.
- Jason (Nature's Path) - is expecting first child
- Helen (Zero Waste) - moved to Cedar Cottage.
- Trish (Discovery Organics) connected VAST (refugee-serving agency) with community kitchen.
- Shelby (Village Vancouver) - online community engagement, is screening Food Inc in Dunbar.
- Ross - (Village Vancouver, SPEC, etc.) - spent quality time with wife, and is very busy with a growing Village
- Tara (Farmers Markets, Local Food First) - reported record-breaking \$4.6 million sales to farmers, more than ¼ million visitors. Positive about meeting with CoV support for New City Market.
- Arzeena (Richmond Food Security) - received Enviro-grant to start incubator farms in Richmond.
- Joanne (Farm to School) - amazed at how far food policy and food security has come

2. Motion to Accept November Minutes and Agenda

The following amendments will be made to the November 2010 minutes: Section 5 - add "Chris

Thoreau accepts position as new member.” Moved by Trish, seconded by Carole, carried unanimously. The following amendments will be made to the agenda: Sections 3, 5, and 6 – Update on Urban Health Framework, Ilana’s introduction, and Clare Gram and Al Blakely’s presentations will be tabled until next meeting. Moved by Carla, seconded by Ross, carried unanimously.

3. Urban Health Framework (Mary Clare)
Tabled until next meeting.

4. Staff Report on City’s Food Policy Activity (Wendy Mendes)

- New staff- Welcomed James O’Neill and Terra Kaethler. Division of labour and work plans are still being devised.
- Street food report – goes forward next week and will be online soon. Recommendations include more locations, increased diversity of food, increased nutrition, and working with Farmers markets to increase local food content.
- Urban Farming – engaging in conversations to align city regulations with urban farming practices.
- Food Secure Vancouver – connecting to City data-gathering for GCAT food-focus to benchmark goals.
- Graduate students – bringing folks together to work better together and provide opportunity to contribute to policy development
- UASC-renamed as Urban Food Systems Steering Committee (UFSSC)
- Urban Food Strategy including an Urban Agriculture Strategy – will be developed to bring together ideas and include goals and strategies.

It was noted that the food mandate has endured through various changes in government, but that it is important to engage with new politicians after the election.

5. Introduction of New VFPC Members – Shelby, Chris, and Jason

Shelby – After receiving her BSc in Environmental Sciences from UBC, Shelby became active with various networks with a goal of giving people and organizations the tools needed to enable positive change. Her interests lie at the intersection sustainability, community, health, food, and she is now actively involved with Village Vancouver.

Jason – After working at the Aquarium and helping them begin the Ocean Wise program, Jason understood the power of social enterprise, and continued on to complete his MBA in Sustainable Business. He has been heavily involved in Local Food First, and has now joined Nature’s Path, a company also interested in supporting the local food system.

Chris – On Vancouver Island, Chris ran a small farm and was involved with the Island Organic Producers Association and other committees before moving to Vancouver to study Agroecology at UBC. He now has an urban farm and is working to coordinate other urban farmers in the region.

6. Introduction of New VFPC Liaison – Arzeena and Bill

Bill-Originally from Ontario, Bill is an avid gardener. After living in Calgary for a number of years, he moved to Vancouver to work for the Park Board, and is now the Manager of Parks and Horticulture, responsible for things such as dogs in parks and community gardens on Park land.

Arzeena-From Richmond originally, Arzeena trained in Ontario before working overseas in rural development. Since her return to the Vancouver Area, she has acted as Coordinator for the Richmond Food Security Society, managing community gardens, developing a tool kit to improve access to food, and exploring partnerships. They have received an award from VanCity’s Envirofund, and will work with Kwantlen to develop new incubator farms in Richmond. She also sits on the Richmond School Yard Society.

7. Food Secure Vancouver Study Update (Brent)

Report has been in the works for 2.5 years to set a baseline for indicators for food security in

Vancouver. The group has developed a logic model and a framework with data that has been gathered and has also identified gaps. Barbara Joughin was recognized for her extraordinary work on the report, which has now been finalized. The website has been nearly completed with the available funds, and while still evolving, it includes 25 metrics. The hope is that it can be a platform for community-inputted data, and continued partnerships with UBC and SFU. It was suggested that the release coincide with February's report to Council, and the FPC host a forum to discuss FSV and links to other initiatives with the community and key partners. While there is no detailed communication plan, it was felt important that the project be recognized as a significant accomplishment of the FPC while still noting the partnership role.

8. Urban Farming Network Update (Chris)
The network is being developed in three phases - identifying farmers and their needs, hosting a series of working groups to discuss how to meet those needs, and then using that to create Terms of Reference for the network. The first phase saw 50 participants that identified 5 categories - land tenure and security, government policy, business development, food system, and cooperation. Next steps will be to add more detail, and create a steering committee and working groups to develop indicators and generate actions. The Organic Sector Development Program has provided 10k in matching funds, with Better Opportunities for Business providing \$4,100 and the remaining still being sought. There will be a Q&A with urban farmers and Will Allen before his Jan 27th talk. It was suggested that Chris address the Board of Trade Sustainability Committee. There are approximately 19 urban farms with 70-80 members.
9. Local Food Procurement Forum Summary (Brent)
Thirty-five people attended the Dec 3 meeting with Lori Stahlbrand (LFP), Ken Babich (UVic), Vickie Wakefield (UBC), and representatives of the CoV, VSB, UBC and VCH present. The City has a Sustainable and Ethical Purchasing Committee with focus on food and janitorial supplies. Policies would be developed at SP with implementation at Supply Chain Management. LFP shared their model, which will inform work with contracts.
10. Domestic Fair Trade Presentation (Trish)
Background document distributed
Upon returning from the AGM for Domestic Fair Trade in Santa Cruz, Trish gave background on fair trade and domestic fair trade, including just conditions for farm workers. There are different standards being developed, and it was recommended that the City of Vancouver update their ethical procurement standard as outlined in the policy. It was clarified that Fair trade does revisit their standards. Local Food Plus has farm labour standards in their criteria for certification.
11. Next Meeting (agenda items, location)
February's meeting will look at the budget and strategic plan, which will be circulated along with the list of working groups prior to the meeting. Working groups must come prepared with reports for Council and budget needs. A discussion of meeting structure will also take place.
12. Motion to Adjourn
Moved by Carole, seconded by Jason, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.