

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 13, 2010, 6:00-8:30pm
Strathcona Room, City Hall

Chair: Carole Christopher

Council Members: Daryl Arnold, Herb Barbolet, Joanne Bays, Maria Burtlehaus, Erika Del Carmen Fuchs, Trish Kelly, Andre LaRiviere Brent Mansfield, Ross Moster, Jeff Nield, Cale Price, Yona Sipos, David Tracey, T'Uy'Tanat-Cease Wyss

Regrets: Kim Sutherland, Aaron Jasper (VPB), Carla Shore, Doug Aason, Joyce Rock, Janine de la Salle, Helen Spiegelman Tara McDonald, Heather Deal (City Council), Jane Bouey (VSB), Mary Clare Zak (UASC/Social Development)

Agenda Items:

1. **Introductions** - members & guests - Members, liaisons, and four guests introduced themselves to the FPC.
2. **Motion to accept amended agenda and requests for leave** - Added: #3 Co-chair update and next meeting date. Moved by Trish, seconded by Erika, carried unanimously.
3. Co-chairs and next meeting date
Due to the Olympic closures, the City suggested that the meeting dates for Feb and Mar be changed. It was agreed to check availability for the first week of February, possibly at a different location.
ACTION: Carole will send a request for availability for Feb meeting and suggestions for venues. For March, it was felt that it would be better to keep the date, and search for an alternate venue.

Chairs - Joanne and Brent are willing to act as new co-chairs. Nominated by Daryl, seconded by Andre, carried unanimous agreement. **ACTION:** Carole to circulate meeting time of new chairs to discuss the transition with all members.

4. Presentation by Fair Trade Vancouver -Jeff Geipel and Mark Abbott
Handout circulated.
Mark and Jeff described their background and current work promoting awareness, availability, and purchasing of fair trade products. Fair trade certification includes fair pricing, encouraging cooperatives, financing opportunities and environmental requirements. FTV is volunteer-run and partners with Engineers without Borders to offer presentations to organizations. Their goal is to create a connection between consumers and the origin of products, raising awareness to empower better choices while empowering producers. They have completed an inventory on where to find some fair trade products, which will soon be available on their website. They hope Vancouver can become the first large city in Canada to be certified as Fair Trade, which requires support from the City. FPC suggested that FTV be explicit about IMO certification for local producers, and that market conditions are already in place and the city support is the last piece. FPC also suggests that FTV contact Carla to do a presentation to the Board of Trade.

The FPC recommends that council contribute to campaign for fair trade status, including serving fair trade coffee, etc. at meetings and appointing a representative to the steering committee.

5. Liaison Update(s)
No update available.
6. Committee/project Updates:
Food Secure Vancouver - Brent
Dec 3 forum was successful with great feedback and community engagement. Committee is looking to develop next steps based on feedback. There will be budget items to consider.

Food Hub/Precincts- Herb

Over 100 people attended the Jan 7 visioning workshop. A report will come out within the next two months, and the committee is undertaking the first stages of a business plan. They will continue with planning and design, a feasibility study for a capital budget, conducting public engagement, and hope to open doors by 2013.

Precincts - want to engage with FPC on this in the coming years. Will be looking for budget items. Support from the City was strong, despite having no councilors there. Next step to engage councilors. GCAT plan includes aspects with potential funds available. Wendy Mendes is working with the City. Newcitymarket.org.

Food Waste/Recovery - Carole for Helen (*report submitted prior to meeting*)

Helen has met with Lindsay Moffit (Engineering) to discuss role of FPC in food scraps program, perhaps by facilitating 'Community Champions' in three neighbourhoods to complement City plan. Concern was raised that initially scraps will be collected with yard waste every other week, which could lead to odours and pests.

Communications - no update available.

Institutional Food Purchasing Policy - Brent

IFPP connects to GCAT, which has consultants and are awaiting report. BCGEU is still interested. In 2010, public institutions will have to contribute to carbon tax and it is hoped that funds can be redirected back to programs for the schools. Opportunities for IFPPs exist outside of the City with other public institutions. Local procurement could be an offset. Greening health care also has connections.

Health partnerships - Joanne

Joanne is compiling food policy plans and strategic directions from health sectors, nationally and locally. We want to ensure that our strategic plan and our priorities are aligned with the health sector from local to regional to national. At national levels, the Prime Minister has announced a 62 million dollar fund for research into how we support food security in developing countries. Within the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) there is currently no action on domestic food security other than a small pilot food security assessment project Food Secure Canada's priority is food sovereignty. At Provincial levels, Min of Health relies upon the Provincial Health Authority (PHSA) to unroll their food security plan. This plan is known as the Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI). Regional Health Authorities each have a pocket of money to unroll a regional CFAI plan. The food security priorities within Vancouver Coastal Health are aboriginal food sovereignty, housing and food access for those living in poverty, food security and local food systems as a means of reducing climate change, and supporting community food action projects throughout the region. CFAI funds within VCH have been spent for this year.

Mobile Vending Policy - Maria

Work to date has been interrupted due to staff vacancy. ACTION: Mary Clare to follow up with Maria re: vending carts.

Food Security Initiatives and Community Centres. Maria is liaising with Park Board, Local Food First, Fresh Choice Kitchens www.communitykitchens.ca/main/ and Grandview Woodland Food Connection <http://gwfoodconnection.blogspot.com/> regarding food security activities in the community centres.

Food and Beverage guidelines for Public Buildings. Update: Active Communities Vancouver "Stay Active Eat Healthy" initiative to increase healthy food and beverages in vending and concessions at community centres <http://vancouver.ca/parks/activecommunity/saeh.htm>.

After only one year of the program, there are now eleven centres participating; a dramatic increase from three centres. Annual surveys will continue. The May 2009 Symposium for Vancouver Stay Active Eat Healthy was very successful, bringing out the Board members and Centre Supervisors. Park Board Commissioner Loretta Woodcock facilitated the event and Commissioner Jasper and Commissioner Barnes attended. A symposium will be held again in May 2010.

7. Strategic Planning for 2010 - brainstorming session

Strategic planning will continue in February.

- Food precincts - How FPC will engage with precinct aspect of hubs. Local Food First suggests presenting the idea to council for an inventory of local food projects due to a lack of information at a grassroots level. Suggestion to speak to Wendy to use this as framework for broader work. Suggestion to consult VCH as they have done evaluative work of community food action projects. **MOTION:** VFPC respectfully requests the City's leadership and assistance in developing inventory of food security resources in Vancouver. Moved by Brent, seconded by Daryl, carried unanimously. **ACTION:** Herb and Carole to review request and forward to Mary Clare and Wendy.
- Charity food issue. Community Food Security Coalition - Building the Bridge publication. In North America, many food banks are more community-based, opportunity exists for Vancouver to lead on this issue. Food bank does a lot that FPC is not aware of. Ex: they are the biggest purchaser of eggs. Suggestion for Doug do a presentation.
- Food access
- Food sovereignty
- Food security and climate change
Communications is part of this and needs effort.
- Urban Agriculture - UA does not end with 2010 announcement. Much work needs to be done, more liaising needs to be done with UASC. Not just about community garden plots. Suggest to make connections to topic. Commercial aspect of UA needs to be considered. Suggestion to look at UK food policy statement which contradicts where we want to go. Is local purchasing more env-friendly? Indication of success that industry is now heavily lobbying to the contrary
- Peak oil (with climate change)
- Food recovery is more than composting, is part of Vancouver's Winter Response, and Metro Van's strategy. Needs outreach to providers, etc. to find system that works. Can have impact to influence policy, ties in with charity model of food banks.
- Schools, CURA project
Draft school garden policy will go to VSB committee meeting in Feb.
- More connections with Portland Food Policy and other models. May still consider a trip to Seattle/Portland to share best practices (ex. 'food train' or bus)
- Food justice
- Increased participation of liaisons

ACTION: Joanne and Trish (and Carole) will clarify and develop format. Members who are interested in helping can contact Joanne.

8. Motion to Adjourn - Moved by Erika, seconded by Trish, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ACTION: Carole will send a request for availability for Feb meeting and suggestions for venues.

ACTION: Carole to circulate meeting time of new chairs to discuss the transition with all members.

ACTION: re: inventory of food security resources - Herb and Carole to review request and forward to

Mary Clare and Wendy.

ACTION: re: Feb strategic planning - Joanne and Trish (and Carole) will clarify and develop format. Members who are interested in helping can contact Joanne.