

**Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 6:00-8:30pm**  
Strathcona Room, City Hall

**Present:**

**Chairs:** Carole Christopher and Trish Kelly

**Council Members:** Daryl Arnold, Herb Barbolet, Barbara Joughin, Andre LaRivière, Tara McDonald, Joyce Rock, Yona Sipos, Janine de la Salle, Kim Sutherland, David Tracey

**Staff:** Samara Brock

**Requests for Leave:** Doug Aason, Susan Kurbis, Chris Miewald, Carla Shore, Melanie Kurrein

1. Introductions - 13 guests introduced themselves to council.
2. Motion to accept agenda and requests for leave  
MOTION: To approve the request for leave, the agenda. Moved by Yona, seconded by Barbara, carried unanimously.

The following change was made to Section 3 of the November minutes: "There was a suggestion to include gardeners for input" to "...to include food growers for input."

It was requested that the link regarding the Banana Beat be removed from the announcements as the site is still under construction.

3. Brief Discussion of meeting day/time - Carole  
Members were surveyed re: alternate meeting date/time. The results were that there is no benefit to changing the meeting day. This issue may be revisited later.
4. Presentation - Claire Gram - Vancouver Coastal Health  
As the regional coordinator for food security and healthy living in the Population Health team, Clare gave a comprehensive overview of VCH initiatives in food security. A food security action framework has been established to determine the role of VCH in food security. In 2005, the Community Food Action Initiative was established under ActNow, and food security was included as a model key program that requires action and reporting. Focus is on 3 components - knowledge development and dissemination, chronic disease, and climate change, although all programs and policies are viewed through a food security lens. The CFAI began by providing 3 year funding, and currently provides \$200,000 in base funds to the 8 regions for food security initiatives. Most have hired coordinators who are seeking project-based funding. There is also a regional committee to support the communities and share knowledge, and Clare also sits on a provincial body that supports the region. There are currently 3 food security networks - Grandview-Woodlands, VCAN, and Trout Lake-Cedar Cottage, whose goal it is to identify future directions in the community and seek new opportunities. Discussion: There was a suggestion to include network coordinators at the FPC table, but to also continue presentations from other communities in order to avoid exclusion. A province-wide partnership with farmers markets was suggested, similar to the Food Nutrition Program. City's Urban Agriculture Steering Committee (UASC) does not currently include VCH; however they are open to a partnership.
5. Staff Update - Samara  
Samara recommended sending FPC minutes to the UASC. The UASC has presented to general managers regarding UA and the UASC, encouraging green reporting. They are also gathering info on 4 initiatives (UA guidelines for private realm (council on 20<sup>th</sup>), vending carts, 2010 gardens (Engineering preparing report on 3 pilot 2010 gardens and community garden guidelines), and farmers markets), and working to address council questions and discuss next steps. A memo will go to council on Jan 15<sup>th</sup>, and will be circulated to FPC. The committee will prioritize sites that are longer lasting, suggestions for a minimum term can be sent to Mary Clare.

6. Updates:

Draft Motion re: Chickens -Trish Kelly

Research circulated prior to meeting, which included motion and best practices from other jurisdictions. The language will be changed from 'Be it resolved...' to a broader approach which would have Council direct city staff to research the issue further. There is much grassroots interest and media interest, and letters of support could be included with motion, as well as having supporters speak when presented to council. Motion will likely be presented to a City Councillor for presentation to City Council. Challenges could include animal welfare advocacy and the lack infrastructure to monitor, and lack of veterinarians. It was suggested that the guidelines could include explicit information on ethical treatment, and ongoing training programs could be provided. Trish will continue to work with Samara and will send out regular updates. Will be revisited at a later meeting.

Membership Committee - Carole

Chris Miewald, Susan Kurbis and possibly Melanie Kurrein will step down from the FPC. Membership will be discussed at the Strategic Planning session to identify slots that need to be filled in order to represent all sectors, and also to recommend nominees whose names would be put forward to Council.

Draft Motion re: food/beverage guideline - Maria Burtlehaus- Healthy Eating Coordinator, Vancouver Coastal Health's Healthy Living Program. *Draft motion circulated prior to meeting.* This policy has already been introduced in schools, and would support the Park Board's Active Communities Vancouver "Stay Active Eat Healthy" initiative ([activecommunitiesvancouver.ca/](http://activecommunitiesvancouver.ca/) <http://vancouver.ca/parks/activecommunity/saeh.htm>) to create Healthy Food and Beverage Sales at community centres. Next step would be to present to City Council and after some discussion, it was decided that the motion be presented to a City Councillor to introduce rather than await the appointment of a liaison to the FPC. MOTION: To support the motion to 'Increase the Nutritional Quality of Food and Beverages Sold in City-owned, Municipal and Recreation Facilities in the City of Vancouver'. Moved by Daryl, seconded by David, carried unanimously. ACTION: Samara to check with City Clerk's office on protocol in absence of liaison and will continue to work with Melanie to move forward.

Food Secure study update - Barbara

Phase 1 of study included consultant's study, UBC partnership, and a forum in December 2008. The draft of the study was received in December and contains analysis on food production distribution, demand (current and projected), exports, etc. as well as suggestions for framework. Committee is reviewing the draft. 200 students worked in 23 neighbourhoods, administering a survey to approximately 80 people, attended and presented at forum. Information will be extracted from the surveys. The forum was used to report back and gather information from 108 participants, which will inform Phase 2. Opportunities for partnerships are being sought. To date, the committee has spent approximately \$8300 on forum and study in 2008 and after presenting the latest developments in the project, will make a recommendation to FPC for 2009 funds.

7. Orientation to Strategic Planning session discussion

By way of preparing for a Strategic Planning session, we discussed several changes that have taken place, including structural issues related to how food policy is evolving in Vancouver due to the recently formed Urban Agriculture Steering Committee. We decided to invite the Urban Agriculture Committee to our next meeting and devote 90 min to information sharing and discussion of how we coordinate our work. We will hold a full, facilitated strategic planning session in March. Members will be surveyed re: date and background documents be circulated prior to the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm