

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 17th, 2007

Present: Council Members: Doug Aason, Andrea Reimer, Aron Bjornson, Andre LaRivière, Karin Schreurs, Spring Gillard, Heather Pritchard, Barbara Joughin, Janine de la Salle, Herb Barbolet, Chris Miewald, Susan Kurbis, Yona Sipos

Co-chairs: Carol Ranger, Carole Christopher

Staff: Devorah Kahn, Mario Lee

Official Liason: Councillor Peter Ladner

Regrets: Shirley Wong, Barb Seed, Deepthi Jayatilaka, Melanie Kurrein

1. Opening

1.1 Introductions - 7 guests

1.2 Consent Agenda

- added approval of October minutes

Addition of Agenda Items:

6.1 Agriculture and Agri-Food consultations

6.2 Oakridge Policy letter

6.3 UBC Farm

6.4 Role of items in Consent Agenda

1.3 Changes to meeting agenda

Addition of Agenda Items:

6.5 Van Dusen event

6.6 Ideas for Access Committee

3.2 Deleted (addressed in 3.1)

2. Updates

2.1 Communications Committee - Spring G

13 people attending Feb 8th session. A smaller group will determine who does media training on 15th.

2.2 Food Policy Coordinator - Devorah K

- FPC Report to City Council postponed until Feb 15th at 2:00 pm. Will report on progress, submit Waste (Food Diversion) Report and submit Food Charter for adoption. All FPC Members are encouraged to attend. It was suggested that Food Charter Committee work on a presentation, Devorah K will help if necessary.
- 2010 Garden Plots - partnered with Vancouver Coastal Health to allocate Community Food Action Initiative funds to. Excellent proposals have been received and a decision on grant winner will follow soon. Looking forward to working with VFPC to see this move forward.
- UA work - SEFC workshops, 4th and last has happened, looking at community demonstration garden, involved in commentary. Also attends staff meetings. Funds for Holland-Barr contract have been used by the SEFC project team. Unfortunately there is nothing left for us to have a session as mentioned at October FPC meeting. First rezoning application went to Development Permit Board, UA component accepted for rooftop and podium gardens. Even though these are not obligatory guidelines yet, this is a positive step. Continuing to develop guidelines to include public grounds, and farmers markets zoning.
- Working with MOBY to finish their gardens
- Other work - invited to a meeting to discuss garbage with Environmental Health and Solid Waste. A smaller group will meet to discuss strategies to redirect food destined for waste to being reclaimed instead. Mario L explained that the initiative comes from City Council discussion on bins and dumpsters, street cleanliness, role of social enterprises. Council requested staff to do assessment with *United We Can* on bins and dumpsters. Issues include, but are not limited to, food diversion.

- Peter L - 2010 Gardens - he has contacted Park Board people, wants commitment for one food-producing garden on Park land. It was noted that aesthetics, privatization of public space, and contamination may be barriers to acceptance.

2.3 Food for meetings - Carole C

2-3 people have brought things to this meeting.

ACTION: Yona S, Karin S, and Heather P to bring food for Feb. meeting.

2.4 Presentation Committee - Carole C

Committee needed to research possible presenters for FPC meetings. **ACTION:** Andre L, Spring G, Andrea R, Aron B to meet.

2.5 Food Charter Committee - Carole C, Barbara J

To be presented to City Council to ask for adoption. Minor changes from some City Councillors have been incorporated. Due to time constraints, Committee asked for confidence that revisions be accepted without review. Census reached that it should go forward. Draft circulated.

ACTION: Barbara J. to send final version to Devorah who will include it in the report to City Council.

3. Membership

3.1 Call for Nominations for Co-chairs - Carole C

Carol R will be stepping down as chair after the next FPC meeting. If you are interested in sitting as a co-chair please send your nomination to Steering Committee by Feb. 5th. with a short letter of intention and description of what you would bring to this position. Please be available for Feb. 7th Steering Committee meeting. There are 2 positions. Term is one year. Carole C and Andrea R expressed interest in running.

If only 2 applicants, they will be appointed by acclamation and start at Feb. meeting. If more, election will happen at Feb. meeting.

Responsibilities include communicating with Co-Chair 2-3x a week (or more, depending on circumstances), attending 1.5-2 hour Planning Meeting. The scheduling will be determined by the co-Chairs, based on their availability.

Steering Committee also has one vacancy; responsibilities include attending Planning meetings, participating in discussions about membership, etc.

3.2 Membership Committee - Carole C

Committee has lost members, there are vacancies. Certain sectors have not been well represented. Given objectives, who should be at the table and is not?

Currently, meet as needed. It was suggested that after the roles have been clarified, that the Committee meet regularly (eg. quarterly) so research for new members can be reported to the rest of FPC. It was agreed that the Orientation Manual should be reviewed and updated by the Membership Committee. **ACTION:** Herb B and Devorah K to look for electronic version of Orientation Manual. No decision was made regarding frequency of meetings or membership of this sub-committee.

4. Recap from Strategic Planning Session

4.1 Report from sub-committees on Objectives - Janine dl S, Barbara J, Chris M

- First draft of Objectives from Strategic Planning Session circulated for feedback. Suggestion to remove "Specifically, the VFPC will promote the following strategies" as Objectives should stand alone, without strategies. Agreement that the Mission Statement come before objectives. Clarification that in Objective 1, member's manual = orientation manual. Objectives accepted as amended. Draft Objectives (not strategies) will be included in report to City Council; **ACTION:** Devorah K to replace previous objectives using current wording. **ACTION:** Barbara J to send objectives document to Devorah K.

- Strategies need work, proposed for discussion next meeting. Suggestions include listing universities, businesses, and farmers as partners under Strategies (Objective 3), mentioning strengthening access to food.

4.2 Building cohesion between VFPC and Staff

- Mario circulated relevant pages from the City report on the Triple R review with relevant sections on the roles and responsibilities of Advisory Committees, and the FPC specifically. Recommended incorporating 10 priorities (esp. D 1, 2, 4, 10), when developing work plan.
- Peter L mentioned that Council sanctions members of all committees, except the FPC. It was noted that the FPC is an anomaly in that it elects its members. Advantage of using standard process could be recruitment of people FPC is not aware of. It is unclear if this will continue or not. Recommendations for membership are accepted. City Council has the right to change membership at any time.

This topic was identified as weakness during Strategic Planning session. Topic needs thorough discussion including:

- Incorporation of City's priorities in FPC work plan
- Reporting structure
- Time allotted to FP Coordinator report

5 Presenter - Andre LaRivière, Green Table Network www.greentable.net.

Green Table sustainable foodservice raises awareness about food issues. Recommends restaurants to become members and compost waste, save water, save energy, use non-toxic cleaners, recycle more, and used locally-processed foods. Expects that buying power will boost BC farms and fishers, and provide economic benefits to the region. Green Table Network measures and tracks the numbers, provides evidence, incentives for businesses. Focuses on: 1. Assessment and reporting, 2. Marketing, 3. Local food.

Currently has 12 members (still in Pilot Phase), and hopes to 'start' in April.

6 Other Business

6.1 Agriculture and Agri-Food consultations - Spring G and Carole C, Yona S planning to go. It was suggested that a formal statement could come from the FPC.

6.2 Oakridge Policy letter - an example of how FPC members can interact with planners/developers. Supported and encouraged by Peter L.

6.3 UBC Farm - **ACTION:** Yona S to send item re: UBC Farm by email and invites collaboration.

6.4 Role of items in Consent Agenda - tabled until next meeting

6.5 Van Dusen event - Tabled until next meeting

6.6 Ideas for Access Committee - Tabled until next meeting

6.7 Room Change - Due to day change, meeting space conflicts with Bike Advisory Committee. Carole C is looking into a new space and will let people know what she finds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm

Summary of Actions:

- 2.3 **ACTION:** Yona S, Karin S, and Heather P to bring food for Feb. meeting.
- 2.4 **ACTION:** Andre L, Spring G, Andrea R, Aron B to meet for Presentation Committee.
- 2.5 **ACTION:** Barbara J. to send to send final version of Food Charter to Devorah K.
- 3.2 **ACTION:** Herb B and Devorah K to look for electronic version of Orientation Manual.
- 4.1 **ACTION:** Devorah K to replace previous objectives in Council report using current wording.
ACTION: Barbara J to send objectives document to Devorah K.
- 6.3 **ACTION:** Yona S to send item re: UBC Farm by email and invites collaboration.