



Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2008

2150 Maple Street (SPEC Offices)

Chairs: Andrea Reimer, Carole Christopher,

Council Members: Barbara Joughin, Doug Aason, Chris Miewald, Melanie Kurrein, Andre LaRiviere, Eva Riccius, Susan Kurbis, David Tracy, Kim Sutherland, Joyce Rock

Staff: Samara Brock (Social Planning), Devorah Kahn (Social Planning)

Invited Guests: Erika Mundel, Carla Shore

Regrets: Janine de la Salle, Trish Kelly, Yona Sipos, Tara MacDonald, Herb Barbolet, Peter Ladner (City Council); Spencer Herbert (Parks Board), Shirley Wong (School Board)

MOTION: Accept request of five members of the FPC that have requested leave for this meeting. Moved by Andre, carried unanimously. Erika Mundel has been granted the right to speak at the table, but not to vote. It was reminded that if a member misses four consecutive meetings without leave their position is considered vacated.

1. Opening:

1.1 Introductions - 2 guests introduced themselves.

1.2 Review Meeting Agenda - added 6.1 Meeting time, 6.2 Membership

1.3 Consent Agenda - November Minutes

Approved as circulated. **ACTION:** Carole to re-send Nov minutes to Devorah and Samara.

2. Updates:

2.1 *Strategic Planning Committee* -Chris M, Melanie K

New action plan distributed. Task 1 - Deepthi to finish orientation manual by March, Andrea to supervise. Task 4 - EcoDensity - opportunity for public input on February 26 Eco-Density meeting. Task 7 - After some discussion it was decided to state in the annual report that this study is a priority for the FPC. **ACTION:** reword Action Plan to "Produce a report on food security in Vancouver." Objective 4 - Depending on outcome of Jan 23 meeting, Tasks 14 and 16 may not be necessary. Sign up form passed around. **ACTION:** Strategic Planning Committee will distribute sign up form by email.

2.2 Budget (2007 year end and 2008 process) - Andrea R

Majority of 2007 budget has been spent. New expenses include a facilitator for Jan 23 meeting, design of a logo for the FPC, food charter workshops and printing, and printing of the FORC report. Samara requested that the City allow the remaining \$2500 to be carried over due to delays caused by the civic strike, response to come in March. New ToR require that a forecast budget be included in the annual report. **ACTION:** Strategic Planning Committee and Carole to liaise with working groups to plan 2008 budgets.

2.3 Communications Committee - Andre LR

No further updates

2.4 Food Charter Workshops - Barbara J

The Vancouver Food Charter is now printed and available to members to distribute. Copies presently available from Barbara J. Upcoming workshops at Mount Pleasant Jan 23rd and Kits House Jan 30th. Three previous workshops drew 42 people; response has been variable but is greater when done through a partnership. Smaller groups want more directed sessions (Boards, youth groups, seniors, etc.). Community desires include community kitchens, community gardens, neighbourhood composting, better access to

food, with sharing being central to food dialogue. FPC can contribute with information on composting, land use (markets or farmers markets), community spaces.

2.4 2010 Gardens - Andrea R

Meeting on Jan 23rd includes FPC (Andrea) City Councillors, School Board, Parks Board, Engineering, Real Estate, Planning, and Engineering. **ACTION:** Andrea to send out written update after the meeting.

2.5 Staff Update -Samara B

- SP requests FPC participation in their 'Youth Politic' program's urban sustainability night Feb 21. Request aid in both planning and speaking to food issues. If interested, contact Samara.
- FORC report-100 copies printed. **ACTION:** Add to March agenda a discussion on who to distribute to.
- EcoDensity - sign up for public consultations underway, contact City Clerk's office if interested in speaking. It was noted that a representative from an Advisory body may have the right to speak before the public takes the floor. **ACTION:** Samara to verify. If so, it was suggested to contact the City Clerk's office to alert them that FPC will comment.
- Social Development Plan is on hiatus until further notice.

3. Presentation

Community Garden Guidelines - Consultation - Devorah K

Devorah gave a brief overview of the development of the community garden guidelines. After consultation with community gardeners and the FPC, staff will meet with Engineering Dept. to incorporate feedback before a final draft is released for further comment. Hope to have large community consultation in Feb, with recommendations going to Council in March. FPC identified three areas from the draft guidelines as priority - e), h), and i).
Recommendations from FPC:

e)

- include wording such as 'the City is committed to making land available for gardens'
- City should provide staff support to proposed NPO.
- NPO should be responsible for connecting public to City land and resources.

h)

- providing horticultural rationale, term should be extended (to 10 years) to allow for long-term planning, garden processes, and for novice gardeners to gain experience
- include clause that term may be shortened if needed
- include clause that would allow City to take measures if the garden is abandoned

i)

- reword to say that normally, 6 months notice be given, but for emergency civic purposes, notice may be 30 days
- add a statement that the City will assist in attempting to relocate the garden

overall

- strengthen existing language in c) regarding commercial use of community gardens
- in c), eliminate 2nd point and collapse with 1st
- clarify administrative process
- in a) add wording that gardens increase food security, physical activity, nutrition, and community well-being in definition, not just recreational
- include indication of timelines to facilitate planning
- leave the process for community consultations flexible
- eliminate the requirement of community support, should be driven by City/NPO proactively identifying lands, supporting development
- note City's pesticide bylaw in k) to be explicit

ACTION: Andrea to discuss creation of NPO with Devorah

ACTION: Andre to draft wording re: social enterprise and gardens to send to Devorah

Additional comments can be sent to Devorah until 9am Monday, January 21.

4. **Announcements**

- Healthy Living Policy - approved by VSB. Now includes food and nutrition, will include physical, social, emotional development and environmental responsibilities. On a separate note, the VSB is currently looking at the sustainability of Vancouver schools.
- CAFS meetings May 31, June 1. Interested in organizing session on food issues in Vancouver. Format is open. If interested, deadline is Feb 1, Chris will help organize, only an abstract is needed. Could represent your organization, outside of FPC.
- BC gov't climate change policy - if interested in contributing to agricultural policy, send input to Andrea asap.
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom looking for speaker. **ACTION:** Andrea to respond asking for more notice next time.
- Regional growth strategy - **ACTION:** Eva will submit FPC comments and circulate final version.

5. **Action Items:**

5.1 Green City Award sub-committee

Office of Sustainability will bring committee together in 2 weeks.

5.2 Dumpster policy - impacts on food - Andre LR

Green Table is advising, have concerns of effectiveness. Policy is presented as crime-prevention and beautification, but no gains from waste management perspective. There are also social implications as livelihoods are affected, and concerns of increase GHG emissions from more frequent pick-up. Suggestions included addressing this in an awareness-raising context and inviting Engineering to do a presentation to the FPC.

6. **New Business**

6.1 Meeting time

It was agreed that the location for the meeting should remain, and the date be changed. **ACTION:** Andrea will send survey to check availability of members.

6.2 Membership

MOTION: FPC to forward Carla Shores name for recommendation for inclusion on the FPC to the appropriate City committee. Moved by Andre, carried unanimously.

6.3 Waste Policy

Metro Vancouver is conducting trial of food waste disposal, and has invited Green Table restaurants to participate. A certificate exists that allows them to ONLY discard fruit and vegetable waste, potentially undermining the effectiveness of the trial.

MOTION: Authorize Andre to draft letter to City Council on behalf of the FPC, requesting they waive the certificate for the purposes of the trial. Moved by Andre, carried unanimously. It was suggested to reference the City of Ottawa's trial in the letter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05.