

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, July 9, 2008, 6:00-8:30pm Strathcona Room, City Hall

Present:

Chairs: Andrea Reimer

Council Members: Tara McDonald, Trish Kelly, Carla Shore, Kim Sutherland, David Tracey, Melanie Kurrein, Chris Miewald, Herb Barbolet, Andre LaRivière, Yona Sipos, Susan Kurbis, Doug Aason

City Council Liaison: Peter Ladner

Staff: Samara Brock, Devorah Kahn (Social Planning)

Requests for Leave: Carole Christopher, Daryl Arnold, Barbara Joughin, Janine de la Salle

1. Opening:

1.1 Introductions-one guest introduced himself to the FPC.

1.2 Review Meeting Agenda - added 3.4 Council liaison

1.3 Consent Agenda - June Meeting minutes amended 2.5 Staff Update to "Council allocated \$34000 FOR COMMUNITY GARDEN infrastructure from Community Amenity CONTRIBUTIONS, VCAN was awarded funds to work WITH vulnerable communities from Social responsibility fund", "Tara and SAMARA are working with EcoDensity staff..." **MOTION:** to accept June 2008 minutes as amended. Moved by Yona, seconded by Tara, carried unanimously

1.4 Requests for Leave **MOTION:** To accept requests for leave. Moved by Susan moved, seconded by Melanie, carried unanimously

2. Cameron Gray, Social Development Department

Presentation & Discussion on new department structure

Social Development is one of five departments in the Community Services Group. Aim is to give coherence to fractured departments in an effort to be more effective. First task is to move to new location. Social Infrastructure piece will bring together previously separate projects. Food issues are both in Social Policy and Social Infrastructure (community gardens, etc).

Mary Clare Zak clarified that Social Policy will form three working groups: City-wide policies, Grants, and Neighbourhoods. The Neighbourhoods group will be led by Vickie Morris, and will focus on areas where the City has priorities (DTES, Mt Pleasant, Grandview-Woodlands) There will be more focus around marginalized populations, however there will be opportunity to influence broader policies. Terms of Reference for a Steering Committee including Park Board and possible others are being developed.

Herb updated Cameron Gray on background of Food Policy Council, noting that issues surrounding food policy exist across City departments. Successful VFPC initiatives were highlighted, such as bee keeping, the 2010 garden motion, and current contribution to the EcoDensity plan.

The FPC provided the following updates on its Work Plan:

- Farmers markets - working with City staff to secure zoning and resources for farmers markets. Other cities asking for advice.
- Food Secure Vancouver - tool to be created by the end of 2009 that can track food security, incorporating current initiatives in the city. It was recommended to contact the Vancouver Foundation about their 'Vital Signs' report.
- Forum - to link organizations working on food issues, a travelling forum is being considered.
- 2010 motion - access to land is key barrier. Various departments have been brought together and terms of reference are being developed for a steering committee that will meet in September to discuss policy issues. Five proposals have been received to create a structure with City and community participation to incubate community gardens and act as a resource.

- Policy advice - input has been given on UA guidelines, EcoDensity, and UBC farm.

Discussion points included:

- It has been a challenge for the FPC to have representation from DTES and commercial food providers.
- Other municipalities are active in food system issues and are interested in a regional food policy council. Given the limited resources, it was suggested that Metro Vancouver could lead in coordination or roundtables.
- City is reviewing grant structure and is open to new ideas, including empowering neighbourhoods to allocate funds as has been done in Seattle.
- It was suggested to have BC housing attend a meeting as there are opportunities in social housing for urban agriculture, edible landscaping, meal services.
- City is encouraged to consider universities as resources, and hold them accountable to do research that benefits the community.
- It was noted that there is neighbourhood mobilization through food security networks.
- Cameron Gray was invited and agreed to speak at Urban Core. Most community kitchens are located in the DTES, and 2 have started community gardens.
- Through Food Charter workshops at Neighbourhood Houses, a list of food security issues has been compiled and a framework for local groups to present to the FPC has been created.

3. **Updates:**

3.1 Communications Committee - Carla S

Have met and reviewed previous plan, which is still supported. Logo will be delivered by the end of the month and will be used to create a brochure describing the FPC. Content will be developed by August, and the budget will be used for layout and printing by September. Committee will send to Chairs to be signed off on. Committee is planning to create a FPC website with a blog, as well as FPC stationary. Any remaining funds to be used to print nametags.

3.2 Harvest Fair - Melanie K

Part of strategic plan is to connect with community. Two opportunities exist - September 21st at The Plenty Festival at Van Dusen, or September 13th at the Moon Festival at the Renfrew Neighbourhood House. Would like to do both if the budget allows. Tables will be interactive with games, prizes, and possibly a planting station.

3.3 Staff Update - Samara B

- UA guidelines - hope to go to Council in September.
- EcoDensity - working on 2 actions, major rezoning action could implement UA guidelines in public realm.
- Devorah-Alex Chisolm is undertaking study of a community garden umbrella organization and would like to meet with the FPC to give presentation in the Fall. Plans to be complete by end of 2008.
- Food cart motion - report is being drafted with Engineering and VCH and will go to Council in October. **ACTION:** Samara to send Andrea a draft of the report. Input is needed regarding potential regulations. **ACTION:** Trish, Chris, Carla to brainstorm.
- Farmers Markets - progress being made **ACTION:** Devorah to discuss progress with Tara.
- DTES-Great beginnings program - 10 million dollars provided by provincial government to City to support research into priority areas. Opportunities exist, Devorah is attending meetings.

3.4 Council liaison to FPC

With the upcoming election, it was felt that all councillors will be occupied.
ACTION: Andrea to discuss Council Liaison with Peter Ladner.

4. **Action Items**

4.1 Eco-Density - meeting on Action Items (Andrea)

Is working to get meeting date with Brent Toderian.

4.2 Chicken policy advice (Daryl)

(Written report) Other municipalities allow chickens, and there is little risk of avian flu infection if there is no connection to commercial vendors (outdoor flocks were not affected during last outbreak). Recommends that no roosters be kept that are more than 8 weeks old, number to be kept to a small amount (number to be confirmed). Still need allocation of area/bird. Recommendations are appreciated. **ACTION:** Daryl will continue to work on developing chicken policy with staff.

4.3 Biofuels backgrounder (Trish)

A brief overview is being prepared and will include recommendation to City Council. Increased food prices due to biofuel speculation are not consistent with Food Charter. **ACTION:** Trish will send Peter biofuel motion from Maple Ridge.

4.4 Fruit Trees policy clarification (David)

Document distributed. Current bylaw aims to protect urban forest, but does not include fruit or food trees as replacements. FPC recommends that the City of Vancouver amend the Private Property Tree By-Law. **ACTION:** Peter to raise tree bylaw issue with City Council. Park Board is growing food trees in the nursery, and will plant when bigger. Given the report of the Fruit Tree Project, resources are needed to make good use of the fruit. **ACTION:** Peter to raise urban fruit tree plantings with the Park Board.

4.5 Budget Check-In

After some discussion, the following changes were made to the budget:

Farmers Markets	\$500 → \$0
Dialogue sessions	\$300 → \$0
Harvest fair	\$800 → \$1100
2010 Gardens	\$3000 → \$0
Eat Local 2008	\$1000 → \$0
Strategic Planning	\$800 → \$0
Meeting expenses	\$1100 → \$1900

MOTION: To reallocate Eat Local \$1000 to cosponsor an event in August with Fruit Tree Project. Moved by Yona, seconded by David, carried unanimously. **MOTION:** To reallocate remaining \$3500 in September. Moved by Tara, seconded by Susan, carried unanimously.

5. **Events - Report Out**

5.1 UBC Farm - UBC Planning - Yona S

June 25 planning event was well attended, and there was strong agreement that it was contradictory for UBC to support food security at the same time as considering redeveloping the farm. Stephen Owen is the new contact person at UBC, and it was felt still relevant to have a meeting with FPC. Campus Planning is presenting options in the fall, all support will be needed.

5.2 Dinner with Steve Cohen-Herb

Both parties are interested in continuing to work together.

6. **New Business**

6.1 VFPC Internship

No report available.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

- 3.3 **ACTION:** Samara to send Andrea a draft of the vending cart report.
ACTION: Trish, Chris, Carla to brainstorm potential regulations for vending carts.
ACTION: Devorah to discuss progress of farmers markets with Tara.
- 3.4 **ACTION:** Andrea to discuss Council Liaison with Peter Ladner
- 4.2 **ACTION:** Daryl will continue to work on developing chicken policy with staff.
- 4.3 **ACTION:** Trish will send Peter biofuel motion from Maple Ridge.
- 4.4 **ACTION:** Peter to raise tree bylaw issue with City Council.
ACTION: Peter to raise urban fruit tree plantings with the Park Board.