

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 10, 2009, 6:00-8:30pm  
Strathcona Room, City Hall

**Chair:** Carole Christopher

**Council Members:** Doug Aason, Joanne Bays, Herb Barbolet, Maria Burglehaus, Janine de la Salle, Erika Del Carmen Fuchs, Andre LaRiviere, Brent Mansfield, Ross Moster, Jeff Nield, Cale Price, Carla Shore, Yona Sipos, Helen Spiegelman, David Tracey, T'Uy'Tanat-Cease Wyss, Kim Sutherland

**Liaisons:** Heather Deal (City Council), Aaron Jasper (Park Board Liaison), Mary Clare Zak (UASC/Social Development)

**Regrets:** Daryl Arnold, Trish Kelly, Tara McDonald, Joyce Rock, Jane Bouey (VSB)

1. **Introductions** - All members introduced themselves and provided some information about their background and interest in food security. Seven guests introduced themselves to council.

Councillor Heather Deal presented the award that was accepted by Councillor Reimer on behalf of the FPC in Bogata, recognizing the FPC efforts with urban and peri-urban agriculture. **ACTION:** Carole to send link regarding the award to FPC.

2. **Motion to accept agenda and requests for leave** - Moved by Carla, seconded by Brent, carried unanimously. **ACTION:** Carole to prepare orientation package of materials for members, including To R and procedures.

3. **Liaison Update** - Mary Clare Zak

- An event will be held on June 29 4pm-8pm to bring all advisory committee members together for orientation and to meet other committees. **ACTION:** Mary Clare to email more detailed information.
- A report on social indicators and trends, based on 2006 census data, has been completed and Mary Clare offered to present it to the FPC, as it is a valuable planning document.
- Subcommittee of UASC is confident that 2010 target will be met; expect council reports between July and September.
- VCH, UASC, Van City forum on integrating food into new social housing sites. Discussion revealed a need for structures similar to 'food precincts', which may be piloted in a couple neighbourhoods.

4. Updates re: ongoing projects

**Draft Motion re: Chickens** -Trish K - No update available.

**Draft Motion re: food/beverage guidelines** -Maria B - Tabled until July meeting.

**Food Secure Vancouver Study** update - Carole C/Kim S/Herb B/Brent M -

Coordinator position filled (Barbara Joughin.) Student volunteer will do research project under Barbara/Carole's supervision in June/July.

Consultant's report has received much positive attention. Kim has done presentations using information in the report to dieticians, a subcommittee within MoA on climate change, and will soon present to the Deputy Minister. Carole and Barbara will present to Metro Agriculture Committee and will post the presentation on the VFPC Vancouver.ca web-site and the VFPC blog.

Gaps in necessary information have been identified and will be addressed with research partners and with community consultation in Phase 2 of the project.

**MOTION:** To formally approve Phase 2 as laid out in material that was circulated prior to the meeting. Moved by Joanne, seconded by Brent, carried unanimously.

**Public Clarity re: F.P. Coordinator title - Carla S**

After discussion with Mary Clare, it was felt that both internal and external communication was needed to clarify that the Food Policy Coordinator position no longer exists and that the new UASC operates to better coordinate the work of food policy in the city. **ACTION:** Mary Clare will first clarify this internally and then consult with Carla S and Tara McD re: external clarification. **ACTION:** Mary Clare will also clarify the relationship between UASC and the FPC. FPC section of the Social Development website needs to be updated.

**Discussion with City Clerk re: support resources - Carole C**

Carole and Mary Clare met with Janice Mackenzie. FPC is next in line to receive support from the Clerk's office. This may happen in the fall. This will provide support with meeting procedures and with decision-based minutes. This is undertaken in effort to make VFPC Chair's work more sustainable.

**Press Release re: Bogota award to VFPC - Carla S**

Not enough information was provided to draft a press release. **ACTION:** Carla will post picture/information of award on VFPC blog.

**5. Presentation: Chris Hild - *Strengthening Local Food Economics***

Chris does research on higher economic benefits through the use of local food for the Economic Development Commission, which advises city on economic strategies.

Chris gave an example of Portland which showed less cost for procuring local food versus a larger food contractor.

Neptune is working with five local farms (large are changing), many restaurants, Whole Foods. Barriers to using more local food are geography, seasonality, access to land, cost, and transportation challenges. Gaps include processing, cold and dry storage, waste, distribution and wholesale support. Some distributors are trying to help fill these gaps.

Case Studies - Portland has much of local food and employs marketing and communicating messages. Farmers Markets bring economic benefits to adjacent businesses, a conglomerate of organic growers help with distribution, farmers markets, food innovation centre. New Season market - strong, provide farmers with table to sell niche products, foster farmer entrepreneurship. Ecotrust is launching internet food hub to connect users and buyers. Support schools.

Recommendations - reconnect efficiently with smaller producers, encourage producers to connect with each other, create permissive bylaws surrounding farmers markets, focus FM on underserved areas, partner with farmers markets and retailers, lobby institutions to change procurement policies, celebrate local food.

Kim suggested that Neptune should engage with BC Agriculture council in order to access quantities of scale.

Chris clarified that report will be presented to council. **ACTION:** Carole will remind Chris to alert Mary Clare and VFPC when his report is released.

**6. Updates related to 2009 Action Plan/Budget items:**

**Community Dialogue sessions-Joyce R - No update - more committee members needed**

**Food Precinct Project - Herb B - June 11 is the FM Society yearly briefing, where food hubs and food precincts will be discussed. Conceptual drawings passed around which envision a year round farmers' market with cold and freezer space, capacity for processing (community kitchen or incubator), and social enterprises. Issue has gotten attention from varied sources. Food precincts could exist in each of 22 neighbourhoods, and could include community gardens, kitchens, and training and education centres. Land is being sought close to Main and Prior. City**

has had 3 markets of its kind in its history. Greenest City Team and HB Lanarc are putting together a food plan for Vancouver.

**Institutional Food Purchasing Policy (BCGEU)- Andre LaR -**

BCGEU advocates local procurement by municipalities and has proposed working with VFPC in Vancouver. **ACTION:** Herb/Janine to email background IFPP docs to Andre and Carole. Joanne will join committee. Erika is interested in ethical local production.

**Fundraising options - Doug A**

A fundraising strategy needs to be developed, Joanne will join committee. Fuller discussion tabled until July meeting.

**7: New Business**

**Engaging the retailers - David T**

Attempts at engaging large-scale retailers have been unsuccessful to date, suggestions welcome. Possible topic for dialogue session, **ACTION:** David to coordinate with Joyce re: possible dialogue session.

**Charitable food systems -**

**ACTION:** Yona and Herb will put out framework.

**West Coast Seed initiative - Carole C**

WCS would like to release a kit to guide new gardeners to have a positive experience. Role of VFPC could be substantial or minimal, details to follow.

**UBC CURA Grant - Brent M**

A grant has been submitted to CURA (Community-University Research Alliance) by UBC Land and Food, Faculty of Education, VSB, VCH, and VFPC listed as partners. Grant, if obtained would provide \$1 million over 5 years to examine school systems as a model for institutional adaptation to climate change, and the role food plays in it. Brent is the community partner liaison. **ACTION:** Brent will circulate proposal.

**School Garden Project - Brent M**

A meeting with the Assistant Superintendent resulted in Brent agreeing to draft new policy for school gardens. It was noted that the VSB has hired a new grounds supervisor.

**Actions related to additional items from the meeting:**

**ACTION:** Carole to resend Action Plan with request to continue to sign-up for committees.

**ACTION:** Cale will coordinate with Carole re: providing food for the meetings

**ACTION:** Helen and Cease to contact Carla regarding contributing to the blog.

**ACTION:** Janine and Carole to request titles of key books that can be reviewed by FPC members for Barbara Jo's Books to Cooks. Book reviews can be posted to the blog.

**8. Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by David, seconded by Joanne, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

**ACTION:** Carole to send link regarding the RUAF award to FPC.

**ACTION:** Carole to prepare orientation package of materials for members, including ToR and procedures.

**ACTION:** Mary Clare to email information re: Meeting of all COV Advisory Committees/Councils

**ACTION:** Mary Clare will clarify internal shift from Food Policy Coordinator to UASC and meet with Carla S and Tara M to proceed with external clarification.

**ACTION:** Mary Clare will also clarify the relationship between UASC and the FPC.

**ACTION:** Carla will post picture of RUAF award to VFPC on blog.

**ACTION:** Carole to remind Chris Hild to alert Mary Clare and VFPC when his report is released.

**ACTION:** Herb or Janine to e-mail IFPP background docs to Andre and to Carole.

**ACTION:** David to coordinate with Joyce re: dialogue session on the role of retailers group.

**ACTION:** Yona and Herb will put out framework for charitable food systems.

**ACTION:** Brent will circulate (CURA) proposal.

**ACTION:** Carole to resend Action Plan.

**ACTION:** Janine and Carole to request titles of key books that can be reviewed by FPC members for Barbara Jo's Books to Cooks.

**ACTION:** Cale will coordinate with Carole re: providing food for meetings.

**ACTION:** Helen and Cease to contact Carla regarding contributing to the blog.