

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 6:00-8:30pm
Strathcona Room, City Hall



Present:

Chair: Andrea Reimer

Council Members: Trish Kelly, Daryl Arnold, Carla Shore, David Tracey, Yona Sipos, Barbara Joughin, Andre LaRivière, Joyce Rock, Kim Sutherland, Melanie Kurrein, Susan Kurbis, Herb Barbolet

Staff: Samara Brock (Social Planning)

Regrets: Eva Riccius, Doug Aason, Carole Christopher

Absent: Tara McDonald, Chris Miewald, Janine de la Salle, Matt Low

1. Opening:

- 1.1 Introductions - welcomed new member Daryl Arnold. Three guests introduced themselves to council.
- 1.2 Review Meeting Agenda - added 6.1 2010 motion, 6.2 Forum
- 1.3 Consent Agenda - February Minutes - **MOTION:** to accept minutes and agenda without changes. Moved by Trish, carried unanimously. **MOTION:** To accept request of FPC members that requested leave. Moved by Susan, carried unanimously.

2. Updates:

- 2.1 Communications Committee - Andre LR
Presented two mock ups of VFPC logo. Feedback: conventional - change the leaf to something food-related, unsure of buildings (not representative of Vancouver), could use more colours, should connect to land; contemporary - image too large, too much detail, better use of colour. Recommendations: logo should be clear, readable in all sizes, bright, energetic. **ACTION:** Andre will take feedback about logos back to designers.
- 2.2 2010 Gardens - Andrea R
UBC students and Kathrine Richardson are looking for support to launch their community gardens manual, but given that community garden guidelines will go to council soon, it was felt that the manual will need to be updated.
David T - handout circulated regarding Urban Food Coop. Provided brief history of VCAN, part of mandate to determine the feasibility of umbrella organization to coordinate community gardens. Proposal is for a democratic organization that would work with city and community to lessen bureaucracy for citizens. VCAN is looking for endorsement of FPC. **ACTION:** Members are asked to review UFC proposal to discuss at later meeting. Funders have yet to be determined, goal is to have support from both the city and granting agencies.
- 2.3 Ecodensity Input - Barbara J
At recent public meeting held by the City, Andrea spoke on behalf of the FPC, stating that the FPC would like to be involved as it was initially. Council agreed that food system issues should be addressed by the FPC, who will be given an avenue to provide input. The subcommittee is drafting a position before meeting city staff. Other members encouraged to participate, if interested, contact Barbara.
- 2.4 Seattle Food Policy Meeting report back - Herb B
Herb participated on a panel with FPC representatives from Seattle, Portland, Toronto. Found that other cities are more directly involved in FPCs. Met with Seattle city staff, a tour will be organized in mid-May to attend SFPC meeting. If interested in attending or helping organize, contact Herb ASAP.

2.5 Food Secure Vancouver Study - Barbara J, Herb B, Kim S
Have met, are trying to distil focus and approach of study. Will address production, access, environment, health elements. Will meet next week to discuss what has worked so far, where we want to be and how to get there. Would synthesize work of other groups for comprehensive picture, examine effects of provincial and regional policies, and may include assessment tools. In other areas, FPCs report both to city and regional bodies, and it was suggested to work with Metro Vancouver, who is doing a regional food assessment and strategy by 2010. Work will also be done in conjunction with other sub-committees to prevent overlap. **ACTION:** Subcommittee to present one page vision at May meeting.

2.7 Staff Update - Samara B
(Invitation from YLFMS distributed)
YLFMS report - Samara met with SP staff to discuss the eight recommendations.
ACTION: Samara will send message to farmers market subcommittee recommending to hold a meeting of interested stakeholders and staff to answer questions.
2010 gardens-SP, Engineering, Real estate, Parks, all committed to meet regularly as steering committee. Would like urban ag strategy, not just for community gardens. Parks Board is drafting a strategy. The City will do an urban agriculture strategy as well. Devorah will be taking the lead in writing it. It would be good for the FPC to submit a list of topic areas that they would like this cross-departmental urban agriculture committee to address. Engineering will oversee taking 2010 report on 3 pilots and community garden guidelines to Council. FPC is advised to liaise with Engineering.
Member bios - Andrew has them, will be up on website by end of week.
Draft annual report circulated prior to meeting. Samara will write with FPC members, Barbara to help.

3. Announcements

- Zero Waste initiative and blog (Yona)
- Neighbourhood composting in Point Grey, Mt Pleasant/Riley Park. Send any comments /ideas to Yona.
- Food Security Task Force in Mt. Pleasant, 1st meeting in April. (Yona)
- UBC Farm Symposium, April 18th. Invitations to be sent out. (Yona)
- BC Food Systems Network planning meeting March 13, 14. (Herb)
- Farmers market AGM (Herb)
- Cherry Blossoms Bike tour, organized by Slow Food Vancouver, will feature 10-12 farmers, unique products (Kim)
- Participation requested to set up roof top/gardens for high profile restaurants (Andre)
- Diningoutforlife.ca (Carla)

4. **Presentation** FORC Report - Vijay Cudderford (WWF, int'l/local food security consultant)
Five reports have been done, different assessments in different jurisdictions, with recommendations. Have guide book for how to do assessment. Have maps of foodscape and socio-demographic analysis to identify potentially vulnerable neighbourhoods. In order to use the research, it must be updated regularly. Based on concept of food continuum from charitable food (very inefficient, poor quality, more expensive) to capacity building.
Discussion:
Report has had limited use - UBC students and others have used recommendations, it has spawned Local Food First!, two food indicators in Vancouver Foundation's *Vital Signs*. To inform policy, food system must be dealt with holistically. It was emphasized that this is a baseline study and needs to be continued.
Members felt they could use the report for advocacy, pass it on, integrate it into their own practices, and look for opportunities to cover gaps not addressed in the report.

5. **Action Items:**

5.1 Urban Agriculture Guidelines - Andrea R

Ray-Cam has an initiative to sell produce at a subsidized rate. They will propose to Council, and would like FPC to endorse. **MOTION: to endorse the idea of Ray-Cam providing subsidized access to produce.**

5.2 Provincial Agriculture Plan response - Herb B

Circulated partial analysis of BC's agricultural plan prior to meeting, with a budget showing how it will affect local food. Criticisms include low spending for local food, not comprehensive, lack of vision. A complete supply chain analysis is required. **MOTION: to draft letter to council outlining FPC concerns with the plan. Moved by David, carried unanimously. ACTION: Herb, Kim, Carla to draft letter stating FPC position.**

5.3 Motion re: "Green (vending) Carts"- (process) - Andrea R

Is scheduled to go to Council Mar. 14 at 2pm. **ACTION: Andrea to send letter stating support for the motion. ACTION: Melanie to send Andrea correction for 1st line of motion.**

6. **New Business - Andrea R**

6.1 2010 gardens - **ACTION: Samara will send out exact 2010 motion to clarify wording**

6.2 Forum - The idea of holding a forum on a bus was discussed as an innovative alternative to a traditional forum. The trip would be in May to Seattle and possibly Portland to coincide with meetings there. **MOTION: To request Forum committee to investigate a trip to Seattle possibly Portland for a forum and report back in April. Moved by Trish, 10 in favour, one opposed, one abstention.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

2.1 **ACTION: Andre will take feedback about logos back to designers.**

2.2 **ACTION: Members are asked to review UFC proposal to discuss at later meeting.**

2.5 **ACTION: Food Secure Vancouver subcommittee to present one page vision at May meeting.**

2.7 **ACTION: Samara will send message to farmers market subcommittee recommending to hold a meeting of interested stakeholders and staff to answer questions.**

5.2 **ACTION: Herb, Kim, Carla to draft letter stating FPC position on BC's agricultural plan.**

5.3 **ACTION: Andrea to send letter stating support for the motion.**

ACTION: Melanie to send Andrea correction for 1st line of motion.

6.1 **ACTION: Samara will send out exact 2010 motion to clarify wording.**

6.2 **ACTION: Forum committee investigate trip to Seattle/Portland for forum and report back.**