



# Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting

Minutes - Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007

**Present: Council Members:** Andrea Reimer, Aron Bjornson, Andre LaRivière, Karin Schreurs, Spring Gillard, Janine de la Salle, Herb Barbolet, Chris Miewald, Carol Ranger, Melanie Kurrein, Deepthi Jayatilaka, Susan Kurbis\*, Yona Sipos\*

**Co-chairs:** Carole Christopher, Andrea Reimer

**Staff:** Devorah Kahn

**Liaisons:** Shirley Wong (VSB), Spencer Herbert\* (Parks Board)

**Regrets:** Doug Aason, Peter Ladner, Barb Seed, Barbara Joughin, Mario Lee

*\*denotes partial attendance*

## 1. Opening

1.1 Introductions - Victoria Wakefield, Ethical Purchasing Specialist, 2 guests

1.2 Consent Agenda & Conflict of Interest

Reviewed role of consent agenda. February minutes approved.

## 2. Updates

2.1 FPC Coordinator Report (Devorah K) Presentation and discussion with FPC. Update on UA work (e-mailed prior to meeting)

**Overview of 3 prong approach presented last month. This month's report focused on the Land Inventory and the development of city-wide UA guidelines.**

### Land inventory for potential community gardens:

- Three UBC interns working on this which will be finished in April and presented to the FPC in May. Using aerial photos and meetings with community groups through "City Plans" to create database to be placed on VanMap - not publicly-available (correction to FPC Coordinator report). This information will assist Devorah while working with other City departments to identify locations for future community gardens and farmers markets.

### City -wide UA guidelines:

- Working with Social Planning and Development Services staff to draft guidelines for all new private developments. The guidelines are being drafted to include UA on rooftops, podiums or courtyards. These guidelines are being reviewed by UA and food policy experts in other municipalities and will be brought to a public stakeholder review sometime this summer. These guidelines are currently being tested in SEFC with success, to date.
- Social Planning staff was planning to include guidelines for public lands and farmers markets at the same time, but have been advised by Senior management to postpone this work until next year.

## Discussion

### Questions:

- Are expiration dates for parcels included in inventory? DK: There is no guarantee yet for gardens to be held in perpetuity on any city-owned land. Wants to get the gardens in the ground and show their benefits before asking for the next level of support.
- Request for clarifications on insurance of green roofs. DK: Although extensive and technical green roofs may have insurance issues - mostly because of their higher standards and therefore costs to insure, rooftop gardens are not included in the current insurance concerns.
- How to register a 2010 garden plot? DK: Contact Devorah. Plots must be new, community-shared, and capacity-building, not just about food.

- Inclusion of healing gardens at Tupper School. DK: Contact Devorah.
- How to be certain that specific technicalities of UA guidelines are included i.e. spigots on balconies. DK: these items are in the guidelines. Green Building Strategy included staff from all disciplines of Engineering and beyond. Review with local stakeholders
- Will there be provision for commercial use of community garden space? DK: In draft guidelines, social enterprise is encouraged. Money must go back into project and not to individuals. Clark & Broadway and Kerrisdale garden are both potential gardens developed by agencies and are being encouraged to incorporate social enterprise. It was noted that restaurants may wish to be clients of gardens for specialty crops, not just value-added products. Need to ensure fair competition with private businesses and farmers..
- How can people access to plots? DK: Through non-profit agency managing garden.
- Discussion of role of FPC in stakeholder review of guidelines. Wendy Mendes is identifying 'candidates' for stakeholder review and FPC expertise will be included.)
- Request to create a glossary of garden terms, i.e. clarify terms such as podium, etc.
- Request to provide communication to public (website or press release) for 2010 initiative as idea has changed since introduction.

## 2.2 Strategic Planning Objectives - Janine dIS

Suggested forming small group to identify 3-5 key actions in 2007 towards meeting objectives. **ACTION:** Janine dIS to send out email outlining proposal.

## 2.3 Communications Committee - Spring G

Media planning and training workshops complete and awaiting report from consultant. Next steps to be decided after report is reviewed. Devorah K suggested including Andrew Pask to ensure there is no overlap with the City.

## 2.4 Follow up from February Meeting

(Feb 2.2) FPC presentation to Park Board - Carole C

FPC members will meet with individual Park Board Commissioners to introduce FPC work before requesting a presentation or endorsing a motion to Park Board. FPC members interested in interviewing Park Board commissioners, contact the Steering Committee.

(Feb 6.7) Survey re: Community Kitchen Project - Andrea R

**ACTION:** Andrea R to send out survey

## 3. Action Items

### 3.1 Membership Proposal - Andrea R

There is renewed support for FPC to elect members from a broad-based community process. Our original membership was elected by delegates from over 100 community groups (the Food Policy Task Force) who met for a year to form the FPC and who elected inaugural members. It was Proposed that we contact those groups/delegates, engage them in a process of identifying candidates for membership, and reconvene them at a forum in June\* where the community would select their candidates for membership to the FPC. These candidates are subject to City Council approval. Issues such as length of term need to be clarified.

*\*The June forum is also proposed as an excellent opportunity to move forward our 2007 work objectives: strengthening the bridge between the City and the Community in fostering food security/sustainability priorities; showcasing innovative approaches to community food security through the 2010 community gardens*

*initiative; introducing the Food Charter as a completed piece of work that was envisioned by the original Food Policy Task Force; and continuing to clarify and model the roles, relationships and responsibilities of community advisory groups within the structure of city government.*

**ACTION:** membership committee needs to be reviewed and orientation manual needs to be updated and a membership package developed. Herb B will call Membership Committee meeting in early April. Steering committee will coordinate June Forum. Carole C will contact members for support.

### 3.2 Action request from Humane Society - Carole C

We cannot add any specific humane treatment standards to the Food Charter. Could be considered when the Charter is reviewed in the future. There was strong support for consulting with animal protection experts when dealing with any initiative around this area of work. The remaining part of the action request was to endorse VHS initiative to make Cit of Vancouver cage-free. Vickie Wakefield, the City's Ethical Purchasing Specialist, mentioned that although there is support for this, there is not enough data. People are needed to research volumes, sourcing, distance traveled, how this fits in with other policies, etc. Also, there are no regulations or standards for free-run/range chickens. It was suggested that FPC write a letter to City Council supporting the initiative in principle, and encouraging more research. Herb noted that there are projects in Victoria and Toronto for possible collaboration. **ACTION:** Andrea R to draft letter and send to Herb for review.

### 3.3 Van Dusen Event - Spring G

Sept. 30, Fall Fair "Plenty" will include farmers' market, farmyard, eat local/buy local/grow local areas, workshops, speakers and will sell food plant, trees and shrubs. Is looking for ideas for an interactive food-themed booth for the FPC. Contact Spring with ideas.

4. **Presentation - Kim Sutherland, Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands**  
Expressed desire to partner with FPC, as work is closely linked. Spoke of the necessity of the changing paradigm of food production given declining energy supply and climate change. Gave overview of strengths and weaknesses of agriculture in the Fraser Valley. Identified the Fraser Valley as the most productive agricultural region in Canada and largely operating on principles of sustainability - mostly smaller family operated business, a large fraction of production going to local markets, and providing 1/3 of nutrient/health needs of local market. Encouraged FPC members to join ALC or AAG. Devorah K recently appointed to the GVRD AAC. More R&D is needed in agriculture, a scientific symposium will happen in the future.

## 5. Other business

### 5.1 Child's health initiative - Carole C

FoodShare in Toronto has undertaken building national support base for initiative introduced by Toronto MP Olivia Chow and has asked the FPC to coordinate regional response. Contact Carole C if interested in helping support this initiative.

### Reminders and announcements

- Next month's meeting includes 2 hour workshop on Social Development Plan with Mario Lee, Social Planning. Submit agenda items ASAP, as time will be limited.
- Mother's day, May 13, 10am-3pm - Formosa Nursery will sell cuttings from blueberry plants, funds raised to support relocation
- April 13 - UBC Farm symposium, invite emailed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01

Summary of Actions:

- 2.2 ACTION: *Janine dIS* to send out email reminder for Strategic Plan
- 2.4 ACTION: *Andrea R* to send out survey about Community Kitchen Project.
- 3.1 ACTION: *Herb B* will call Membership Committee Meeting in April.  
*Membership committee* to review and update orientation manual and develop a membership package.  
Action: *Carole C* will communicate with members re: helping with June Forum.  
*Steering Committee* - will coordinate the June Forum.
- 3.2 ACTION: *Andrea R* to draft letter about Humane Society request and send to Herb for review.