

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Present:

Council Members: Aron Bjornson, Barb Seed, Brian Holl, Carol Christopher, *David Van Seters, Heather Pritchard, Miriam Palacios, Spring Gillard, Stephen Hall, Sue Moen, *Susan Kurbis, *Peter Ladner, Karin Schreurs, Herb Barbolet,

Co-Chairs: Carol Ranger, John Van Luven

Staff: Wendy Mendes, Devorah Kahn

* denotes partial attendance

Regrets: Graham Riches, Corinne Eisler, Shefali Raja

1. Introductions

4 guests introduced themselves to the Council

2. Review of the Agenda - discussion of the consent agenda format

Addition of Agenda Items:

4.3 Budget process

3. Review & Acceptance of the minutes from February 28th, 2006

Minutes accepted as amended.

4. Business Arising:

4.1 *Report back on letter to City Council re: waste reduction motion:* - Susanne Anton appreciated receipt of the letter and will follow up with Devorah following the completion of the budget process.

4.2 *Report back from sub-committees re: next steps -*

- Waste sub committee - All data has not been compiled and are still waiting information from Quest and FoodRunners. **Action:** In the next three week a draft will be prepared for presentation at the next FPC meeting.
- Food Charter - committee is prepared to move to the new integrated model. **Action:** At the next meeting a revised draft charter will be presented to the FPC.
- Institutional Food Purchasing Policy - committee, researcher has created a draft Food Purchasing Policy. **Action:** Committee will caucus and report back at the next meeting.
- Food Access - The committee would like to select specific projects and bring to the FPC for discussion and selection.

4.3 *Budget Process* - There will be a report from senior management to City Council on the budget on April 4. The Food Policy Council may be impacted. April 6th the community process will begin. There is a window of opportunity to impact the recommendations in this report. Last years budget allowed \$15,000, the only citizen's

advisory group to receive funding. 2 FTE and a budgetary allowance of \$15,000 have the potential to be affected. The members discussed continuation without the funding, and expressed concern at the potential loss of staff support. Members were encouraged to consider the key messages to be relayed to Council on April 6/06. One of the suggested key messages is that 2 staff is important to support the endeavors of the FPC. What is the response from the FPC should a staff position be cut? FPC members were encouraged to discuss the goals of the FPC with individual Council members prior to the April 6/06 public hearing. A sub-committee was suggested to strategize a response. **Action:** Sub-committee volunteers - Carol Christopher, Karin Schreurs, Brian Hall and John Van Luven will develop key messages.

5. Staff Reports:

5.1 Food Policy Coordinator - detailed report on Community Garden Report to Council - Use of the Community Amenity Contribution of \$22,000 to develop City's ALR land with possibly 3 community gardens. The coordinator is looking at different sites in Vancouver that offer different possibilities. A community garden pilot program will be developed and reported on to City council. Three different models will be looked at and described in a report to Council. Draft guidelines have been developed, as out side of the City Parks Board there are no existing guidelines around community garden operations. It was commented that FPC members could be involved in the drafting of these guidelines.

5.2 Food System Planner - detailed report on Urban Agriculture Inventory - it is unknown what is available in the city for urban agriculture development. The inventory will look at all areas of the city, including the development of partnerships, federal lands. The second phase of the project will look at logistics as applied to selected locations. Interest in the use of rooftops was noted. Engaging the private community in this project would be an asset to the project and the community.

6. Food Policy Council Business:

6.1 Report back from ad-hoc committee on review of FPC structure (*see handout*)

- 6.1.1 Steering committee - 4 people incl. 2 chairs; ad hoc - process requires election of two members for a 1-year period - accepted - **Action:** Election at next months meeting of one volunteer to join Carol Christopher.
- 6.1.2 Alternate members - accepted **Action:** Members to find own alternates. (Alternates will be encouraged to attend all meetings)
- 6.1.3 Conflict of Interest - accepted - **Action:** Incorporate into next meeting agenda.
- 6.1.4 Conflict Resolution - accepted
- 6.1.5 Attendance Policy - accepted
- 6.1.6 Standing Committees - linked to the strategic goals of the FPC - accepted
- 6.1.7 Communication strategies - strike an ad hoc committee - **Action:** Wendy Mendes to request support from City Communications Dept. Spring Gillard and Aron Bjornson volunteered for this ad hoc Communications committee

7. Next steps to implementation of: debate & dialogue, educationals, food entrepreneurs, food awards (small work group) (*Tabled*)

8. Developing Objectives *(Tabled)*

9. Presentation - A Loving Spoonful *(Tabled)*

10. Late Additions:

- Herb Barbolet - suggested a Forum inclusive of researchers involved in development of the GAP Analysis and the FORC Report - perhaps to be held in June.
- Consent agenda should include a summary of the actions of/from each member to be provided to Devorah for inclusion in the monthly meeting package.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:30 pm