

Vancouver Food Policy Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 9, 2011
6:00-8:30pm
Strathcona Room, City Hall



Chair: Joanne Bays, Brent Mansfield

Council Members: Daryl Arnold, Herb Barbolet, Jason Boyce, Maria Burtlehaus, Carole Christopher, Trish Kelly, Ilana Labow, Ross Moster, Cale Price, Shelby Tay, Chris Thoreau, David Tracey, David Wilson,

Liaisons: James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Arzeena Hamir (Richmond Food Security Society)

Regrets: Doug Aason, Tara McDonald, Janine de la Salle, Carla Shore, Helen Spiegelman, Kim Sutherland, Aaron Jasper (VPB), Bill Manning (VPB), Wendy Mendes (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Heather Deal (City Council), Jane Bouey (VSB) Mary Clare Zak (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Allen Blakely (VSB)

Agenda Items:

1. Opening Round
Members, James Raymond and Juvarya Warsi from the Vancouver Economic Development Commission, and twelve guests introduced themselves.
2. Motion to Accept Agenda with amendments and February Minutes with amendments
It was clarified that both Urban Farming and Youth are Working Groups of the FPC. Procurement has been separated from Food Strategy, as reflected in the action plan. March agenda - Presentation on Accessibility Guidelines for Community garden postponed until May.
Moved by Chris, seconded by Trish, carried unanimously.
3. Staff Report on City's Food Policy Activity - James O'Neill
 - FPC budget for Food Strategy goal - City will be providing funds, and as such, the funds listed in the VFPC budget for this goal will be allocated wholly to contingency.
 - Food strategy - Representatives from a variety of City departments are meeting through the Urban Food System Steering Committee to get the involvement of this committee and consent to move forward. Involvement from Director-level participants is also being sought.
 - City is still keeping track of the number of community garden plots. There are now 3260 plots including city, parks and private land. There is a target in the GCAT to reach 5000 plots by 2020. GCAT will likely go to council in May with ten revised action plans.
 - Presentation to City Council (Brent) - report will be through a Master Memo as with other advisory groups. It is not known when this will go to council. Council of Councils meeting has partially replaced the report to Council.
4. Presentation - Vancouver Economic Development Commission "Local Food Jobs" project
Food security is a high priority in the Economic Development Plan and a large part of the GCAT food goal. Part of this includes increasing local food assets. Are exploring how to measure 'jobs' to get a baseline number against which to measure future growth and develop an economic strategy. Would like to build a database of local food employers. Local food has been defined for these purposes as food produced within British Columbia. Therefore, a local food job is a FTE job in the City of Vancouver that has directly relates

to local food (including food produced for export). Will use both quantitative and qualitative methods to determine. Members are encouraged to send suggestions for organizations or individuals to be included in database, as well as relevant data sets. See attached powerpoint for details of this presentation

Discussion -

Definition of FTE is based on hours rather than money earned per hour. It was noted that urban farming has no 'industry code' yet. A classification is being explored for a City of Vancouver business licenses. The definition of FTE is scaled based on the percentage of work related directly to local food. It was noted that information be gathered on the rate of pay to be able to compare the value of jobs. The methodology will be developed as a model for other cities to use. There was a question about including only food produced in BC vs food both produced and consumed in BC in the context of resiliency of the food system. An effort will be made to remove the exports from the dataset, however limitations are inevitable and will be noted.

5. Presentation - Seniors Advisory and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committees
Community Garden Guidelines: Q and A, Resolution to support?
Tabled until May meeting.

6. Work Plan and Budget - *Updates from Working Groups*
Some groups have requested extra support. Updated plan distributed.
 - a) Food Strategy - Brent - work with and support food strategy. Apr-Jun will ramp up, followed by public consultations involving stakeholders.
 - b) Food Waste - Trish - work of this group will be worked into Neighbourhood Food Networks work. Recent event with Village Vancouver on neighbourhood waste attracted 60-70 members. Helen is transcribing notes. Ilana will join group.
 - c) Neighbourhood Food Networks - Trish - will meet next week and consider changing name to reflect food assets. Will host 4 neighbourhood-level meetings and 2 citywide forums. Will meet next week to discuss timing of citywide events. May event can feed into Food Strategy, and to discuss budget. Maria, Zsuzsi and Howard have joined this group. Aaron will involve group in strategic planning and be involved in May event.
 - d) Food Resiliency - Ross - creating plan for Vancouver using Transition Town back-casting model. Will hold a couple open spaces and consult with other working groups. Carole and Arzeena have joined group.
 - e) Food Secure Vancouver - Brent - gave background on the project. Are very close to releasing the report and website. Goal is to integrate with FPC initiatives and those in the City, to track data, as well as exploring further partnerships. FPC will be able to preview website soon.
 - f) Youth Engagement - Ilana - is hoping to build on connections with youth to build interest in action towards a Youth Food Policy Council. She is hoping to meet with core group in the spring, and then follow through until larger meeting in the fall will develop a realistic timeline. Group is looking for new members.
 - g) Urban Farming - Chris - sent out podcast update. Urban Farming census is current focus. Are also hoping to develop website and form an official society. Currently working under Building Opportunities for Business but soon will no longer be possible. Exploring Organic Urban certification. Have met with City around policy and will explore precedents in other cities to catalyze policies here. Still have some grants pending and looking to more regular meetings. David and Arzeena will join.

- h) Local Food Procurement/Local Foods in Institutions - Brent - group is advising development of local food procurement policy in Social Policy, thinking strategically in participation and operations with other partners. Practices and research-related information on the impact on health, climate change, etc.

Dave Wilson has joined the group. Fair Trade Vancouver is also interested in joining group.

Joanne is interested in expanding the scope of the local food procurement group to include other efforts to get local foods in public institutions. In Vancouver we are growing capacity to produce, process and distribute local foods (community gardening, urban farming, a food hub, local foods on street carts) AND at the same time we are redesigning institutional policy and systems so that they are able to embrace local foods (farm to school, farm to hospital, farm to university, farm to community programs). Local food procurement policy is an important way to link this activity. Are there other ways to link activity to help more local foods into plates in public places?

Announcements - events underway that can further the local foods in institutions agenda:

A fall "Farm to You" conference is in development. This conference will explore, strengthen and celebrate an array of activity underway to get local foods into public places. Stay tuned.

School Food Revolution: A recipe for change March 15, 2011 (poster attached)

Food Train to the Neighbourhood to Nation Food Policy Conference in Portland May 19 -21 (poster attached)

If anyone is interested in working with Joanne on this broader "local foods in institutions" agenda, please contact her at joannebays@gmail.com

Discussion

Meet your Maker and Farm to You are different in that there will be more focus on getting local foods into *institutions* (schools, hospitals, community centres...). Programs, policy, research and promotional activities will be profiled.

Meet your Maker will happen next Monday.

7. A Proposal and Discussion of the Shape/Location of Future Meetings
Regarding format, it was suggested that administrative business come first (6pm-7pm), followed by presentations and other engaging education towards the end of the meeting.
Given higher attendance recently, a new room is being sought but opportunities seem sparse. Suggestions are welcome. City Hall has advantage of being accessible for Councilor Deal's attendance, as well as accessible to public transit. There was a suggestion to explore Mount Pleasant Community Centre and Park Board spaces. Ross to make inquiries with Langara College and community centres for possibly rotating meetings in different neighbourhoods. FPC also needs to consider how to best

incorporate public input into issues. It was suggested that the tables can be removed after the business section to allow for more interaction. It was suggested that the FPC online presence be built up. General agreement was met to change the structure, with more options to be presented next meeting. Venue suggestions can be sent to Trish.

8. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Ross, seconded by Arzeena, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.