

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 13, 2009, 6:00-8:30pm  
Strathcona Room, City Hall

**Chairs:** Carole Christopher

**Council Members:** Doug Aason, Daryl Arnold, Herb Barbolet, Brent Mansfield, Tara McDonald, Joyce Rock, Carla Shore, Yona Sipos, Kim Sutherland, David Tracey

**Regrets:** Jane Bouey (VSB), Heather Deal (City Council), Aaron Jasper (Park Board Liaison), Trish Kelly, Andre LaRivière, Mary Clare Zak (UASC/Social Development)

**Absent:** Janine de la Salle

1. **Introductions** - 12 guests introduced themselves to council.
2. **Motion to accept agenda and requests for leave** - Moved by Carla, seconded by Daryl, carried unanimously. April Minutes amended to include Park Board liaison in Regrets section.
3. **Liaison update** - Mary Clare Zak or Liane McKenna  
Liaison not available for update.
4. **Committee/Project Updates:**  
Membership Committee - Carole C  
FPC has not yet received official list of new appointees; Carole will update members when notified.

Meeting with City Clerk's office - Carole C

The Clerk's office may be able to provide some admin support for the FPC. Meeting is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. Carole will update members through email.

Regarding the City liaison to the FPC, it was clarified that the UASC co-chairs will act as liaisons.

The Food Policy Coordinator position no longer exists, and it is unclear if other departments and the community have been formally notified, or if the restructuring overturns the original Council motion. It was felt that communication from City should clarify the change in structure. **ACTION:** Tara and Carla to draft message asking for clarification for Mary Clare Zak.

Communications Committee - Carla S,

- o More members are needed to add content to the blog, if interested, contact Carla.
- o At the recent International Network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security conference in Bogota, Columbia, the VFPC was given an award of recognition by RUAF, received by Andrea Reimer on behalf of the VFPC. Vancouver and the city of Bogota are the only cities to have received the award which had previously only been awarded to national governments for food security projects.
- o Carla is now lead for Food Security Working group for the Sustainability Committee of the Vancouver Board of Trade, and as liaison between the two groups, welcomes input and suggestions for speakers to that group.

Back yard Chickens - No update as Trish Kelly was absent.

Motion re: food/beverage guideline - Maria B.

Maria received email from Heather Deal re: support from the City that she is interested and will speak to staff.

5. **Community Presentation:** Eleanor Boyle, representing several local groups regarding the issue of reducing meat consumption.

Eleanor gave some background and outlined possible avenues of engagement for the FPC.

1. Issue is Important and appropriate for VFPC  
Is central to FPC mandate (just and sustainable food systems). Policy issue- result of laws, policies, regulations which support and subsidize large scale producers. Many jurisdictions have begun meat-reduction initiatives (e.g. Cincinnati). Objective is to eat less meat, not become vegetarian, and to buy sustainably produced products and fits well with eating local.
2. Civil society network deals with this issue.  
Many are animal-rights, environmental, health groups are involved in the issue. These include: Humane society, Earthsave Canada, Liberation BC, BC-SPCA, Canadian Group for Ethical Treatment of food animals, David Suzuki Foundation.
3. VFPC could be involved in several ways  
Take public position. Support local groups (lend credibility, obtain services/grants, offer expert advise, attend forums, having representative on FPC). Support or initiate something similar to 'meatless Mondays'. Make recommendation to City Council, UASC, VSB, Parks Board. Encourage dialogue through blog, website, etc.

Concern was expressed by one member that following the advice to reduce meat consumption by one meal per week would result in a reduction of 15% production and the closing of approx. 50 farms. It was clarified that no more medications have been introduced since avian flu, and that poultry farming is not subsidized.

It was proposed that a 'community dialogue session' might feature this topic. This will be given over to members who sign up to organize community dialogues. Joyce R is currently acting chair of that committee awaiting additional members.

*Handouts with background information distributed.*

## 6. Draft Action Plan and Budget discussion

Food Precincts: Janine (HB Lanarc), and the Greenest City team are working on it. Rest of committee will consult with Janine and City re: project and report to June meeting.

Institutional Food Purchasing Plan- BCGEU is keen to move this ahead, focusing on local. Would welcome any suggestions and report. No budget implications. Andre, Brent and Janine are members on that committee. Melanie K is also listed as ex-member/volunteer. Proposed that a report from this group be scheduled for June meeting.

The FPC has been encouraged by council to leverage funds. **ACTION:** Committee will meet to explore fundraising options - Doug, Herb, Jeff (FFCF) and report to June meeting.

Food Secure Study - *updated documents and Baseline Report distributed.* In 2008 it became clear that there is no clear indication of how secure Vancouver is, and also, that the VFPC had not undertaken work that fulfills that part of our mandate. A committee was stuck that eventually proposed a 2+ year study of Vancouver's Food Security. In the first year they commissioned a study which is now available and forms the best research information to date on the topic. However, the study has gaps which need to be filled. The Study Committee proposes to convene a dialogue amongst several other groups working on various aspects of the topic and to clarify gaps needing further research and to undertake that research as Phase 2 of the study. Phase 2 will require \$30,000. This includes 10k for outreach, partnership, research (to coordinate work of groups working on the issue), 10k for coordinator, and 10k technology, databases, media. Last year the committee raised money from outside sources and requested

\$6,000 from VFPC 2009 budget to hire a Project Coordinator who will use some of these funds to leverage more outside money.

Online result will be interactive tracking tool (more than a database), and there was concern that 10k would not be enough to develop this; 20k was recommended. In-kind donations have been more than current budget and are not included in 30k. Suggestion to add more on food waste; could be included in definition of food security. FPC members are invited to comment on report. **ACTION** - the Committee will hire a coordinator ASAP. Request for Applications will be welcome until May 14<sup>th</sup>. Committee will report at June meeting. **ACTION:** Carla will recommend changes to report in order to add VFPC branding and committee will follow through as quickly as possible.

Books to Cooks initiative - good fundraising opportunity, members were encouraged to visit the store to see what books are there for review. One volunteer, Amanda McCuaig offered to do some book reviews on behalf of VFPC. Other members are asked to also step up to this plate and do a book review. Contact Herb B.

After discussion, the budget was allocated to the following categories:

Food at meetings	\$1000
Strategic Planning session	\$2500
Food Secure Study	\$6000
Communications	\$750
Two dialogue sessions	\$1000
Forum	\$2500
Food Precinct Development	\$500
Contingency	\$750
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15000</b>

**MOTION:** To accept budget as presented. Moved by Carla, seconded by Daryl, carried unanimously. September meeting will include 2009 budget review and budget planning for 2010.

#### 7. Other:

Quarterly Retailers Group - David T

Engagement is necessary as retailers sell over 60% of food sales in BC. Aron Bjornsen and David Langdone (Canadian Council of Grocer Retailers) are willing to participate in a retailers group that would inform FPC about retailing issues in their sector. Another suggestion was to ask for a presentation sometime in 09'. As well it was proposed to send them the Executive Summary from the Baseline Report. Chris Hill could introduce FPC to Neptune. Sisco, Neptune are engaged in local food and are distributors. Could be idea for dialogue session and could create productive dialogue. **ACTION:** David will think thorough how to engage retailers, with help from Chris Hild. A report will be made at June meeting.

West Coast Seed Community Gardening Initiative - Carole C

West Coast Seeds have contacted Councillor Reimer with concern that the community gardening experience will not meet expectations. Would like to have partnership with FPC to create kit for those who are just starting, specifically those at the City Hall gardens. A report will be made to June meeting.

Charitable Food Sector - Herb B

IN CAMERA discussion ensued.

## 8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm

### SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

#### 4 - UPDATES:

**ACTION:** Tara and Carla to draft message re: public clarification of Food Policy Coordinator position and direct to Mary Clare Zak. Report to June meeting.

**ACTION:** Carole will update VFPC re: appointment of new members when that is public

**ACTION:** Carole will update members re: outcome of discussion with Mary Clare Zak and City Clerk's office re: possible additional resources for VFPC meetings. Report to June meeting.

#### 6 ACTION PLAN/BUDGET

**ACTION:** Joyce convene meeting of committee to discuss possible topics and dates of 2. 'community dialogue sessions' and report to June Meeting. Need more members.

**ACTION:** Carla, Joyce, Herb, Tara, Andre, Janine and David will meet to develop Food Precinct project. Connect with Janine re: Lanark project and clarify the city's role in fostering this project. Report to June meeting.

**ACTION:** Andre, Janine along with volunteers Brent Mansfield and Melanie K (past-member) will discuss and explore with Sven Robinson at BCGEU the forward progress on an institutional food purchasing policy focused on stipulating a the % of local production. Report to June meeting.

**ACTION:** Doug, Herb, Jeff (FFCF) will form Committee to explore fundraising options and report to June meeting.

**ACTION:** Carla will recommend changes to Food Secure Vancouver report in order to add VFPC branding.

**ACTION:** Herb, Kim, Carole and Brent will accept applications, interview and hire a coordinator for Phase 2 of Food Secure Vancouver Study ASAP. Report on progress at June meeting.

**ACTION:** All Members consider the committees they have agreed to join and hold meetings/phone consultation to discuss progress (if not already scheduled) report at June meeting.

**ACTION:** All members consider doing a book review for Barbara Jo's Books to Cooks to take up her fundraising offer. Need to go into the store (2<sup>nd</sup> Ave near Burrard) to look at books. If someone will do that and report to others it would be helpful.

#### 7 - OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

**ACTION:** David will think thorough how to engage retailers, with help from Chris Hild and report to the June meeting.

**ACTION:** Carole will follow through with West Coast Seeds and report to June meeting.