

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 14, 2008, 6:00-8:30pm
Strathcona Room, City Hall

Present:

Chairs: Carole Christopher

Council Members: Daryl Arnold, Kim Sutherland, Andre LaRivière, Joyce Rock Trish Kelly, Barbara Joughin, Yona Sipos, David Tracey, Eva Riccius, Melanie Kurrein, Janine de la Salle, Herb Barbolet, Doug Aason, Susan Kurbis, Tara McDonald

Staff: Samara Brock, Devorah Kahn (Social Planning)

Requests for Leave: Andrea Reimer, Chris Miewald

Regrets: Matt Low, Carla Shore

1. Opening:

- 1.1 Introductions - Eva Riccius submitted her resignation due to a job in Victoria, Joyce Rock also resigned due to increased activity with the Neighbourhood House. Five guests introduced themselves to Council.
- 1.2 Review Meeting Agenda
- 1.3 Consent Agenda - April Minutes - **MOTION:** to accept April minutes. Moved by Trish, seconded by Trish, carried unanimously.
- 1.4 Requests for Leave - **MOTION:** To accept the request for leave. Moved by Eva, seconded by David, carried unanimously.

2. Updates:

- 2.1 2010 Gardens - Samara B
Report with guidelines for community gardens has been handed to Engineering. **ACTION:** David to redraft request for information to send to chairs, including compost delivery issue. FPC will inquire about a meeting before June, and offer to have them come do a presentation.
- 2.2 Food Secure Vancouver Study Committee - Barbara J
Proposal distributed. Have met 5 times since February, are looking for feedback and approval, and support for the work of the committee. Study will look at key elements of food security in Vancouver, and is designed to be repeatable and ongoing, looking forward to the future, and will connect with knowledge from existing studies, events, and literature. Are planning to hold forum to involve community. Scope is specific to Vancouver and adjacent agricultural land. Deliverables include a literature review, and information database, and analysis tools. **ACTION:** Herb B will consult with Metro Van on their June forum. Feedback included the importance of careful consideration of indicators/benchmarks to allow for long-term tracking, adopting existing analysis tools, and incorporating population trends. **ACTION:** Members to send suggestions to the committee on potential invitees and funding sources, feedback on literature review.
- 2.3 Eco-Density Input - Samara B
Committee met with Eco-Density staff to give input, and new drafts include suggestions. More detail was given than what appears in the draft Charter, and the result may not be specific enough. It was clarified that Council will choose priority action items from draft for the final Charter. FPC to keep ongoing presence throughout development of Charter. **ACTION:** Tara M to draft letter re: inclusion of specifics in the Eco-Density Charter.
- 2.4 Communications Committee - Andre LR
Logo has not been finalized, comments have been sent to designers and committee is awaiting new design. Will aim to launch brochure at June 18th Metro Van food forum.

- 2.5 Forum Committee - Carole C
Have spoken to colleagues in Seattle and Portland, who are open to dialogue. A tentative date suggested for late Sept / early Oct. Members asked to contact Carole if interested in planning, Trish, Herb, and Susan volunteered to be on committee. It was confirmed that FPC is still interested in the idea. Steve Cohen of Food Policy Seattle will be here for June 18th forum. **ACTION:** Herb B will contact Steve Cohen (Seattle Food Policy) to check feasibility of meeting in June. Community members and potential politicians for lobbying yet to be identified.
- 2.6 Annual Report - Carole C
Barbara and Samara thanked for their work, report will go to Council on May 22nd. Carole and/or Andrea to attend Council meeting, members encouraged to come.
- 2.7 Staff Update - Samara B
- o As of June, Social Planning will be amalgamated with new Social Development Department, as one of four sub-departments with current Directors will become Assistant Directors. It was suggested to have dialogue with Cameron Grey in July. SP mandate will be narrowed to focus on vulnerable communities. The idea of FPC moving departments may be considered due to the interdepartmental nature of food policy work. **ACTION:** Andrea R, David T, Herb B, Samara B, Barbara J, Doug A, Devorah K to meet and discuss.
 - o Farmers Market motion passed in Council (*draft distributed*), Heather Deal presented motion, which was accepted with amendments. City Manager is to report back. YLFMS Board is working with City Staff to implement.
- 2.8 Guidelines- Community organization reports - Trish K
Guidelines for presentations were developed based on Food Charter workshops. Groups must cover five points: goals, membership, projects, food system issues, requests of FPC. Five minutes to present and five for discussion.
3. **Announcements**
- Kim Capri thanks FPC for supporting the issue of animal welfare (Melanie)
 - Canada's World May 20 dialogue, Canadian food scholars conference at end of May, Metro Van forum on regional food security June 18th (Herb)
ACTION: Carole to send Metro Van invite to FPC
 - Farmers Market opens Saturday, 9am at Trout Lake. (Tara)
 - Launch for *Edible Vancouver* (magazine) tomorrow (Trish)
 - Aron Bjornson has been appointed Director of Marketing for Green Table (Andre)
4. **Presentation**
- 4.1 Sri Lankan delegation - Jakath Basnayake, Cathy Rich Memorial Food Processing Training Centre
Gave outline on the background and mission of the centre, also training and activities. The Centre operates as an incubator for food-related entrepreneurs on a not-for-profit, fee for service basis, working with government and community organizations. Since 1992, 12500 micro and small scale processors have been trained with assistance from the Centre through training, research, and business development consultation.
www.foodsolutioncentre.org
5. **Action Items:**
- 5.1 Vending Cart Proposal - Carole C
Devorah met with Mary Clare Zak and Heather Deal, working with Engineering and VCH to develop policy (e.g. Mobile grocery carts)

- 5.2 UBC Farm letter/meeting - Carole C
Andrea responded to Stephen Toope accepting offer for a meeting and is awaiting a response.
- 5.3 Urban Food Growers Co-op - David T
Proposed that FPC adopt a motion to endorse the concept of a collaborative, cooperative approach for an organization (co-op) to coordinate community gardening in Vancouver as an umbrella organization, and recommend the concept to City Council. It was felt that although the concept was good, an endorsement is premature. Concerns included other groups working on similar concept who have not had the same opportunity to present to the FPC, graduate research being done in SP on this topic, and overlapping with FPC's current work with the City, Park Board and Board of Ed. David reiterated that other groups have been consulted through VCAN, and felt the timing is good to take action; if co-op is not best model, there is an option to change to another model. It was suggested that the FPC facilitate a meeting of interested parties to discuss and come out with consensus, which FPC could endorse. **MOTION:** To endorse the *concept* in principle. Moved by Herb, seconded by Daryl. Deborah K raised a 'point-of-order' because Daryl is ineligible to vote. The motion was seconded by Doug and passed (50%).

After the meeting some confusion remained as to the exact wording of the motion passed. We may revisit this motion in June. *There was explicitly no recommendation from VFPC to City of Vancouver re: joining or funding this project.*

6. New Business

- 6.1 Update on Provincial ban on trans fats - Melanie K
VCH had asked FPC to support a similar motion to City Council, but since there is no a provincial ban, this is no longer necessary.
- 6.2 Update on Provincial food & beverage guidelines - Melanie K
Is working with schools, guidelines have been expanded to all provincially-owned buildings, and municipalities are asked to follow them. Requested that FPC help move the guidelines to Council for adoption. It was suggested to get Community Centre Association's agreement then go to Park Board. **ACTION:** Eva R will work with Melanie to move food and beverage guidelines forward with the community centres.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

- 2.1 **ACTION:** David T to draft letter to City Engineering Dept requesting meeting re: urban agriculture, send to chairs, (include issue of compost delivery.)
- 2.2 **ACTION:** Herb B will consult with Metro Van on their June forum.
ACTION: Members to send suggestions to the committee on potential invitees and funding sources, feedback on literature review.
- 2.3 **ACTION:** Tara M to draft letter re: inclusion of specifics in the Eco-Density Charter.
- 2.5 **ACTION:** Herb B will contact Steve Cohen (Seattle Food Policy) to check feasibility of meeting in June.
- 2.7 **ACTION:** Andrea R, Carole C, David T, Herb B, Samara B, Barbara J, Doug A, to meet and discuss the City restructuring and the FPC.
- 3 **ACTION:** Carole to send Metro Van invite to FPC.
- 6.2 **ACTION:** Eva R will work with Melanie to move food and beverage guidelines forward with the community centres.