

# Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

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**Chairs:** Carole Christopher & Andrea Reimer

**Council Members:** Andre LaRivière, Barb Seed, Chris Miewald, Barbara Joughin, Deepthi Jayatilaka, Spring Gillard, Janine de la Salle, Yona Sipos, Susan Kurbis\*, Doug Aason\*

**Staff:** Devorah Kahn

**Liaisons:** Spencer Herbert (Parks Board)\*

**Invited Guests:** Samara Brock (Social Planning), Alan Duncan (Social Planning), Christie Tateby (SCARP-UBC), Sarah Wilmont (SCARP-UBC)

**Regrets:** Melanie Kurrein, Carol Ranger, Shirley Wong, Mario Lee, Herb Barbolet, Karin Schreurs, Peter Ladner

*\*denotes partial attendance*

1. **Opening:**

- 1.1 **Introductions** - 1 guest
- 1.2 **Review Meeting Agenda** - Added 5.2: Announcements
- 1.3 **Consent Agenda** - April Minutes approved

2. **Updates:**

2.1 **UBC Students Report on Urban Ag** - Christie Tateby, Sarah Wilmont

Three UBC SCARP Masters students did an internship with Social Planning to continue the land inventory started by Terra Kaethler in 2006. The new report expands on the previous review of Engineering Lands, and expands to include Parks, Schools, Religious institutions, and community-identified lands that have the potential for urban ag. Ariel maps were consulted and used at community meetings. Additional input was sought from 6 City Plans meetings. The interns identified 639 sites, with appropriate attributes (proximity to utilities, aspect, accessibility, zoning, etc). *The purpose of the work was to identify potential sites and the report makes no determination about whether any of these sites will be utilized for urban agriculture.*

**Recommendations in the final report:**

1. Expand inventory to include external agencies (e.g. Teresan, Translink, Prov/Fed. Gov't)
2. Include potential rooftop gardens;
2. Partner with NGOs.

*Queries from FPC members:*

a) *What is average size of parcel?* Varies greatly, Parks are larger, Engineering are

a) Criteria were more inclusive than exclusive; ground truthing needs to be done.

smaller.

b) *Does the report include criteria for what would make a good gardening spot? What is the definition of 'underutilized'?* Anything that is not programmed.

**ACTION:** PowerPoint presentation to be sent to Carole C.

2.2 **IFPP Committee** - Janine dIS, Aron B

Awaiting draft Ethical Purchasing Report.

**ACTION:** Janine dIS will check with Vickie Wakefield re: status of report.

2.3 **Communications committee** - Spring G

*(communication plan sent out prior to meeting)*

Communications Report was commended. That report includes key messages to targeted audiences and identifies key opportunities: info brochure, standard presentations (once a year each), special briefings for councillors, one-on-one meetings with councillors, presenting framed food charter to councillors, developing own website with e-newsletter that talks of FPC work. Andrew Pask may be receptive to adapting SP newsletter to FPC needs. Committee will include Andrew in discussion. Website may be separate from the City website as FPC is independent. Original Phase 3 to develop Media Kit (bios, fact sheets, etc.). Proposed change - work with City to develop protocol for executing plan (directing inquiries, writing press releases, etc). It was felt this should be done *after* negotiations re: Terms of Reference are complete as these will have an impact. The committee will meet with Staff to review possible changes to Phase 3.  
**ACTION:** Carole C to email Wendy's FPC PowerPoint to Committee.

#### 2.4 Strategic Planning Objectives Action Plan - Janine dIS

*(action plan sent out prior to meeting)* This is a living document. Send updates to Janine. Park Board and School Board tasks to be combined, people who signed up will work together.

#### 2.5 June Forum - Carole C

45 RSVPs and 3 nominations for membership received to date. Draft Agenda distributed. Discussion included; that better communication re: the forum is needed within the Council, that agenda should focus more on feedback on our direction than on seeking new ideas, and to give more time for guests to mingle and interact with our Action Plan and VFPC members. Noted that all four key objectives for 2007 are touched on by this forum. Suggested recording the forum.

##### **ACTIONS:**

- a) Carole C will reword email about nominations and re-send to VFPC members.
- b) Planning group will revise the agenda.
- c) Devorah K to contact Peter Ladner re: letter of appreciation from city for past members.

#### 2.6 Terms of Reference - Andrea R

Co-Chairs met with Mario L and Mary Clare Z. Original Food Policy Task Force Report to City Council, (December 2003) was submitted without Terms of Reference (ToR.) Policy dictates that ToR's must be approved by City Council. New ToR have been drafted and circulated to VRFC members with comment period until May 25<sup>th</sup>. The ToR will be discussed at the June FVPC meeting before going to City Council on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Orientation manual is being reworked and will include info on the decision making process. A draft will be sent out for feedback.

**ACTION:** Send input on TOR to Deepthi by May 25th

### 3. Action Items:

*(Feb 6. 7) Survey re: Community Kitchen Project*

**ACTION:** Andrea R will re-send after speaking with Diane Collis.

*(April 2.) VFPC Rep for CFAI Grant Selection Committee*

Chris M has been affirmed.

### 4. Presentation - Samara Brock and Alan Duncan re: Eco-Density Plan

Barb J - Sub-committee looking to formalize involvement with ED initiative through developing content.

Using the metaphor of the Titanic, Alan spoke of our excessive ecological footprint and the impact of trends like global warming. The role for Vancouver is to reduce energy use while increasing liveability and creating affordable housing. By using existing technologies and efficient building designs, the goal is to create welcoming communities with strong social and physical infrastructures. Important to preserve heritage as a sustainable resource - achieved

through walkable streets and local retail, as in Quebec City. Green systems could include modular housing, wind turbines, urban ag, rainwater harvesting, block composting, sharing of resources. The initiative was launched in March with 1000 people who shared 1600 ideas from which principles are now being drafted. Two more public workshops: 1) Hellenic Hall - May 26, 1-4pm and, 2) Eric Hamber School - June 23, 1-4 pm

Objectives are to create a Charter to guide future decision making, an Action Plan, and a Tool Kit to give quantified data. There is an engagement strategy on website, and workshops are being done with interested groups. After June, ideas will be formalized and will go to Council for a decision in October. Samara explained the role of the Technical team and identified that as the place for our input into the Eco-Density Initiative. Two opportunities for that are before the June public event and again before it goes to Council in October.

Questions:

**Next steps:** If interested in meeting with Alan and Samara to identify content of contribution to June forum, contact Barbara J.

5. **Other Business:**

5.1 **Community Garden Study Letter of Support - Andrea R**

*Due to conflict of interest, Yona S, Chris M, Susan K, and Janine DIS were not present for this discussion.* Agreement reached that Letter of Support will be sent.

**ACTION:** Andrea R to send out email re: endorsement policy.

5.2 **Announcements**

- Farmers market begins this Sunday at Trout Lake.
- FPC Members are invited to participate on the GVRD Agricultural Committee.
- Institutional Accountability and Food event at Anza Club, Aurora Institute May 23.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:07**

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

2.1 **ACTION:** Land Inventory PowerPoint presentation to be sent to Carole C

2.2 **ACTION:** *Janine DIS* - check with Vickie Wakefield re: status of ethical purchasing report.

2.3 **ACTION:** *Carole C* - e-mail Wendy's FPC PowerPoint to Committee.

2.5 **ACTION:** *Carole C* - re-send email about nominations to members.

**ACTION:** *Planning group* - revise agenda

**ACTION:** *Devorah K* to arrange letter from Peter Ladner for past and retiring members.

3 **ACTION:** *Andrea R* - re-send link re: Community Kitchen Project - speak with Diane Collis.