

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 6:00-8:30pm

Social Policy Department Meeting Room

#100-515 West 10th Ave

Present:Chairs: Carole Christopher and Trish Kelly

Council Members: Doug Aason, Daryl Arnold, Barb Joughin, Melanie Kurrein, Andre LaRivière, Tara McDonald, Joyce Rock, Carla Shore, Yona Sipos, Kim Sutherland, David Tracey,

Staff: Samara Brock

Requests for Leave: Herb Barbolet, Janine de la Salle, Susan Kurbis, Chris Miewald

Items

1. Introductions - 11 guests introduced themselves to council.
2. Motion to accept agenda and requests for leave
MOTION: To amend October minutes to include the motion to open a checking account to receive the grant funds for the food security study, and approve the minutes with no other revisions Also, to approve the agenda with no additions, and approve the requests for leave. Moved by Barbara, seconded by Yona, carried unanimously.
3. Presentation - Mary Clare Zak
Mary Clare gave an overview of the Urban Agriculture committee
Peter Ladner convened the committee in an effort to improve communication between City Departments. The resulting message was that community gardens are good but a broader strategy for urban agriculture is needed, seeing Vancouver in the context of the region. Committee meets quarterly and is comprised of senior level representatives from Real Estate, The Office of Sustainability, Planning, Park Board, and Engineering. Liane McKenna (Park Board) is co-chair of the committee. There may be opportunities for a Food Policy Council representative, a representative from VSB, and VCH. Terms of Reference are almost complete and will be circulated to the FOC. Policy harmonization is a priority, and other priorities will be defined. Minutes will be shared with the FPC, and there will be opportunities for presentations. Real estate may undertake inventory of lands. There was a suggestion to include food growers for input.
4. Action Plan - review revisions
Carole updated that approximately \$200 worth of receipts was received from the Fruit Tree Project Celebration.
5. Staff Update Samara
Farmers markets - meeting was positive, and potential future locations are being explored.
Laneway housing - recommendations approved, cans still be revised to include items such as access to urban agriculture.

At this point, Samara thanked the council for their efforts, and the FPC thanked her in turn for all her valuable work.
6. Community food security group snapshot - EYA Interns
Liz Perkins and Dalia Levy gave an overview of ideas to engage youth in food policy. Funded by Gov of Canada, the 8 month internships involve hands-on experience in the community and growing food, and involve an independent project component. Dalia combined theatre and environmentalism to found an eco-art club to educate on students relevant issues, and Liz was hired on as coordinator of the Fruit Tree project, connecting with canning workshops to provide fruit. Suggestions to get youth involved: updating the website (updates, current policy, hot topics, links to other organizations), connecting with the Youth Outreach Team to keep

them informed of food policy issues, and holding a seat for a youth representative on the FPC. Trish will try to incorporate ideas into new FPC blog. Membership committee will look at youth representation on the committee.

7. Presentation on Urban Agriculture - Alex Chisholm

Alex is completing his Masters thesis on what role an umbrella organization could play to create more community gardens in the city. Using action research, he completed interviews and focus groups with key community members to determine benefits and barriers to community gardening in Vancouver. Benefits included community development and contribution to food security. Barriers identified include lack of access to land, funding resources, and community capacity, and poor civic organizational structures with poor communication and no central policy. There is a need for clear, central policy that includes many departments. It was suggested that Alex present to UA committee in City. Preliminary results of the study indicate that people like both consistency and flexibility. Perceived risks include: creating a second level of bureaucracy, could be overwhelmed, undermine community capacity and opportunities to learn, vulnerable to collapse, or ineffective. The ideal organization would act as a bridge between the gardeners and the City, offering greater or lesser support as needed, such as short term mentorship until gardens are established, and have a strong advocacy component. Sponsorship is defined as on city land which must be sponsored by NGO.

8. Committee Updates:

Chickens (Trish & Daryl)

Trish has prepared a draft, based on examples in other cities, and is now working on recommendations and benefits. There must be a requirement to keep proper conditions to reduce smells and prevent rodents. Trish will contact BC SPCA about animal welfare (space requirements), and also the health department. ACTION: Trish will discuss with Samara to determine who in city appropriate contact is.

Communications Committee (Carla, Trish, Andre)

Brochures and website/blog are now complete. It was suggested to put a poll on the blog regarding backyard chickens.

Food Security Study Committee (Barbara, Herb, Kim, Carole)

Update on forum - Room at church has a capacity of 150, therefore venue will remain the same. Total registration is at 115, ACTION: Carla will contact those on the waiting list letting them know there is space. Carole gave a breakdown of the sectors that are represented, and collectively underrepresented groups were identified. ACTION: Carole to send out email regarding other potential guests. ACTION: Carole to send out list of committee members and description of tasks for committees. Members of the Logistics Committee: Doug, Melanie, Tara, Vicky, David. Food Committee: Joyce, Andre, Yona, Chris, Doug

Harvest Festival - Melanie

Melanie reported on the VFPC presence at both the Moon Festival and PLENTY, noting that the amount of effort dedicated to events should be taken into consideration. Much is now documented which will facilitate the process in the future.

Draft Motion re: Food/Beverage Guidelines-Melanie

Has completed draft motion. ACTION: Melanie to distribute draft motion electronically for feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:

8. ACTION: Trish will discuss with Samara to determine who in city appropriate contact is to discuss backyard chicken motion.
ACTION: Carla will contact those on the waiting list for the forum letting them know there is space.
ACTION: Carole to send out email regarding other potential guests for the forum.
ACTION: Carole to send out list of committee members and description of tasks for committees.
ACTION: Melanie to distribute draft motion for food/beverage guidelines electronically for feedback.