

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 19, 2009, 6:00-8:30pm  
Strathcona Room, City Hall

**Chair:** Carole Christopher

**Council Members:** Daryl Arnold, Herb Barbolet, Maria Burglehaus, Erika Del Carmen Fuchs, Trish Kelly, Ross Moster, Cale Price, Joyce Rock, Janine de la Salle, Yona Sipos, Kim Sutherland, David Tracey Carla Shore, Helen Spiegelman

**Invited guest:** Barbara Joughin

**Liaisons:** Mary Clare Zak (UASC/Social Development)

**Regrets:** Joanne Bays, Jeff Nield, Tara McDonald, Brent Mansfield, Andre LaRiviere, T'Uy'Tanat-Cease Wyss, Aaron Jasper (VPB), Heather Deal (City Council), Jane Bouey (VSB), Doug Aason

## Agenda Items:

1. **Introductions** - members & guests - Members, liaisons, and six guests introduced themselves to the FPC.

2. **Motion to accept agenda and requests for leave** - Moved by Trish, seconded by Cale, carried unanimously. Motion to accept agenda with the addition of item 2.a - Chair - moved by David, seconded by Janine, carried unanimously.

2.a *Chair* - the FPC Terms of Reference include two co-chairs, a position open to all members. With Carole to step down soon, interested members are encouraged to contact Carole to ensure a smooth transition.

3. **Liaison Update** - Mary Clare

Winter project - Social Development is looking at winter response program, *Coming in from the Cold*, for city-wide focus on vulnerable populations. Additional shelter spaces in all neighbourhoods are being sought, as well as places for people to come in during the day, such as community centres and neighbourhood houses, with good food being available. They are working with other community groups, and possibly build on existing initiatives. For the FPC, this is an opportunity to look beyond logistics at food distribution. There is 100k in the budget for GCAT neighbourhood grants and a report will go to council in December. FPC members are invited to speak to committee on Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. Financial support is also being sought from the province, and partnership with the Vancouver Foundation. Once details are solidified, community organizations will be informed of the process. **MOTION:** VFPC is pleased to support in principle a staff recommendation and priorities of the greenest neighbourhood grants, integrating healthy food projects into the program. Moved by Herb, seconded by Daryl, carried unanimously.

Community Garden coordination - an umbrella organization is needed to streamline services, and will likely be a competitive process.

It was clarified that the Food Policy Coordinator is no longer a position, but a Social Planner will be hired that can address food issues along with vulnerable populations and mental health. Final budget decisions to be made on Dec 18 and will impact program development.

4. **Committee Updates**

*Food Secure Vancouver* - (Barbara Joughin)

Barbara gave a brief history of the project, including the current status. The research question is 'How food secure is Vancouver in a changing world?'

The logic model that was developed is now being applied to the indicators, outreach is being done, and data partners are being sought. Committee has been operating within budget and has secured an additional 10k from VanCity which will be received by the Fraser Basin Council. Study will measure progress toward the five outcomes in the Vancouver Food Charter, as well

as 'Human Health'. The geographic scope is Vancouver, however most data exist at the regional scale. **ACTION:** Members to send Barbara feedback on draft report by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Will report back to, and seek input from, stakeholder groups at Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> public forum at Langara College. FPC members are needed to move tables and facilitate small groups. **ACTION:** Carole to email details of facilitation process.

*Food Hub/Precincts* (Janine DIS)

Invitation for Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> visioning session at Heritage Hall has been sent, response rate has been good and 100 people are expected, including neighbourhood groups. An engagement strategy is being developed to reach more autonomous groups. External funding is being sought, and a briefing document with background and context will be circulated the first week of December. Details about the food precinct piece still to be worked out. The media has not been invited in order to create a safe space to share knowledge. **ACTION:** Janine to discuss the inclusion of agricultural sector with Kim, media with Carla, and food waste sector with Helen. FPC would be identified, available for questions and act as hosts. **ACTION:** Janine will clarify the facilitation closer to the date through email.

*Food Waste/Recovery/Charitable Food Sector* (Helen S)

A new mid-sized composter at Windermere high will process food waste from the school and the community, and should be showcased and promoted. It will mesh nicely with the launch of the residential composting expected in May 2010. Helen is continuing discussions with the city in hopes they will take more of a leadership role.

*Communications* (Carla S)

There is still opportunity for members to suggest speakers for the Board of Trade Sustainability Committee. The press release regarding the new structure of food policy in Vancouver has not been sent, and it was felt that better opportunities exist for promoting this (e.g. forum). When relevant issues arise, the evolution of food policy in the city can be mentioned, as it is now being considered in all policies. This would allow for a consistent message, with specific initiatives to be named.

5. **Presentation- Downtown Eastside Kitchen Tables** (Joyce Rock + Heather O'Hara)  
*Handout distributed.* Joyce explained that the DTES is one of five sites across Canada to receive funds from the Public Health Agency of Canada for a project to bring good food to vulnerable populations. There will be 40 sites across the DTES that will provide 3300 smoothies each day for one year, engaging various partners. They are currently surveying 1000 residents, and have created tailored surveys for various stakeholders (food providers, academics, suppliers, etc.) who have been invited to one of four lunches to create action-based solutions to streamline food operations. Heather explained that Potluck Café's philosophy is to treat all clients equally and with respect and have put that philosophy into action, providing 30,000 free meals annually. They are helping with the logistics of the project and are considering the community economic impact that will result from the project. Goals include development of guidelines on food quality to educate donors and the public. Trish offered to help formulate wording to approach donors. Herb offered to help differentiate between large-scale food banks and local approaches. Farmers market in DTES is disconnected from neighbourhood, vending carts would be a good distribution approach. Transportation and cold storage are major obstacles.
6. **Quick updates on other projects:**
  - Vending Carts* (Maria B)  
Work to date has been interrupted due to staff vacancy. **ACTION:** Mary Clare to follow up with Maria re: vending carts.
  - Chicken Guidelines* (Trish K)  
The lot size in the draft guidelines is being revisited to also allow for 25' lots. As this entails zoning changes, there will be a public hearing in January. **ACTION:** Trish to follow up with Lily

Ford, copying Mary Clare.

7. **Budget update**

There is approximately \$2600 remaining which needs to be spent by end of the year. **ACTION:** Carole will coordinate with Janine, Barbara and Carla to ensure unspent funds are reallocated for forum expenditures.

8. **Motion to Adjourn** - Moved by Erika, seconded by Yona, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

**ACTION:** Re: Dec 3/09 forum, members to send Barbara feedback on draft report by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION:** Re: Dec 3/09 forum, Carole to email details of facilitation process.

**ACTION:** Re: Jan 7/10 forum, Janine to discuss the inclusion of agricultural sector with Kim, media with Carla, and food waste sector with Helen.

**ACTION:** Re: Jan 7/10 forum, Janine will clarify the facilitation closer to the date through email.

**ACTION:** Mary Clare to follow up with Maria re: vending carts.

**ACTION:** Trish to follow up with Lily Ford re: guidelines for chickens (copying Mary Clare.)

**ACTION:** Re: budget allocations, Carole will coordinate with Janine, Barbara and Carla to ensure unspent funds are reallocated for forum expenditures.