

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 22nd, 2005, 6:30-9:30 pm

Present:

Council Members: Barb Seed, Carol Ranger (co-chair), Corinne Eisler, David Van Seters, Heather Pritchard, Herb Barbolet, John Van Luven (co-chair), Karin Schreurs, Shefali Raja, Spring Gillard, Aron Bjornson, Brian Holl, Susan Kurbis.

Liasons: VSB Trustees Andrea Reimer

Staff: Devorah Kahn, Mario Lee, Wendy Mendes

Regrets: Carole Christopher, Peter Ladner, Sue Moen, Miriam Palacios, & Adrienne Montani

Absent: Stephen Hall, Graham Riches, Councilor Tim Louis

1. Introductions

7 guests introduced themselves to the Council

The council extended sincere appreciation and thanks to all council liaisons for their work and involvement over the past year Eva Riccius, Andrea Reimer, Adrienne Montani, Tim Louis, and Peter Ladner

2. Review & Acceptance of the Agenda

Addition of Agenda Item:

- 6.2 The Budget
- 6.3 Follow-up on item 5.1 previous Minutes.

3. Review & Acceptance of the minutes from October 25th

Minutes accepted as written.

4. Reports for Information

4.1 Staff update. Discussion ensued around the FP Coordinator's attendance at various meetings noted as in the attached Update. We have been offered to be a "project" site for leadership Vancouver program. Andrea Reimer suggested to take on a group from the 10-month vs. the 6 month program. We need to be thinking of a project that Leadership Vancouver can assist us with.

4.2 Reports based on VFPC's five goal statements:

(Ecological Sustainability, Local Food Production, General Sustainability, Community Development, Food Security)

Local Food Production - SFU graduate working with City Cooks, researching the growing of grains locally.

Ecological Sustainability - Granville Island Market is now composting.

General Sustainability - 5 - 8 schools piloting food waste programs - Andrea will e-mail list of schools to Devorah; two Schools are very interested in a pilot Salad Bar program. The Province has finished a junk food review; they have released guidelines to the community. Issues arise re: students leaving site to purchase junk food; the loss of revenue to the school generated by vending machines. VCHA is also looking at vending machine use within the organization.

Community Development - Community Kitchens has recently had a successful equipment drive and distributed to those in need in the community. Anna Kirbyson has been hired as the Provincial Coordinator for the Provincial Health Services' Community Food Action Initiative.

4.3 Reports from active sub-committees:

4.3.1 **Waste Management** - Quest funded for two years to study waste management within their program. Different regulations apply to different processes of waste disposal. i.e. offsite or onsite composting. A big issue, where composting is done relative to source location. It was noted that institutional waste management was a much more manageable possibility.

4.3.2 **IFPP** - 20-page document, framework circulated to the members, barriers, benefits and potential public statement. Can this document be forwarded to the purchasing staff, as there is no meeting in December, so they can review prior to the January signing of the next 5-year Contract?

Action: It was suggested and agreed that a shorter, succinct document be developed, and distributed by email for review by Food Policy Council members, then forwarded to City staff, prior to the signing of the Contract in January. To be included is the notion of a step wise integration of recommendations.

Lori Stahlbrandt will network with Vicky Wakefield of the City of Vancouver purchasing department during her visit in Vancouver to discuss local food provision to institutions similar to a model presently used in Toronto.

4.3.3 **Food Charter** - *Tabled to 5.1*

4.3.4 **Goals & Objectives**

- 1) Food Security - Eliminate hunger.
- 2) Food Access - Ensure access to adequate, safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food in a dignified way.
- 3) Local Food - Strengthen the local food economy by advocating for local farmland preservation and promoting the production, distribution and sale of local food.
- 4) Environmental integrity - Promote a food system that improves the health and diversity of the natural environment, avoids the use of chemicals, and reduces food wastes.
- 5) Community Development - Encourage food-related activities that build community and increase participation in the food system.
- 6) It was decided to not include this point.

5. Follow-up of Items Requiring Action

5.1. **Update on Nov. 30th Community Forum** - a wonderful response, now a wait list for this event. Please contact Devorah if there are any members available to facilitate a break out group - facilitators to arrive at 5 pm for a half hour orientation. Kate Sullivan to facilitate Forum. Volunteers (2) from Council required to staff the Food Policy table. Concern expressed by members that people will be turned away.

Concern acknowledged, and effort will be made in the future to prevent this from happening again i.e. booking larger venues if necessary. Devorah clarified that the size of the venue did not

contribute to limiting attendance. Instead, the facilitator requested limiting attendance to 80 people in order to allow us to complete the work of the evening.

5.2 Update on January workshop with Wayne Roberts & Lori Stahlbrandt,

January 24th, 2006 - confirmed for the afternoon - Noon - 5 pm, followed by an informal, voluntary dinner. On Monday, January 23rd, Wane Roberts will be speaking at the VPL on Food and the Oil Crisis. The FPC listed the following ideas to be forward to workshop facilitators:

ACTION: Devorah will forward these to Wayne & Lori.

Workshop Ideas:

- Stories re: successes & challenges of the TFPC
- TFPC work plan and how they created it
- Goals & objectives of the TFPC - with a desire to review ours and comment
- Roles and responsibilities of the FPC members, staff - how they differ, how they work together
- How does the TFPC reach out to the community
- Drivers for success
- Would they do it differently than they are if they were starting all over again?
- How they see Vancouver and T.O. as different, how our FPC's are working in different contexts
- How do they deal with attendance issues at FPC meetings?
- How do they encourage input from all members of the FPC?
- How do members communicate with each other between meetings?
- Do they have continued community consultation? Are they in touch with those who helped set-up the FPC? if so how do you do it? (many organizations from the Downtown Eastside were involved in our task force leading up to the FPC.
- What is the mix of their FPC? i.e. how do they balance npo, profit sector, gov.? How do they attract, select and appoint/vote for new members?
- Do they have any official research relationships? How is research done for the TFPC?
- What constitutes conflict of interest for FPC members?

5.3 Appointment of co-Chairs for 2006 - Decision: John Van Luven and Carol Ranger acclaimed as co-Chairs of the Food Policy Council in 2006.

5.4 Review of proposal to develop a framework for partnership with FORC as research arm of the VFPC - Wendy presented a well researched document on research possibilities for the FPC. It was asked what rationale there is for a research arm of the FPC. Part of the FORC Report recommends monitoring and expansion of food policy that will require research. It was felt that all FPC subcommittees may enjoy the assistance of a research arm and this group could continue to maintain a living document in the form of a changing FORC Report. Herb explained that FORC would not be working exclusively on Food Policy issues; FORC would like to be a research arm. FORC members will expect payment through fundraising; they may be better able to access funding through a research association with the FPC. *Issues not addressed:* What is the purpose of this approach, what is trying to be achieved? A FORC relationship with FPC may influence FORC funding beneficially and may be viewed as an FPC endorsement of FORC. It was noted that research would provide a measurement of the success of the FPC agenda. Another member added that the FORC partnership discussion should probably be held without the attendance of the FORC/ FPC members. Concern expressed that FPC / FORC members would be receiving payment and the resulting public perception. It was suggested that a research subcommittee of the FPC might be an alternate.

AGENDA ITEM: FORC / FP Council members, the relationship. Please forward any questions to Wendy Mendes.

6. New Business & Inquiries:

6.1 **Preliminary discussion re: process for filling vacant FPC seats.** Please review Terms of Reference - do they still work for us? Any thoughts, concerns, changes you would like to suggest, please forward to the Membership Committee: John Van Luven, Herb Barbolet, and Aron Bjornson and Barb Seed. Please include as an **AGENDA ITEM in February.**

6.2 **2005 Budget** - suggestion to use funds to produce more copies of the FORC Report. **Decision:** Should there be funds remaining they will be used to produce more copies of the FORC Report.

6.3 Follow-up on item 5.1 previous minutes - Communication strategy during December / January as there are no business meetings - next meeting in February 2006.

Decision: Sub committees will communicate between members, subcommittees sending to a large group send to Devorah and she will disseminate. Otherwise, when you have something to communicate to everyone, use your best judgment, when sending out emails to all. We will review process at Feb meeting.

7. Closure of Meeting: 9:38 pm