

VANCOUVER FOOD POLICY COUNCIL MINUTES

NOVEMBER 9, 2004

Present:

Council Members: Aron Bjornson, Barbara Seed, Brian Holl, Carol Ranger (co-chair), Corinne Eisler, David Van Seters, Heather Pritchard. Herb Barbolet, John Van Luven (co-chair), Karin Schreurs, Miriam Palacios

Liaisons: Trustee Adrienne Montani, Trustee Andrea Reimer

Staff: Devorah Kahn, Jeff Brooks, Kristina Bouris, Shannon Bradley, Mario Lee

Regrets:

Commissioner Eva Riccius, Graham Riches, John Bishop, City Councilor Peter Ladner, Shefali Raja, Stephen Hall, City Councilor Tim Louis, Wendy Mendes

1. **Introductions**
2. **Review and acceptance of the agenda**
Agenda accepted as written.
3. **Review and acceptance of the minutes from October 12**
Minutes accepted as written except with the following "editorial" changes
Stephan Hall appears twice on "terms to be determined"
4. **Business Arising:**
 - 4.1 Welcome to the representatives of the Vancouver School Board, Andrea Reimer and Adrienne Montani. Both plan to attend VFPC meetings.
 - 4.2 Welcome new FPC staff team member Shannon Bradley. Shannon will be working 3 days a week through November & December while Wendy is completing her PhD.
5. **Old Business:**
 - 5.1 Membership Committee Report and ratification of new Council members
MC recommends the following names for the following sectors:
Aaron Stephens - Processing
Carole Christopher - System-wide
Sue Moen - Access
Susan Kurbis - Production
Waste management remains vacant. Discussion regarding the definition of waste management and a number of members felt that it could include composting, climate change, eco industrial networking, cogeneration, waste water, agri waste, utilizing of waste, soil management and how we close the circle, packaging, etc.
Herb suggested that the MC act in a continuous and on-going basis to look for good people who can fill in many areas, i.e. as council or sub-committee members.
DECISION - Unanimous support to ratify recommended slate of new members.
ACTION - John V. will invite the new members to the Strategic Mtg on the Nov 29, and ask them how long a term they would like to serve; two or three years.
 - 5.2 Review agenda of November 29th work-plan session
Location: West Point Grey - Aberthau, 1:00 - 5:00pm,
Objectives of meeting are to develop work plan for FPC for the next two years, mission and mandate, objectives, specific initiatives plus who, where, when, what and as many of the details as possible.
ACTION ITEM 1: Staff will send the backgrounder to the FPC. Please read it and come prepared to share your ideas. If you are not able to attend the 11/29 session, please read it and send Devorah your top 5 ideas.

ACTION ITEM 2: Staff will send e-mail to those who missed the Oct. 12 meeting asking them to submit their ideas and inputs to be included in the background document.

6. New Business:

6.1 Community reports - Corinne Eisler

1. The BC Dairy Foundation has put together a project to motivate people to make healthy eating the healthy choice, school nutrition is everybody's business. Two pieces, first videos will be launch over the Knowledge Network, one in school, second food choices in schools, food in vending machines, third, getting input from all different groups.
2. An online food scoring tool to help schools develop their own healthy food policies. A Nutritionist from the Interior has created a tool that ranks foods by nutrient content.

6.2 Conference/Assembly reports - Corinne Eisler/Devorah Kahn
Devorah attended 2 conferences in October.

1. *American Community Garden Association* Conference in Toronto. Conference was extremely useful for meeting others from Vancouver, including City of Vancouver staff (Terry Dixon, Eng. & Lori McKay, Dir. East District - Park Board) responsible for Community Gardens as well as learning what other cities are doing and networking. Devorah has already met with Terry Dixon to determine what city property, other than parkland, can be used for CG's. She plans to follow up with Lori McKay re: the PB's review of CG policies.
2. *Community Food Security Coalition* Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin - wide range of workshop topics from academic exercises on the definition of "local" to front-line concerns of feeding the hungry. Few Canadians in attendance, many Americans, especially from the Seattle area are very interested in watching us. Devorah spent large periods of time on each of the 5 days with Wayne Roberts, Toronto's Food Policy coordinator. This conference will be coming here in 2006. Herb added that a CFSC staff member will be in Vancouver on December 19 to start discussions about the 2006 conference. All FPC members are welcome to join in the meeting. Please contact Herb if you are interested.
3. Corinne, attended the Winnipeg Food Assembly. This conference was put together to create a more accurate report of what Canadians want in terms of Food Security.

7. Work Plan - defining the roles of the FPC & FP Staff

The upcoming work planning meeting on November 29th will seek to identify priorities and successful outcomes for the FPC. In order to plan for this meeting, the roles and responsibilities of the FPC members and FP Staff need to be clarified. The terms of reference for the FPC state that the council is a working council, and that its members will take an active role in food system issues, recommendations and outreach towards shaping the role of food policy of the city. The staff role is to act as a liaison towards supporting the work of the FPC and the internal priorities of the city. It was re-confirmed that staff report to the Director of Social Planning, as directed by City Council.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for support from city staff for the priorities that are identified by the FPC. Further points were provided from Jeff Brooks to illustrate that many initiatives between the City and FPC will overlap. It is important to reveal where city priorities fall and how these can be influenced or matched by the list of priorities that will be generated by the FPC. It was reconfirmed that the project list of the city staff would be redistributed again to the FPC. Overall, a number of comments were made regarding the need for clear communication between the goals of the FPC

and the goals of the City to ensure maximum benefit of staff time and the FPC members' initiative.

8. Administrative Items: Update on FPC budget

The FPC has an annual budget of \$15,000 per year. It was also given \$10,000 for start-up costs i.e. computer, office furniture, telephone, etc. The FPC has until the end of the year to spend what remains, approximately \$15,000. The \$15,000 will be budgeted again for 2005, but not the start-up costs.

The FPC can make recommendations to Jeff regarding how they would like the money to be spent and he will decide if it acceptable based on city policy issues that have to be adhered to. Conference fees cannot come from that budget. It should be related to work-plan issues.

There was some discussion about fund-raising for funds that the FPC could have ownership over and setting-up a budget for 2005 based on the work-plan.

9. Additional Items

9.1 ALR meeting on Nov. 25th - Andrea reminded us that there is an ALR meeting in Abbotsford on November 25th. Prime agricultural land in Abbotsford, a food source for the Lower Mainland, is under threat of being removed. Can the FPC send a message to the City of Abbotsford about its concerns?

Though we area generally supportive of keeping agricultural land in the ALR, there needs to be more information about the issue and some clarity about some of the changes of use.

Council members wanted to know if the FPC or City Council could write a letter to the City of Abbotsford expressing the importance of maintaining this land within the ALR. Mario explained 2 ways the FPC could approach City Council, one slow and one faster.

DECISION: The FPC generally does not support removing land from the ALR. The FPC supports writing a letter to Council members Louis & Ladner to bring a motion to City Council at its next meeting stating that the City of Vancouver does not support the removal of the ALR land in Abbotsford, which is currently being disputed.

ACTION: Heather, Andrea and Herb will work with Devorah to approach Councillor Louis & Ladner requesting a motion to council to write a letter to the Abbotsford ALC against the removal of lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve.

9.2 December meeting

Decision of whether or not to have a December meeting will be added to the agenda of the November 29 meeting.