

Vancouver Food Policy Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 9, 2011  
6:00-8:30pm  
Brixton Cafe



**Chair:** Brent Mansfield

**Council Members:** Doug Aason, Daryl Arnold, Herb Barbolet, Trish Kelly, Ilana Labow, Janine de la Salle, Chris Thoreau, Cale Price, Ross Moster, David Wilson

**Liaisons:** James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver)

**Regrets:** Carole Christopher, Carla Shore, Jason Boyce, Maria Burglehaus, Tara McDonald, Helen Spiegelman, Shelby Tay, David Tracey, Joanne Bays, Kim Sutherland

## Agenda Items

### 1. Opening round

Council members and 11 guests introduced themselves.

### 2. Approval of September minutes

Brent will circulate September minutes electronically for approval.

### 3. Youth Vancouver Food Policy Council

YVPFC has been meeting regularly to solidify structure and mission. Approximately \$1,000 was set aside for an inaugural event this year, however the YVFC would like to move it to Spring 2102. It was noted that in the past, all funds had been spent by Dec 31, however Brent will draft a letter to request the carryover of those funds. If this request is denied, then the following motion applies: MOTION: To reallocate funds from YVFC to the FEDAP working group. Moved by David, seconded by Janine, carried unanimously. It was noted that the Urban Farming working group might also have funds to reallocate, Chris to advise Brent by email. The YVFC may request funds in January for the event from the 2012 budget, which will be confirmed in late spring. Given the importance of the YVFC, it was suggested that a request be put forth to increase the annual budget of the FPC by \$5,000 per year. Fundraising was also suggested as an option. The YVFC will be seeking feedback on the structure and ideas on how to liaise effectively.

### 4. Neighbourhood Food Networks (NFNs)

Ross has been working with the South Vancouver and West End NFNs, and has been approached by residents from Riley Park, Hastings Sunrise, and Mount Pleasant about forming one. The West Side Food Collaborative will be relaunching soon. The goal is to have a NFN in each neighbourhood, with a broad focus contributing to long term food resiliency. Janine offered to present on the New City Market, and include details on how they can support the NFNs as they develop.

### 5. Staff Update

- FPC will officially dissolve at year's end. In January, the new city council will identify which advisory bodies they want to keep, followed by a 6-8 week call for new members, with the new council forming officially in March. There will be an orientation meeting in March for all advisory bodies.
- Food strategy is being promoted through blog and Twitter, members are encouraged to follow the discussion.
- A 'Call for Expressions of Interest' has been launched for new community gardens. The input from the public will be prioritized then it will be decided which gardens it will be able to support. See [vancouver.ca/communitygardens](http://vancouver.ca/communitygardens). There were 7 new gardens in 2011, 2 on city land (target is 5-6 new gardens each year).

## 6. Membership

FPC can make recommendations to City Council. A call will be released to solicit suggestions. In the past, members were nominated from the community, and that connection to the community should be carried forward.

## 7. Reflections

Members were asked to reflect on and celebrate the accomplishments of the FPC in recent years.

- Backyard Chicken - supporting policy development
- Food Secure Vancouver - research platform
- Increased role of neighbourhoods
- Role as external advisors in GCAT, working closely with staff and development of Vancouver Food Strategy.
- Creation of Food Charter
- Community Events - to inform each other in a meaningful way
- Food Procurement work with City
- Park Board actively involved
- Healthy street food, will be repeated next year
- Overcoming challenges, defining role in CoV, maturing as a council
- Nurturing food at meetings, which in turn nurtures group
- Vibrant, relevant FPC encourages long-term involvement by stakeholders
- Led to David Tracey sitting on Metro Van Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Learning from fellow members
- Suggestion to document accomplishments
- Appreciation of receptive staff at CoV
- Connection to community and staff
- Many accomplishments with small budget
- Inspiration of guests

## 8. Looking forward

Members were asked what they would like to see from the VFPC in the coming years.

- Maintain roots in community
- Broaden the perspective from many specific projects to a focus wider food-systems perspective
- Opportunity to get deeply involved through food strategy, to raise Food to same level as Transportation, Housing, etc.
- Many projects have matured, to work off this large base
- Growing interest in urban farming and associated policies
- Food access - pocket markets, produce stands
- Neighbourhoods - how to better support
- Need to expand passion to mainstream public
- Outgoing members encouraged to stay on in working groups
- Reunion suggested for the new year for ALL past members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm