

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes  
 Wednesday, October 14, 2009, 6:00-8:30pm  
 Strathcona Room, City Hall

**Chair:** Carole Christopher

**Council Members:** Daryl Arnold, Joanne Bays, Jeff Nield, Erika Del Carmen Fuchs, Tara McDonald, Brent Mansfield, Ross Moster, Andre LaRiviere, Joyce Rock, Janine de la Salle, Yona Sipos, Carla Shore, Helen Spiegelman, David Tracey, T'Uy'Tanat-Cease Wyss

**Liaisons:** Liane McKenna (UASC/Social Development)

**Regrets:** Cale Price, Aaron Jasper (VPB), Trish Kelly, Kim Sutherland, Heather Deal (City Council), Jane Bouey (VSB), Doug Aason, Herb Barbolet, Maria Burglehaus

**Agenda Items:**

1. **Introductions** - members & guests - Members, liaisons, and seven guests introduced themselves to the FPC.
2. **Motion to accept agenda and requests for leave** - Moved by Carla, seconded by Daryl, carried unanimously. Due to Remembrance Day, it was agreed that next month's meeting will be moved to Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Liaison Update**  
*UASC (Urban Agriculture Steering Committee)* - Meet every 4 Wednesdays (next Nov. 12).  
**ACTION:** UASC to bring schedule to next meeting, and ensure agenda and minutes are shared. FPC members may be included in meetings, as appropriate.  
*Council of Councils meeting* - City will consult VFPC on food for such events in the future. It was noted that clerical support for committees is limited to 4 meetings a year. FPC comments- Not enough time for discussion with other groups, or networking with Council.  
*GCAT (Greenest City Action Team)*- is looking to ten year plan, which will be shared for feedback.  
**ACTION:** Jeff to post GCAT presentation on blog. Full report back will be after October, and will be forwarded to FPC. Plan includes food-related items such as edible landscape policy, and report to council on food waste (December). UASC will see at Nov. 12 meeting, Chris Underwood will give overview before it goes public.
4. **Presentation- Farm To School: Dig In Vancouver!**- Joanne B  
 Goal is to link schools and farms to get more local food in schools. Funding from BC Healthy Living Alliance (BCHLA) and championed by the Public Health Association of BC (PHABC.) A Key objective is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption in food insecure families. Funds were provided for 16 programs in the northern and interior regions where childhood health statistics are poor and access is challenging. Other objectives included increasing kids' knowledge of food system, developing curriculum, strengthening partnerships, strengthening the local food economy and developing self-sustaining models that would work across schools. Funded 16 programs in diverse schools, reaching 6000 children. Children pay \$3.00/meal and can feast on a salad bar of local foods including 6 vegetables, 3 fruits, 1 grain and 1 protein. PHABC provided funds for equipment, the schools, parents, community and farmers are running the program. An evaluation is currently underway. Joanne noted that the US is more advanced in getting local food in schools and statistics there have shown many positive impacts for children, farms, community, schools, family and other groups. The VSB is partnering to create programs in Vancouver, the RSB and community members are partnering to get programs in Richmond. The first Farm-to-School conference is Nov. 2-3 at Terra Nova Farms in Richmond, with many principals, councilors, trustees, and rural communities participating (see attached brochure.) Members are encouraged to attend. **ACTION:** Joanne to invite Jane Bouey and UASC members. A Farm to School Salad Bar Guide has been developed. For more information and to see the conference program, see [www.phabc.org/farmtoschool](http://www.phabc.org/farmtoschool).

5. **Committee Updates:**

***Food Waste/Recovery*** - Helen

Notice of motion distributed last meeting was to ask the FPC for a food waste committee and to advocate to council to show leadership on the issue. Since discovered earlier FPC Food Diversion report, and that the City is hoping to begin food waste collection in the coming months. Although details are still unclear, Helen has offered support from the community for communications. Initially, the program will be for single residential homes in Vancouver, but the FPC could support a more comprehensive strategy in the future. She is also collaborating with UBC students on a community project.

Discussion - Metro Van has 4 pilot projects (with Green Table collaborating on restaurants), and will assist with Vancouver project. It is thought that the facility in Richmond will be used initially, but due to lack of capacity another solution will be found. Neighbourhood composting is not included in the plan, but the FPC could combine with precinct concept in the community, which could help alleviate Richmond site.

***Food Precinct*** - (Janine DIS + Tara McD)

*(handout distributed)* The concept is of a central food hub that would house food system infrastructure, and many smaller hubs (precincts) that would exist at the neighbourhood level. These precincts could be repurposed buildings or newly created. The New City Market concept was to create momentum in the City, and Local Food First, which includes many FPC members, has funding to do a visioning process with the community. The Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> event will bring together around 100 stakeholders for mutual education, to determine needs, desires, and actions. It was suggested that FPC co-host the forum and facilitate a session on neighbourhood precincts. While the hub is focused on economic development, it was proposed that the community based work of developing the precincts fits with FPC mandate and action plan.

***Food Secure Vancouver*** - Brent M/Carole C

Group is finalizing draft indicator list and exploring partnerships. They have not heard back from Van City 10k grant. Event was planned for Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> to report back to the community, but may be able to merge with Food Hub event. **ACTION:** Committees to discuss and inform others by email.

***Communications*** - (Carla S)

Blog - 4 people have agreed, yet blog needs more action. Twitter feed is now on blog.

FPC brochures - are at located at the Social Development office.

Press release - UASC wanted to put out a news release about food policy in the City, but idea was not supported by the Communications Dept. **ACTION:** Carla will draft release and mention the new FPC, then send to Carole. Release could be circulated through personal networks. It was suggested that the UASC release a statement to be included.

Board of Trade Sustainability Committee - Carla is lead food policy issues, and is looking for speakers with a business perspective. Contact Carla if interested or with suggestions for speakers.

Communications budget - could be incorporated into event budgets for communications plan, including stakeholder relations, printing of materials, etc. Other committees are encouraged to contact the Communications committee early in the planning stages.

***Institutional Food Purchasing Policy*** - (Brent M)

BCGEU is still interested; Brent met with Chris Kincaid and they are exploring procurement practices. Is looking for input on how to move forward. FPC can leverage municipal, regional, and sectoral support. Procurement is included in GCAT presentation; Brent is following up with them to see what stage they're at.

7. **Budget discussion - (focus on 2009 unspent funds)**

All funds must be exhausted by year's end. All committees will use funds with the exception of \$1000 from dialogue session, which will be reallocated. Remainder pays for minute-taking and food at meetings.

**ACTION:** Carole to discuss possibilities for remaining funds with Mary Clare Zak. Other suggestions included using it for hard costs for visioning session, or as credits for food or meeting space for future events. Discussion of 2010 budget postponed. **ACTION:** Carole will review financial statements.

7. **Quick updates on other projects:**

*Health Partnerships Committee* - Joanne reviewed Public Health Agency of Canada, CFAI, VCH strategic plans, and would like to present in January. At federal level, there is no food security direction in health field. Min of Healthy Living and Sport uses provincial plan. **ACTION:** Joanne will continue to collect strategies and call committee together. **ACTION:** Joanne to speak to Barbara Joughin regarding contacts and partnerships in the health sector.

*Vending Carts* - Devorah Kahn has pulled together an update and Maria will present at November meeting.

8. **Other**

*Chickens* - proposed guidelines are out; the FPC has made suggestions and will await the revised guidelines. Further comments can be submitted individually. **ACTION:** Jeff to post draft guidelines on blog.

*Dialogue with retailers* - Aron Bjorneson - involved in new initiative, requests time for a presentation. **ACTION:** Andre will liaise with Aron and Carole to determine appropriate time.

9. **Motion to Adjourn:** Moved by Yona, seconded by Joanne.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

**ACTION:** UASC to bring schedule to next meeting, and ensure agenda and minutes are shared.

**ACTION:** Jeff to post GCAT presentation on blog.

**ACTION:** Joanne to invite Jane Bouey and UASC members to Farm to School conference.

**ACTION:** Food Precinct and Food Secure Study committees to discuss forum and inform others by email.

**ACTION:** Carla will draft release and mention the new FPC, then send to Carole.

**ACTION:** Carole to discuss possibilities for remaining funds with Mary Clare Zak.

**ACTION:** Carole will review financial statements.

**ACTION:** Joanne will continue to collect health agency strategies and call committee together.

**ACTION:** Joanne to speak to Barbara Joughin regarding contacts and partnerships in the health sector.

**ACTION:** Jeff to post draft chicken guidelines on blog.

**ACTION:** Andre will liaise with Aron and Carole to determine appropriate presentation time on topic of retailers dialogue.