

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 15, 2008, 6:00-8:30pm

Social Policy Department Meeting Room

#100-515 West 10th Ave

Present: Chairs: Carole Christopher

Council Members: Daryl Arnold, Melanie Kurrein, Barb Joughin Trish Kelly, Joyce Rock, Carla Shore, Yona Sipos, Kim Sutherland, David Tracey

Staff: Samara Brock

Requests for Leave: Doug Aason, Herb Barbolet, Susan Kurbis, Tara McDonald, Chris Miewald, Andre LaRivière, Janine de la Salle

1. Introductions - 8 guests introduced themselves to council.
2. Approve agenda - MOTION: To approve agenda with no additions, requests for leave and September minutes. Moved by David, seconded by Barbara, carried unanimously.
3. New Co-chair - Trish Kelly affirmed as new Co-Chair.
4. Action Plan review
Updated action plan distributed.
The action plan was reviewed to update everyone on the progress of items and the following changes made:
 - Several names were added to or deleted from various items to reflect current availability and interest.
 - Item 4 (on eco-density) was rolled into item 2.
 - The (soon to be finished) VFPC Blog will be added to item 7.
 - The collaboration with UBC Land & Food system students (who will be doing a food security environmental scan in Vancouver's 23 neighbourhoods as part of the VFPC Food Security Study) included in item 10.
 - Funds remaining from Harvest Festival (item 12) reallocated to Communications committee (\$100) and food for next meeting.
 - Suggestion to re-visit items 13-16 (Objective 4) in the new year at Strategic Planning Session.
 - Carole to circulate Waste Recovery report for item 19.
 - Further budget reallocation may be discussed at November meeting. Agreement to direct all unspent funds to food security study.Carole to make revisions and circulate and we will revisit quickly in November.
5. Staff Update (Samara)
 - City's Urban Agriculture Steering committee - reviewed and revised Terms of Reference, are using raw definition of urban agriculture which includes farmers markets, etc. Group could evolve into body who works most closely with the FPC. Represented departments include the Sustainability office, Planning, Engineering, Parks, and Social Planning. School board not there, but will be invited to participate in relevant meetings. Mary Clare Zak (SP) to present to FPC. Committee aims to meet once a month, and will discuss how to engage with FPC at next meeting Oct 21. ACTION: Samara to circulate Terms of Reference to FPC.
 - Tara met with Planning re: Farmers Markets, is moving forward within City.
 - EcoDensity - laneway housing, David, Tara, Samara to give recommendations including no side-by-side parking, limiting residence height to 1.5 storeys to limit shade, and compensating lost growing space by making more public land available. Document distributed with recommendations. EcoDensity team was keen for FPC input, which will be ongoing after the election.
6. Community food security group snapshot
Grandview Woodlands Food Connection- Ian Marcuse
On contract with VCH, Ian has concentrated on building networks and a foundation for future projects. Food mapping project done in 2006. Now proposed projects include: urban agriculture in BC housing, multicultural gardens, art, and recipes, and working with multi-faith organizations. Group has a blog and hosts canning workshops and potlucks.

7. Updates:

- 7.1 Bio-fuels (Trish & Carole) - Will meet with Vehicles and Sustainability office soon, with the objective to find common ground on a statement to go to City Council. Currently, waste oil is used for all bio-diesel, and use of food based oil will be strongly discouraged.
- 7.2 Chickens (Daryl)- Has checked with vets over concern with backyard flocks, but none exist. Suggestion to cite precedents in other cities, using policy statements. Trish will act as spokesperson for chicken issues. Draft to be discussed next meeting.
- 7.3 Harvest Festival (Melanie) - Deferred to next meeting.
- 7.4 Communications Committee (Andre, Carla, Doug) - Brochures in process, to be sent to Samara. Website will be ready soon. It was clarified that the page in the City will still exist, but this is separate and for different purposes.
- 7.5 Food Security Study Committee (Barbara, Herb, Kim, Carole) - Consultant has been hired, will submit report at the end of November. A forum on How Food Secure is Vancouver? is scheduled for December 4th, 2008. Announcements will go out within the week. All members asked to distribute widely through their contact list. Planned for Dec 4th, 6pm-9:30pm, around 100 people are expected. ACTION: Carole to circulate forum task list. All members asked to sign up

8. Motion to City Council re: Food/Beverage Guidelines (Melanie)

Suggested putting a motion to City council to form a more healthy eating policy for Vancouver, which would expand beyond city hall and recreation centres, respecting provincial guidelines. Idea was strongly supported. Some food suppliers are changing their products to adapt to new guidelines in schools. ACTION: Melanie to meet with Samara to discuss key contacts in the City. ACTION: Melanie to draft motion.

Melanie mentioned that ice cream carts and catering trucks that pass in front of schools conflict with current guidelines in schools, and suggested proposing that there be a no-go radius around schools for vendors whose products do not meet the guidelines. A report is going to Council next year, and this input will be passed on.

9. In-camera (members only)

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

4. (Action Item #) ACTION: Carole to circulate waste report.
ACTION: Carole to revise and recirculate the updated Task List
5. ACTION: Samara to circulate City Agriculture Steering Committee Terms of Reference to FPC.
- 7.2 ACTION: Daryl to send information re: chicken by-law to Trish.
ACTION: Trish to review policies in other cities and liaise with other community groups interested in backyard chickens in Vancouver.
ACTION: Trish and Samara to work together to draft a formal recommendation to City Council.
- 7.5 ACTION: Carole to circulate forum task list.
8. ACTION: Melanie to meet with Samara to discuss key contacts in the City.
ACTION: Melanie to draft motion.