

## Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, October 17, 2007

**Co-Chairs:** Andrea Reimer, Herb Barbolet

**Council Members:** Doug Aason, Barbara Joughin, Trish Kelly, Melanie Kurrein, Janine de la Salle, Andre LaRivière, Tara Macdonald, Chris Miewald, , Kim Sutherland, Yona Sipos, David Tracey

**Staff:** Samara Brock (Social Planning), Devorah Kahn, (Food Policy Coordinator-left at 7:00 pm)

**Liaison(s):** Shirley Wong (School Board Liaison)

**Regrets:** Carole Christopher, Joyce Rock, Eva Riccius, Matt Low, Susan Kurbis, Spencer Herbert (Park Board Liaison), Peter Ladner (City Council Liaison)

**Invited Guests:** Jason Boyce and Paul Cabaj (Local Food First! Project)

### 1. Opening:

- 1.1 Introductions - one guest attended the meeting as an observer
- 1.2 Review Meeting Agenda - 2.4 moved to 2.2, 2.5 to 2.1
- 1.3 Consent Agenda (July Minutes) - It was clarified that Mario Lee is considered a guest, and is not an official liaison so does not need to be noted in "regrets" section when absent. Minutes approved with change.

### 2. Updates:

#### 2.1 Staff Update - Samara B.

##### ➤ Green City Award

The City of Vancouver was a recipient of a \$200,000 Green City award from the province, in part because of the 2010 community garden initiative. MaryClare Zak advises that there will likely be a committee created with the Office of Sustainability and Social Planning to present recommendations to City Council on how to spend the money. FPC could make recommendations to committee with the proviso that proposals need to be in ASAP, likely before the next FPC meeting.

**ACTION:** Working group (Andrea R, Andre LR, Yona S, Kim S, Janine dIS) created to work with Samara B, Mary Clare Zak and Office of Sustainability to provide proposals.

**ACTION:** Criteria for proposals to be developed from previous strategic plan and input from new members.

##### ➤ Staff Liaison Status

Devorah K working 3 days/wk, will share work with Samara B. and we are to cc: them both on all correspondence relating to the FPC.

#### 2.2 Terms of Reference & Appointments

##### ➤ Resignations

Deepthi Jayatilaka & Spring Gillard both resigned from the FPC over the summer due to other commitments. Their resignations were accepted by the FPC with regret. Deepthi has offered to continue working on updating the orientation manual and will have it finished by the end of the year.

**ACTION:** Herb B (Nominations Committee chair) to circulate sectors with info on people. Names can still be added through Nomination Committee, there is one person interested and possibly two more. Committee aims for sector representation, gender balance, diversity. Final vote by email by Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>.

##### ➤ Terms of Reference & Appointments

A report will go to Council Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, if possible. Need to be reviewed, may be postponed 2 weeks due to backlog from strike.

**ACTION:** Herb B, Devorah K, and Andrea R, will meet to discuss status of ToR.

- 2.3 Budget Approval-  
Social Planning (SP) approved budget put forth by FPC. In response to a question, Samara clarified that for room bookings-identify location, contact Social Planning and they will pay invoice directly.

**ACTION:** Devorah and/or Samara to send email with procedure for spending.

- 2.4 Communications committee  
Due to Spring's resignation, the communications committee need a new Chair. None of the existing members felt they had time to take this on so Herb will make a special effort when recruiting new council members to take communications expertise and time availability into account. It was clarified people outside of the FPC can sit on committees, but not chair. Trish K to join committee, Aron B to stay on. A reminder was made that much of the budget approved was to go to communications and invoices need to be in by 2<sup>nd</sup> week in January to meet the budget year. Other items were discussed and the following decisions were made:

**ACTION:** Herb B will work with Devorah K on printing of FORC report.

**ACTION:** Chris M will look into the possibility of putting the new logo on these.

**ACTION:** Andre LR will work with Barbara J on coordinating with Communications Committee to promote food charter workshops in Nov and issues in the media, as stated in the protocol.

- 2.3 Strategic Planning Objectives  
Due to cancellation of the Plenty festival due to the civic strike, the main activities relating to the community outreach objectives were not realized. Food charter workshops - Trish K volunteered to present with Barbara J. Suggestion to bring in outside presenters, and to invite Peter Ladner and City Council, School Board and Parks Board.

**ACTION:** Objectives group to report on Strategic Plan progress at November meeting

**ACTION:** Committee to organize four hour event to do forward planning.

**ACTION:** Janine dIS will send Strategic Plan to FPC members.

3. **Presentation - Paul Cabaj & Jason Boyce**  
Local Food First! Project (*document distributed at meeting*)

Project result of group of individuals who have worked for the last 6-8 months to shape the local food system and put more money into the hands of farmers by analyzing different components of the 'value chain'. They are developing Terms of Reference, have completed work plan, and are working with Ministry of Agriculture. The focus is on research, networking, technical assistance, and information. Strategies include facilitating access to credit through investment report, 'Meet your Maker' pilot for tomatoes (buyers and producers meet), consolidating buying, local food branding, and online database for farmers.

It was noted that the concept for this group began partly with Sue Moen (A Loving Spoonful, previous FPC member) and the idea of how highly nutritious food (organic and/or local) can be medicinal.

**ACTION:** Jason/Paul to send background documents to Herb B to circulate.

Suggestions from FPC:

- contact city for investment funds
- develop kitchen-ready products to encourage local processing
- invite institutional buyers to 'Meet your Maker' pilot
- look to Agassiz as model for agro-tourism
- incorporate food waste into plan

Other suggestions welcome, contact [Jasonboyce@shaw.ca](mailto:Jasonboyce@shaw.ca)

#### 4. Action Items

##### 4.1 Community Kitchen Project

FPC members decided not to continue pursuing a date for a group community kitchen. It was noted that more social events, such as the October 13<sup>th</sup> potluck, would be a good idea but that they don't need to involve special activities.

**ACTION:** Andrea to contact Diane Collis re: next Community Kitchen event and garner information for individual FPC members who are interested in observing/participating in a community kitchen.

##### 4.2 Meat Regulations

*(Document distributed prior to meeting)* Contradiction between federal and provincial government policy (encourage local food) and practice (endangering local meat producers). Members encouraged to send letters, call MLAs. A motion to forward to City council was not suggested as they are unlikely to take a position on something they view as being outside their policy jurisdiction. Suggestion to send letter to Cabinet and Premier to ask for review of implementation of regulations and to consider recommendations of BC Food Systems Network. It was also suggested that media be cc'd on the letter. Unanimous support from FPC.

**ACTION:** Herb B will draft letter and distribute to FPC for approval before sending it out to the Premier, Cabinet and media.

##### 4.3 Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC) Survey

Opportunity to become involved with CFSC. They hold an annual conference, offer consultation services (for fee), literature, resources.

**ACTION:** Samara B will look into it, Herb B to send more info.

##### 4.4 Intergovernmental Liaison Committee

At the July meeting it was suggested that we set up an intergovernmental liaison committee made up of federal, provincial and GVRD agricultural advisory committee representatives to advise the FPC on developments in these areas. The idea was discussed further and it was agreed that such a committee would be valuable as what is done by other jurisdictions has a direct impact on food security in the region.

**ACTION:** Herb B will contact David Coney (Ministry of Agriculture) to see if he will chair the ILC and invite new members. Time will be made available on the agenda for the ILC to report.

5. Other Business  
No other business.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

**Announcements (provided over the break)**

- Get Local campaign launched at end of August by a number of agencies, non-profits and businesses to help public eat local. Promotional materials to libraries, community centres, restaurants, supermarkets in 3 languages. Directory online and soon in print. Has generated lots of media and interest, Tara M wrote op-ed in the Sun.
- Winter Farmers Market at Wise Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month starting November 10.
- School garden update - students very keen, grounds person sits on committee, preparing proposal to take to trustees, looking for funds, have committed group.
- Vancouver Community Agriculture Network working to get gardens in food insecure areas, public consultations in May
- Trout Lake Cedar Cottage Food Security Network held 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, are up and running.
- UBC undergrad sustainability conference in January. Would like to invite FPC to conference. Yona to send info to see who's interested.
- UBC-based community food assessment project happening, 200 students in 5 communities. Will present findings.
- Oxfam panel for World Food Day on Right to Food. Judy Graves research suggests link between food quality and level of violence in homeless.
- Sorrento Conference very positive experience. Janine is on BC Food Systems Network Board.
- Kim to send Janine contact for individual working on climate change and food security for landscape planners' conference.
- Trish K donates writing salary to various food non-profit. Contact with suggestions.
- Greater Vancouver Food Bank: Motion picture industry chose food bank to raise funds for this year.