

Minutes of the Vancouver Food Policy Council Tuesday, October 24th, 2006

Present: Herb Barbolet, Yona Sipos, Aron Bjornson, Andre LaRiviere, Andrea Reimer, Barb Seed, Chris Miewald, Melanie Kurrein, Camilo Cortes (alternate for Susan Kurbis), Doug Aason,
Co-Chairs: Carole Christopher, Carol Ranger
Regrets: Barbara Joughin, Heather Pritchard, Spring Gillard, Karin Schreurs, Janine de la Salle, Shirley Wong, Susan Kurbis
Absent: Wanda Pelletier, Peter Ladner
Staff: Devorah Kahn
Recorder: Vicky Baker

1. Opening

- a. Introductions - 3 guests
- b. Agenda: no items on consent agenda
Changes to meeting agenda - 3.g. update on UA in South East False Creek
- c. Follow up on an item from the September meeting re: reproducing the FORC Report. It was clarified that there was no record of decision by Social Planning to help in the printing costs. Devorah was unable to use her discretionary spending authority for that cost. No further action is currently recommended.

2. Presentation on SEAChoice – Eva Riccius, Wilderness Specialist CPAWS

SEAChoice is a national program in which CPAWS has worked with four other non-profit groups to produce a Guide to Sustainable Seafood in Canada, a Pocket Guide, and a comprehensive website. It ranks seafood on 5 ecological criteria based on the Monterrey Bay Aquarium Guide, and provides a tool to consumers and retailers that can help foster a market shift and, in turn, influence policy and practice. Park Board has been asked to use the Guide in its concessions. and VFPC will to encourage Park Board to continue in this direction. (Did we get to this decision??)

3. Updates:

- a. Annual Report to City Council – Devorah K
The deadline for submission is Oct. 30th. Devorah thanked those who submitted information for the report and requested anyone who wishes to review the report prior to submission to please contact her ASAP.
- b. Communications Committee – Aron B
Communications workshop is booked for November 8 at the Centre for Peace. (Please note that since our meeting this workshop has been cancelled and will be rescheduled in early 2007) Action: Andrea R will undertake a SWOT Analysis by sending a survey to the membership regarding their views on our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Despite the temporary cancellation of the workshop, the SWOT Analysis survey has been sent and will be utilized.
- c. Planning for Orientation / Strategic Planning Retreat – Andrea R
The objectives for the retreat (Nov. 28 – 1-8 pm) are to explore challenges, opportunities and capacities of FPC, identify strategic responses, orient new members, engage in food literacy, and bond as a group. The meeting part of the retreat is 1:00-6:00 pm. Dinner until 8:00 pm. ACTION: Everyone is asked to bring vegetable to make stone soup.
- d. Your Local Farmers Market - Eat Local 2007 – Carole C (for Spring G)
In response to an offer to explore VFPC co-sponsorship, YLFM forwarded a funding request. Carole C will explain that VFPC cannot provide funding and continue to explore

- co-sponsorship. Herb B noted the importance of anticipating and planning for the supply side to ensure demand can be met. ACTION: Herb B is to frame this thought in writing and bring to next meeting. Project is seeking one more VFPC member, ACTION: Aron B to attend next meeting.
- e. Future meeting times – Carole C
Survey revealed 5:30 – 8:00 pm as preferred meeting time. Questions arose as to whether the day and date will also be reviewed. ACTION: Carole C will send out another Survey.
 - f. We’re meeting over dinner hour – how shall we share food together?
The general sense of the meeting is that sharing potluck is a good idea. The exact mechanics (rotating, other?) are to be further discussed. We will have the experience of preparing a meal together for the November retreat (Food Bank kitchen - thanks Doug Aason) which may provide some insight about how to include everyone while not requiring everyone to participate in pre-meeting preparation.
 - g. update on UA in South East False Creek – Devorah
Project moving fast. Project management team has had 3 workshops on UA. 1st – planning staff consult with people with gardening experience. 2nd - How UA fits into the work of Landscape Architects, Architects and Developers. 3rd - How UA fits into public areas. Devorah proposed a 4th workshop to review the development for SEFC and beyond. She has been asked to assist with the invitation list. Call for experts in rooftops gardens, “intensive” green roofs, community gardens, community composting, strata managed gardens, balcony gardening, stewardship issues, etc. Devorah will contact Spring G and Susan K. Contact Devorah K if you wish to recommend yourself or someone else to be considered as an invitee.
4. Presentation by Nathan Edelson, City Planner, followed by discussion of how our work links with Devorah’s work and with City Priorities.
Nathan highlighted the importance of holding onto a long term vision, but also undertaking initiatives that create positive, tangible changes within the community. He recommended the VFPC align its resources and expertise with the priorities of the City and listed 4 current (and often inter-related) issues:
- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. 2010 Olympics | b. Sustainability |
| c. Affordable Housing | d. Safe and Attractive Streets |

Nathan urged us to mobilize ourselves to creatively undertake tangible projects that touch on one or more of these city priorities. As an example, success with 2010 Community Gardens Project will impact on the City’s commitment to sustainability and also on its concern with safe and attractive streets. Nathan also noted the importance of building political capital and being recognized for achievements. There was discussion of VFPC efforts to effectively integrate its work with that of the City, and serve as a meaningful connection between the City and the community.

The follow up discussion was proposed for e-mail. Chris M brought an offer from Spring G to arrange a Food Unfair tour (like that arranged by Devorah for the Bridging Border’s Conference) for the entire VFPC (and inviting City Councillors.) It was noted that the Councillor Ladner’s 2010 motion came as a direct result of an UA tour arranged by staff and members of VFPC. It is important to offer solutions on issues to City Councillors and engage them in supporting positive initiatives.

5. Information sharing from Bridging Borders Conference

Started 7:50, disappointment expressed at lack of time to give attention to the matter. Overall, the event was successful, 900 people, 350 from Canada, 7 countries in addition to Canada and US. All food that was possible to purchase from local farms was done so and directly from farmers. Results of electronic survey will be shared once results are compiled. 50 sessions, well attended with mixed success.

Herb – Food Secure Canada (FSC) made important and continuing links with CFSC (US.) FSC set up 9 working groups with tasks and much follow-up will come out of it. ACTION: Carole recorded Food Charter workshop and will forward to VFPC. Barb S- re: Institutional Food Purchasing. Suggested looking at link to conference on Deconstructing Dinner for information on this matter. City's Ethical Purchasing Specialist (Vickie Wakefield) was informed of the session and attended.

Meeting ended at 8:05 pm.

Summary of Actions

3.b Communication Committee

ACTION: Andrea R to send out survey asking for input from Council re: its Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

3.c. Planning for Orientation / Strategic Planning Retreat

ACTION: Bring vegetable to make stone soup.

3.d. VFPC member re: Eat Local 2007 Campaign – Carole C

ACTION: Herb B is to frame thought (re: local food supply vs demand) in writing and bring to next meeting

ACTION: Aron B to attend next meeting of Eat Local Campaign

5. Information sharing from Bridging Borders Conference

ACTION: Carole C will share transcript of Food Charter Workshop with VFPC.