

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 25th, 2005, 6:30-9:30 pm

Present:

Council Members: Barb Seed, Carol Ranger (co-chair), Corinne Eisler, David Van Seters, Heather Pritchard, Herb Barbolet, John Van Luven (co-chair), *Karin Schreurs, Miriam Palacios, *Shefali Raja, Spring Gillard, *Stephen Hall, Aron Bjornson, Susan Kurbis, *Graham Riches, Sue Moen

Staff: Devorah Kahn

*denotes partial attendance

Regrets: VSB Trustee Adrienne Montani, Brian Holl, Wendy Mendes, Carole Christopher

Absent: Councilor Tim Louis, Councilor Peter Ladner, PB Commissioner Eva Riccius, VSB Trustee Andrea Reimer

1. Introductions

1.1 Nine guests in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Review & Acceptance of the Agenda

2.1 Agenda accepted as written with the following additions requested:

- Report on *Food and Human Rights* Symposium
- Recommendation to establish FORC as a possible research arm of the FPC.

3. Review & Acceptance of the minutes from Sept. 27th

3.1 The chair asked for comments on the format and content of the Minutes. Suggestions were made to include Discussions, Decisions, Actions and person of responsibility type format.

Decision: Minutes accepted as written with suggested changes to future formatting.

4. Reports for Information

4.1 **Staff updates:** Devorah suggested that she and Wendy continue sending updates with the agenda to facilitate the reporting process. Unless, FPC members have a question regarding the updates, no discussion will follow. There was a request for a more detailed report on World Food Week.

Action: Devorah will send something out shortly.

A comment was raised about the lack of Park Board (PB) representation at the FPC meetings. There was unanimous agreement that we need a PB representative in attendance.

Discussion: It was acknowledged that with the civic election around the corner that we would need to wait for a new PB liaison. A suggestion was raised to have a staff member attend FPC meetings as well.

4.2 **Reports based on VFPC's five goal statements:** (Ecological Sustainability, Local Food Production, General Sustainability, Community Development, Food Security, FORC)

4.2.2 **Local Food Production** - Resources were presented by Herb B.: Report on Food Miles, Rvu Study Group. Devorah discussed World Urban Forum, June 2006 - she approached **BALLE BC** to determine their interest in partnering in a BC Food Showcase for the World Urban Forum.

4.2.3 **General Sustainability** - Recipes for Success booklet from Winnipeg Food Security Council - a celebration of food security, Wendy Mendes' report on the food policy council also included - \$15

- 4.2.4 **Community Development** - Nov 3/05 - Debbie Field, Food Share, Toronto will be in Vancouver and would like to speak to a small group about school salad bars and new vermiculture project; November 30th Forum: Invitations sent, please RSVP ASAP, 130 chairs only. Major focus of the evening will include a facilitated workshop on the Food Charter; Action Schools BC - physical activity goals - healthy eating component included, viewing healthy eating from a food security perspective.
- 4.2.5 **Food Security** - The Cost of Eating in BC Report to be released with SPARC in December 2005; Progress report presented to Council very well received, there were many requests for information on Urban Agriculture and local food purchasing from City Councilors at the presentation.

Food Secure Canada & Community Food Security Coalition conference updates - *Food Secure Canada Conference* (FSC) in Waterloo -action plan was the goal of the conference. Excellent conference - representatives from all over Canada. The constitution will be ratified next year in Vancouver. *The Community Food Security Coalition* (CFSC) met in Atlanta the following week. Herb B. reported that it was decided in Waterloo that the FSC conferences will be held in Vancouver next year in conjunction with the CFSC conference in October 2006. Devorah will be taking a lead along with FPC members to bring the conferences to Vancouver. Responsibilities will include hosting, food events, mobile workshops/tours and fundraising.

- 4.3 **Food and Human Rights Symposium** - Sept 28 & 29 - at UBC. Graham R. reported on the success of the event, 175 attendees. Power Point presentations from the symposium will be e-mailed to members through Devorah, when available.

4.4 **Reports from 5 priority area sub-committees:**

- 4.4.1 **Goals & Objectives** - David V. walked us through an exercise to review the goals of the VFPC for 2006 and possibly beyond. First stage is setting overall goals, this involves identifying the “what” before the “how”. The “how” will be addressed by the objectives which will be explored in the next month’s meeting.

The list below identifies the five most utilized goal statements by other Food Councils. We agreed that they addressed our priorities.

1. Increase food security (right to food, hunger, not funded by charity)
2. Ensure access to safe, nutritious and affordable food
3. Strengthen the local food economy (preserve agricultural land)
4. Maintain environmental integrity (eliminate chemical use)
5. Foster community development and participation

The internal goals pertaining to the council itself were developed as below:

1. Improve economic viability
2. Maintain full, diverse and representative membership (participation)
3. Increase community recognition / profile through good work
4. Working cooperatively between staff & Council
5. Foster outside participation

Discussion: How do we get FPC members and FPC staff to work together on these goals? Priority to include this as a discussion item next meeting.

- 4.4.2 **Waste Management** - nothing to report

4.3.3 **IFFP** - 2nd phase of the document - practical IFFP. Group met with city staff involved in purchasing. They are open to incorporating local and organic into City policy, where possible. Wording and context in the works. Also a list of barriers developed. A handout on barriers to IFFP was distributed and reviewed.

ACTION: all FPC members are asked to please bring other barriers to add to the list at the next meeting.

4.3.4 **Food Charter** - working on Terms of Agreement for facilitator for the Food Charter Forum.

4.3.5 **Access to Groceries** - nothing to report.

5. Follow-up of Items Requiring Action

5.1. Wayne Roberts & Lori Stahlbrandt have committed to the 4th Tuesday in January (24) 2006. This session will over-ride our meeting in January.

Agenda item: A strategy will need to be developed for communication between FPC members since there will not be a meeting in December or January.

5.2 Terms of co-Chairs identifying a process for next term - 1-year term, process required.

Action: Submit your name for election by Nov 15, with a short paragraph why you are interested - election of the Chair to be held at November 2005 meeting.

5.3 Endorsement protocol discussion: Sue M. suggested that creating an endorsement policy was premature until we complete our goals and objectives. Until that time, the FPC has not decided that endorsement is an FPC function.

Decision: our goals are to be completed prior to establishing an endorsement protocol.

A suggestion was raised that endorsement of organizations represented by FPC members be dealt with differently than those not represented by FPC members. Most members disagreed stating that all organizations be treated equally, regardless of their representation at the FPC table.

5.4 Review of FORC report recommendations: report can also be accessed on the Simon Fraser website and hopefully the Food Policy website in a week or two. Report funded 90% by Western Economic Diversification. Recommendations reviewed and questions taken from the floor. Presentation included that this be a living document and updated regularly. Discussion followed.

Decision: All agreed that research or facilitation of research is a goal of the council and there was consensus that FORC become a “research arm” of the FPC.

Devorah suggested that a strategy should be developed and brought back for discussion at the November meeting.

Action: Devorah to draft a proposal to develop a framework for partnership with FORC as the research arm of the FPC. All agreed.

6. **New Business & Inquiries:** none

7. **Closure of Meeting:** 9.35