

Vancouver Food Policy Council
 Meeting Minutes
 Wednesday, September 14, 2011
 6:00-8:30pm
 Strathcona Room, City Hall



Chair: Brent Mansfield

Council Members: Daryl Arnold, Herb Barbolet, Jason Boyce, Maria Burtlehaus, Carole Christopher, Arzeena Hamir (Richmond Food Security Society), Tara McDonald, Carla Shore, Helen Spiegelman, Shelby Tay, David Tracey

Liaisons: James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver)

Invited guests: Zsuzsi

Regrets: Doug Aason, Joanne Bays, Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Trish Kelly, Ilana Labow, Ross Moster, Kim Sutherland, Chris Thoreau, Heather Deal (CoV), Allen Blakely (VSB), Aaron Jasper (VPB), Janine de la Salle, Cale Price, David Wilson

Agenda Items:

1. Opening Round
Members and ten guests introduced themselves.
2. Motion to accept Agenda and July Minutes
Moved by Jason, seconded by Maria, carried unanimously.
3. Staff Report -James O'Neill
The framework for the Food Strategy was presented last meeting; focus is now on outreach and engagement.

	Phase 1 (Oct-Dec)	Phase 2 (Jan-Mar)
Intent/main focus	Broad outreach (qualitative), Education, capacity building	Content driven, refining strategy
Audience	General public, leaders in food movement, 'unchoir'	Experts in aspects of food system, stakeholders (more substantive decisions)
Mechanism/tool	Web/blog/twitter, collaboration with 3 rd party events, 'toolkit' (collection of stories, mapping, surveys)	Focus groups, workshops with key stakeholders, one-on-one meetings
Deliverable	Web-based stories, possible publication, event with Rain City Chronicles	Food Strategy and associated policies

Discussions as to the role of the FPC will be addressed formally at a later date, but input is always welcome.

The question of how to increase capacity long-term in neighbourhoods was raised. For this project, the City is hoping to work with Village Vancouver and the Neighbourhood Food Networks to spread the use of the 'toolkit' into neighbourhoods, but it was agreed that further initiatives could be helpful (e.g. door-to-door campaigns, working with more faith-based groups). It was clarified that this is not seen as an election issue. A time will be found in early October for those interested in participating.

4. Working Group Updates

- Youth Food Policy Council - Zsuzsi Fodor (for Ilana Labow)
Four meetings were held with youth and advisors over the summer to explore the mission, vision, and goals. They are hoping to launch in the new year. Zsuzsi will present a workshop at the annual Community Food Security Coalition conference in November.
- Neighbourhood Food Security - Zsuzsi Fodor (for Trish Kelly)
Event is planned for Oct 12 at 5:30pm at the Roundhouse; there are currently at 130 registered. Planning is still ongoing and if funds are available, more could be used for catering. The event will be videotaped for YouTube. Based on past experiences, it was recommended to register above capacity to account for no-shows. Zsuzsi will ask Trish if media will be present.
- FEEDAP / Resiliency - Carole Christopher
In partnership with Village Vancouver, are planning on how to make the local food system more resilient in the face of the twin challenges of peak oil and climate change. A meeting was held where it was decided that due to the lack of leadership of senior governments it must be a 'ground-up' approach. Groups currently working on peak oil/climate change but not food specifically will be among those consulted. A story-based visioning session is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 5th and would use half of their allocated budget. The remainder would be used to contract Herb as a staff member. Committee is open to new members. A suggestion was made to connect with the Langara Transition Town Training class to invite current and previous students.
- Urban Farming
A dinner is planned for Friday Nov 25, followed by a forum on November 26. It was noted that the Board of Trade is interested in the relationship between food and business, particularly urban farming. Carla will contact Chris, and members are encouraged to send other speaker suggestions.
- Food Secure Vancouver (FSV) - post-launch discussions will happen in the near future to determine how to continue momentum.

5. Discussion of Website, Blog and Twitter - Shelby Tay

The current communications of the FPC include pages on the Social Policy website of the City (updated by James), the FPC website (updated by Trish) and a twitter account with limited activity for much of the past year. A monthly E-Bulletin with basic information is also circulated. There is a lot of potential to share information from the meetings (e.g. presentations, announcements, updates, past reports, e-bulletin archives) and resources/tools to engage people. For example, the information on working groups could be further developed as many are unaware that they can engage through working groups. There is also large potential for videos and links to current initiatives (e.g. FSV). Having a repository for information will be good for FPC's own records and for the public in Vancouver and beyond. Shelby has been updating website and will continue. Carla will be stepping down from the council but has offered to advise, if needed. Members are encouraged to join the communication working group. Activity can be scaled-down or up depending on capacity; the group was reminded that to remain manageable, the message should relate to the mandate.

6. MetroVan BCFSN Mailing List - Arzeena

The BC Food Systems Network has offered space for a MetroVan Food news mailing list. Everyone would receive messages and be able to post to the group. It may be combined with a Facebook page. It was suggested to include information on how to sign up in the FPC communications.

7. Compassion into Action - Jason Boyce

In partnership with other organizations, a free organic breakfast will be hosted on Sept 28th at the Art Gallery for those who make a donation to the food bank. Goal is to raise 300k. The Food Bank has a new website that allows sign up for teams.

8. Discussion of Membership Process

With every election, the City's advisory groups are temporarily suspended until the new Council is in place, and then reappointed. As part of that process, the Clerk's office puts out a notice for those interested in participating. This list is then passed to city council for official appointment. In the past, the FPC has informed our networks that positions are open and compile a list of those interested which is forwarded to city council. Thus far, all FPC recommendations have been appointed. Anyone we recommend must also apply through the City process.

Members who have served two terms on the council must step down. Carole, Herb, and Tara are in this category, while some members are unclear. Carla and Janine have indicated they will not reapply. Jason, Shelby, Helen, and Maria will reapply. A turnover of about ten members is expected. The process will begin soon, with a call being issued by mid-October. Appointments are expected to be finalized in February 2012. A suggestion was made to approach the District of Parent Advisory Councils for parent representation. To increase attendance of official liaisons, it was suggested to either schedule the meeting times to fit their schedules, or to make it clear that attendance is required before signing on. It was also noted that the link to the community from which it was born is one of the main strengths of the FPC regardless of the party in power.

If interested in joining the committee, send the chairs and email.

9. Budget Update and Potential Reallocations

Most working groups are on track with spending. \$100 from contingency was used to renew membership in Food Secure Canada. The following amounts remain: \$110 (Food Secure Vancouver) \$150 (meeting expenses-minutes), \$350 (meeting expenses-food), \$700 (contingency), for a total of \$1310. Discussion ensued, resulting in the following motions: MOTION: to allocate the cost of an institutional membership to BC Food Systems Network membership

Moved by David, seconded by Carole, carried unanimously.

MOTION: To reallocate \$500 to FEEDAP and \$500 to the Neighbourhoods working group with the remaining in contingency.

Moved by Brent, seconded by Carla, carried unanimously.

Members were reminded that the FPC has copies of the brochure and food charter available.

10. Discussion of location for next two VFPC meetings

The Oct 12 event at the Roundhouse will replace the regular meeting. An alternate room is being sought for the November meeting; please forward suggestions to Brent, keeping in mind the meeting will be open to the public.

11. Any Other Business

This is Carole Christopher's last meeting. A celebratory event will be planned to thank outgoing members.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Brent, seconded by Carole, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm