

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 27th, 2005, 6:30-9:30 pm

Present:

Council Members: Barb Seed, Carol Ranger (co-chair), Carole Christopher, Corinne Eisler, *David Van Seters, Heather Pritchard, Herb Barbolet, John Van Luven (co-chair), *Karin Schreurs, Miriam Palacios, Shefali Raja, Spring Gillard, Stephen Hall,

Liasons: VSB Trustees *Andrea Reimer & Adrienne Montani

Staff: Devorah Kahn, Mario Lee, Wendy Mendes

* denotes partial presence

Regrets: Aron Bjornson, Susan Kurbis, Graham Riches, Councilor Peter Ladner, Sue Moen

Absent: Councilor Tim Louis, Brian Holl, Eva Riccius

1. Introductions

1.1 5 Guests in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Review & Acceptance of the Agenda

2.1 Agenda Accepted - Addition: Food Assessment Report added to New Business.

3. Review & Acceptance of the minutes from July 26th

3.1 Minutes from the meeting of July 26, 2005. Observation: Acronyms difficult to understand, can they be spelled out? *Minutes accepted as written.*

4. Reports for Information

4.1 **Review of Progress Report to City Council** - (Wendy Mendes) Comments have received and integrated into the report - the content stands as is; it will be formatted to City standard. Thursday, October 20th (2 p.m.) presentation date will require two volunteers from the VFP Council.

Edits: Page 5 - Purpose - 3rd line; remove "in depth". A useful inclusion would be mention of the \$22,000. Also, a suggestion to add the two events recently held. Report is due on October 3rd, 2005. All approved.

Mario noted: It is uncommon for presentations to be made with City staff *and* a community-based group like VFPC. The report will be introduced by a member of staff, ideally a senior City official and followed by a member of VFPC. If anyone wishes to speak to the report, they are free to do so. VFPC attendance will show support for the Food Policy Progress Report.

Carol Ranger, co-chair agreed to speak and represent the VFPC. However, it was thought that with a tight agenda, it might be difficult to have community groups speak as well. It was suggested to have members of community groups attend to support, and be given recognition.

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

Local Food Production - The ALR protection enhancement committee - postcards available for signature. ALR workshops to occur on October 15th - watch for notice in the mail.

Food Security - discussions around the city are forming to provide provincial grants to the community. Literature requested on measurable outcomes on Food Security. Suggestions from the floor.

4.3 Reports from 5 priority area sub-committees:

4.3.1 **Goals & Objectives** - *Tabled*

4.3.2 **Waste Management** - the City of Van and GVRD are doing work in this area. Devorah will attempt to set up a meeting between this sub-committee and City staff working on this.

4.3.3 **IFFP** - moving forward with background research - meeting with Vicky Wakefield, Ethical Purchaser to be held on October 12th.

4.3.4 **Food Charter** - Recommendation that at the Food Policy Forum we take at least an hour to introduce the Draft Food Charter, a final draft from the sub-committee will be sent shortly.

Suggestions: A professional facilitator, and graphic enhancement of the Charter, invitations to members of Task Force and other community members to attend. It was also suggested that this Draft Food Charter could be presented in Waterloo or Atlanta in preparation for presentation in mid October. The budget for a Facilitator and graphic enhancement, printing expenses about \$2500 - \$1100 are the cost for Forum. (approximately \$8,000 remaining to year-end presently)

In order to get funding, a brief statement to Jeff Brooks, Director of Social Planning, is required, regarding your goals and expected outcomes and the anticipated cost. There was consensus from the group.

4.3.5 **Access to Groceries** - The FORC Report has been received, the sub-committee met and is impressed with the results. Recommendations at the end of the Report are the focus. Who should take the lead on each one of these recommendations? What is the role of the VFPC? How do we work with this report and how do we allocate the recommendations to the appropriate action body?

What now? Research has been completed. How can this sub committee address these recommendations, including a Buy Local campaign? Building awareness of the VFPC is important. 3 important recommendations

#12 - Increasing the number of community gardens

#22 - Expanding the role of urban agriculture - False Creek

#14 - Good Neighbour Program - city sponsored improvements provided to vendors providing healthy food alternatives to the community

Some work is already occurring in these areas.

A comment was made that the 3 above recommendations might be included under Goals and Objectives.

It was suggested that FORC might be a research arm of the VFPC. The council was asked to keep this living document alive. A central database, much like the one in Toronto, was noted.

This draft working document will be available on the website. It was suggested that members read the FORC recommendations and return to discuss the material.

5. Follow-up of Items Requiring Action

- 5.1. Endorsement protocol - report on findings of other volunteer councils & commissions
Tabled to next meeting to allow Sue Moen to present

6. New Business & Inquiries:

- 6.1 **Potential for FPC development workshop with Wayne Roberts & Lori Stahlbrandt** (TFPC coordinator and council member). The earliest available date for a workshop with Wayne Roberts is in January 2006. The Food Policy Coordinator requires a consensus or a request from the council to engage Wayne Roberts. It was felt that ascertaining Goals and Objectives prior to a Development Workshop, especially as the earliest date available is in January, would be desirable.

Following the establishment of some strategic goals and objectives an invitation will be issued to Wayne Roberts. It was felt by some that waiting to complete Strategic Planning until after the Workshop might be beneficial as completing Strategic Planning prior to the workshop might require a return to the Strategic Plan. It was also noted that a Strategic Plan generally requires more than one session. There was consensus from council members that the FPC meeting in November would focus on Goals and Objectives.

- 6.2 **Opportunities for VFPC leadership roles: 2006 CFSC conference** - Members are encouraged to visit this website. The Food Policy Coordinator asked if any members were interested in the process and if so to contact her for further information. *Sub Committee suggested.*

- 6.3 **Food Policy Coordinator report on work to date and proposed work plan for 2005/2006** (*see handout*) The Food Policy Coordinator asked members to review a chronology of activities of the past year and review plans for the upcoming year. Also requested an endorsement of upcoming projects. i.e.

- World Food Day/Week
- WUF BC Food Showcase
- November Community Forum - November 30th, 2005 - Forum to be held at Heritage Hall
- UA strategy - CG policy work
- MOBY project
- Community Gardens

It was asked if the Food Policy Coordinator accept tabling the matter of endorsement until November giving the council members an opportunity to review the material. There was consensus that more time was needed. The Vancouver Food Policy Council receives and acknowledges the work and planned work of the Food Policy Coordinator. *Endorsement of future work tabled.*

- 6.4 **Term of co-chairs expired** - Carol Ranger reminded members that terms would soon expire and consideration should be given to the process of election of new chairs.

Closure of Meeting

9.35 p.m.