

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 9, 2009, 6:00-8:30pm
Strathcona Room, City Hall

Acting Chair: David Tracey

Council Members: Doug Aason, Daryl Arnold, Joanne Bays, Herb Barbolet, Maria Burglehaus, Erika Del Carmen Fuchs, Janine de la Salle, Trish Kelly, Brent Mansfield, Ross Moster, Jeff Nield, Cale Price, Joyce Rock, Carla Shore, Yona Sipos, Helen Spiegelman, T'Uy'Tanat-Cease Wyss

Liaisons: Mary Clare Zak (UASC/Social Development)

Invited Guest: Lily Ford, City of Vancouver

Regrets: Carole Christopher, Andre LaRiviere, Tara McDonald, Kim Sutherland, Heather Deal (City Council), Jane Bouey (VSB), Aaron Jasper (VPB)

Agenda Items:

1. **Introductions** - members & guests - Members and five guests introduced themselves to Council.
2. **Agenda and Requests for leave (ROL)** Motions to accept agenda/ROL moved by Herb, seconded by Erika, carried unanimously.
3. **Liaison Updates** - Mary Clare Zak
 - a. Food Precinct Project - FPC members and city staff met to discuss and clarify the concept, which the city supports in principle. Partnership will be necessary and a plan will be created to address other challenges.
 - b. Meeting of Advisory committees Tues. Sep 14. Opportunity to network.
4. **Discussion: Viability of Committees and need of leaders**

The Action Plan was reviewed and amended, with leaders assigned to each committee. Some items were listed as ongoing, others were tabled until the following year. **ACTION:** Vicky to send David updated plan.
5. **Presentations:**

Helen Spiegelman - Zero Waste Vancouver

Helen gave an overview of the current situation regarding food waste in Vancouver. Here, 40% of waste going to the landfill is food, while in Europe and many Canadian cities it is illegal to put organics in the garbage. A waste prevention policy is more desirable than incineration. Helen distributed a *Notice of Motion for October 2009*.

 - **ACTION:** Members to invite interested members from their communities to contribute to policy recommendations. Will collect next month.
 - Recommended the FPC to take the issue to city council to request leadership on this issue.

Discussion:

It was noted that this is relevant to the province mandate for municipalities to go carbon neutral by 2012.

Suggestion to send to Councillor Deal, who can follow up in the city.

Greenest City Action Plan has organics collection as a priority, but needs to come from FPC as well.

Lily Ford, COV Staff - Chickens by-law
Draft guidelines distributed

Guidelines balance humane treatment, practical considerations, and biosecurity. Lily explained the proposed by-law changes, and the rationale behind them. Next step is report to council in October 2009.

Discussion:

- Bylaw would apply to any lot, not just single dwelling houses. May be reviewed in the future to adapt for multiple dwelling lots.
- Space requirements might exclude many people.
- The space requirements of the house are in addition to those of the run.
- Commercial use should be allowed.
- Slaughter is another issue that could be reviewed in the future, esp. with collective coops.
- Requirement of 10ft from dwelling is for biosecurity reasons. Suggestion to change wording to emphasize biosecurity issues, rather than a fixed distance. Lily and staff will review other jurisdictions and discuss with relevant ministries.

MOTION - To agree in principal to the proposed changes, with the suggestions noted. Moved by Herb, seconded by Brent, carried unanimously.

ACTION: Any revisions will be sent to Trish, who will circulate to group.

6. **Committee Updates:**

Food Secure Vancouver Study (Herb/Brent)

Committee remains active, determining indicators and criteria for them.

Communications (Carla)

Jeff is Tweeting. David's articles posted on blog. Carla will draft and circulate document on protocol for posting. Suggestion to pull twitter feed into blog. **ACTION:** Carla to post links to procedural information (minutes, etc.).

Press release to inform the public of the UASC was written but was not approved by Communications Dept. If necessary, it will be done independently by the end of September.

Institutional Food Purchasing Policy (Brent)

Met with BCGEU, who are still interested. More updates to come. Erika to join committee.

Food Precinct Project (Janine)

Committee is active and want to do a presentation to update group. **ACTION:** Janine to send request to Carole to be on next agenda.

Food Waste/Food Recovery/Charitable Food Sector (Helen)

Much food is wasted in Vancouver, and is one aspect of the charitable food sector.

Another key element is dignified access to food. **ACTION:** Helen to discuss food waste aspect of charitable food sector with Joyce and Doug.

7. **Other updates:**

Book Reviews for Barbara Jo's Books to Cooks - Janine dIS

Members are encouraged to submit 300-500 word reviews for web. **ACTION:** Janine to email list of proposed books. Carla and Cease offered editing to those in need.

Engage Retailers - Dialogue Session - (Joyce/David/Trish)

Proposed to survey retailers about barriers to supporting a local food system, and gather info for a workshop at upcoming grocer conference. (How to answer your customers' request for buying local). It was suggested that the FPC could sponsor the workshop, but partner with other local groups to present. Trish explained that the FPC would give higher credibility to the workshop, and exploration of incentive programs for local food grocers could be pursued by the city. **ACTION:** Trish will report in November.

Food Carts; Food & Beverage Guidelines - Maria/Heather

Maria plans to meet with Devorah Kahn for update on report. Guidelines are currently being created.

CURA Project with UBC LFSF - Brent M

Final application is almost ready; deadline is Sept. 18th. **ACTION:** Brent will circulate full application when complete.

8. Other

It was felt that a centralized location for food-related research could make research interviews with the community more efficient. It was suggested that the FPC discuss, perhaps during strategic planning, what its role could be. (Joyce)

Regional Food Strategy for Metro Van symposium - Nov 25th. Objective is to identify the top 5 regional strategies to implement collectively. **ACTION:** Herb to remind members of event.

Public Health Association of BC has provided funds for a gathering to discuss a provincial Farm to School program. Members are encouraged to be on planning committee. Brent, Cease, Erika expressed interest. (Joanne)

9. Motion to Adjourn - moved by Carla, seconded by Yona, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ACTION: Vicky to send David updated Action plan.

ACTION: By-law revisions will be sent to Trish, who will circulate to group.

ACTION: Carla will post links to procedural information (minutes, etc.) on blog.

ACTION: Helen to discuss food waste aspect of charitable food sector with Joyce and Doug.

ACTION: Janine will email list of proposed books for reviews.

ACTION: Trish will report on status of retailer engagement in November.

ACTION: Brent will circulate full CURA application when complete.

ACTION: Herb to remind members of Metro Van Food Strategy event.