

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall

Interim Leadership Team: Jesse Veenstra, Georgia Stanley, David Speight, Kimberly Hodgson

Meeting Chairs: David Speight and Jesse Veenstra

Council Members: Nikoo Boroumand, Clare Cullen, Zsuzsi Fodor, Kevin Huang, Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson, Stephanie Lim, Stefan Misse, Tara Moreau, Jessica Pautsch, Aditi Rudra, Marc Schutzbank

City-Appointed Liaisons: Sarah Carten (Social Policy, CoV), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Commissioner Wiebe (Park Board)

Invited Guests: Lori Stahlbrand, Wayne Roberts (Toronto Food Policy Council)

Regrets: Caitlin Dorward, Brianne Miller, Kimberly Hodgson, Councillor Carr (City Council)

Leave of Absence: Dirk Gibbs

Absent: Damien Bryan, Will Jung, Joy Alexander (VSB), Lindsay Bisschop (MoAg), Councillor Deal (City Council), Megan Herod (Park Board),

1 Homelands acknowledgement and introductions

We acknowledge that we are on the unceded homelands of the ʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sel̓ilwiltulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and we give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands

Members, invited guests, and eight guests introduced themselves.

2 Approve minutes from April meeting

Moved by Jessica, seconded by Georgia, carried unanimously.

3 Liaison Updates

- City Councillors -Heather Deal
No update available.
- Parks Board Commissioner - Michael Wiebe
The Park Board will now have zero waste at concession stands, using wood cutlery, compostable products, and paper straws on request. There will also be new items with locally procured food, a goal of the Local Food Action Plan. Business Improvement Associations have noted that the cost per recycling bin has doubled, and will draft a letter explaining how this is a factor in increasing costs. They are also working with the City to reduce the number of bins in the alleys - currently there are 7 separate streams. Five compost bins will be installed in Stanley Park, and more diversion bins (bottles, paper, etc.) will be rolled out in select parks and facilities. Best practices to reduce contamination are being explored. They would like to expand to Queen Elizabeth Park.

Discussion

- LFAP update - staff member not available to present update. Currently 20% FTE staff time is related to food, which is less than what is needed. There are lots of community gardens to be created, the VFPC motion requesting an update on the Local Food Action Plan was appreciated, as the report back will highlight the need for more resources. Community gardens are changing to be more inclusive in the neighbourhood with more communal gardens. There is a model to incorporate co-ops with gardens that are cultivated year-round. Many kitchens are underutilized, there is a need to look at how to use them more effectively. It was recognized there remains lots of work to be done at the Park and School board.
- Staffing hours - Staff understand the need for more resources. The report will demonstrate if goals are being met. After the report is release, the Board will make a decision on how to proceed. The report is expected by June meeting.
- Long range capital plan - Currently, activities seem done on a piecemeal basis, and a question was raised regarding funding for long-term planning. It was noted that the budget runs on four year cycles.

Requests can still be made either as members of the public or on behalf of the whole council, but should be made as soon as possible as it will be presented to Council in July. The big asks will come from the City, not Park Board. Social Policy has limited funding, and new requests would replace other planned expenses. The requests should be to fund specific (capital) items, not for general funding. Research is considered infrastructure; the Park Board has funds set aside to hire consultants. Without the LFAP report, it will be difficult to know what to advocate for. ACTION: Sarah will ask Meg if she can share a working version of the document. ACTION: Marc will take the lead on a response.

- It was suggested that the City should have one overarching strategy that uses a systems framework to integrate those of the City, the Park Board, and the School Board, with each having individual action plans. An Implementation Plan with funding attached and clear timelines for reporting should accompany the plans.
- Parks Board Staff - Megan Herod
No update available.
- VSB Trustee - Joy Alexander
No update available.
- City Staff - Sarah Carten
Reports to Council - On July 11, the Social Infrastructure Plan, Community benefit agreements, and the Equitable City for All Plan will be moving to the City. Members can [sign up to receive reports and agendas](#) when they are released. ACTION: Sarah to send links to the reports when they become available July 3.
- Vancouver Coastal Health - Claire Gram
New report released - [Health and Social Connections report](#). [Healthy Built Environment Linkages Toolkit](#) is also being released.
- Ministry of Agriculture - Lindsay Bisschop
No update available.

4 Working Group Updates

- Election Priority
Michael Weibe left the room to avoid any conflict of interest. An exercise was undertaken to clarify the goals of the event. ACTION: The working group will craft a process to achieve the main goal, which will be presented in July.

5 Letter of Support (motion)

- Request to co-sponsor event with Graham Riches & Andy Fisher '*Domestic Hunger in the USA and Canada. Towards Food and Social Justice*' as a part of the Vancouver Food Summit on October 2nd

The request is to provide a letter of support, help secure a venue, and help promote the event. Graham Riches is a social worker who has done significant research on food banks in Canada. ACTION: Sarah will see if she can find a space that is available. Members are asked to contact Sharnelle if able to act as liaison with Graham.

Motion:

THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council support the request to co-sponsor the event '*Domestic Hunger in the USA and Canada. Towards Food and Social Justice*' and provide a letter of support.

Moved by Marc, seconded by Georgia, carried unanimously.

6 All Our Father's Relations Film Screening Update

- Screening & Panel discussion May 31st at Science World
The Food Justice Working group is coordinating the screening and requests members to promote the event through their networks as ticket sales are currently low. There is a code for subsidized tickets. A notice will go out through VFPC listserv. There is no budget for advertising, and purchasing tickets at the door is not ideal.

7 Escobar Discussion

The Food Justice working group has shared related documents prior to the meeting. Members of the Latin American community have approached the VFPC for support denouncing the naming of a restaurant after a known terrorist and drug lord in Columbia. This relates to the VFPC mandate to promote a food system that protects the health and dignity of all citizens. This issue has links to reconciliation and colonialism. The current

situation does not enhance the culture of the Columbian community. Two avenues of support have been suggested - a letter of support and a motion to City Council. There are no guidelines or rules about naming of restaurants in the City, although there are restrictions when registering businesses at the provincial level. There is interest from the Cultural Communities Advisory council to work together on a response.

Members of the Latin American community presented the context of their request. Despite support for them from the Columbian consulate and the Embassy, the owners have been unwilling to engage in meaningful dialogue, and have been trying to silence the voices of those calling for the name to be changed. The community feels the restaurant is a monument to drug culture, and is not appropriate in a city dealing with an opioid crisis. As societies shift, this is an opportunity for a dialogue about the link between food and culture; Vancouver can be a leader by speaking out.

Discussion

- It was clarified that the restaurant owners are not Columbian, and no members of the leadership staff are of Latin heritage.
- Mediation - it was suggested that mediation can be used as an educational tool, however the City does not have capacity to support external mediation, and there is no BIA in the area. The owners do not seem open to further discussion to understand the cultural aspects of food.
- Letter of support - could be open letter, using examples from elsewhere, and calling on the food movement through the media.

MOTION:

THAT the VFPC supports members of the Latin American community in principle, and that the Food Justice working group to work with them to draft an open letter.

Moved by Tara, seconded by Steph, carried unanimously.

ACTION: The Food Justice working group will draft a broader motion about cultural appropriation and potential actions the City can do and bring this forward at the July meeting.

8 Establishing Working Groups for 2018 Priorities

Members are asked to be part of one of these working groups. Members of the public are also able to participate.

- Reconciliation Priority - no confirmed lead. Aditi, Nikoo, Michelle (guest), Ben (guest), Caitlin (TBC)
- Membership / Future of VFPC Priority - Zsuzsi will lead Membership, Kevin, Stephanie, Georgia. Leadership team will discuss the future of VFPC and report back.
- Election Priority - Tara and Sharnelle (leads), David, Marc, Clare.

9 City of Vancouver Redefining Food Assets Workshop

The current definition of food assets has been used since 2010, and is grounded in the Greenest City Action Plan. It mainly relates to physical infrastructure, and provides some examples. Last year, the City committed to revisit this definition. Sarah gave an overview of her work on the issue so far, to ensure the definition remains relevant and serves priorities. She also explained the City's tools that use the definition of food assets. The direction of the definition has not changed drastically, however it will now be grounded in a set of principles. The question was posed if the new definition should be precise (new types of assets can be added), or conceived of more broadly. Also, the current metric used is "number of food assets"; other metrics can be added. Members can provide input through the Google Doc, or to Sarah directly.

Discussion

- Assets - the term has an economic connotation, and is positive. It was suggested that wording be added (encompassing more than an economic perspective) that would help protect existing assets, and/or discourage their removal.
- Grocery stores - large store can threaten smaller ones, it was noted that tension exists due to different perspectives.
- Use of definition - could be used in assessing grant applications, in area plans and other developments. As this metric is reported, it is the most visible, and can be an opportunity to educate other departments.

- Food Asset Zones - it was suggested that groups of assets, such as Produce Row, could be included as 'zones'. Existing assets could be replaced by similar ones (e.g. small, family owned businesses in Chinatown).
- Toronto - is also examining the definition of community food assets, and uses data for the [Food by Ward](#) project.
- Weighting - the importance or impact of the removal/addition of assets of the development and surrounding areas should be measured if given different weights.
- Arable land - can be considered an asset.
- Informal economies - e.g. dumpsters. There is some work being done in the DTES economic strategy, however it is unclear how it is linked to the definition of food assets.
- Governance assets - The Neighbourhood Food Networks are included in the current definition but not informal networks. Human resources/knowledge/networks could be included as 'social assets'.
- Branding - food branding is an asset. Vancouver is listed as a top place to live, in large part because of the rich food culture here.
- Food recovery organizations - Food runners, Quest, Food Mesh, Food Stash, Goodly etc. could be included as 'food waste assets' if the rationale exists.
- Principles - cultural exchange and celebration, increasing indigenous access to land could be added. It was noted that anti-displacement language hard to include.

ACTION: Sarah will send next steps by email.

- 10 Toronto Food Policy Insights** -Success with youth food policy council, their key priorities. Lori Stahlbrand coordinates the Toronto Food Policy council as a Health Policy Specialist. The TFPC is under the municipal Board of Health and was formed in 1991 as a response to the rise of food banks in the 80s. Using a food systems approach, the Council understands that healthy food systems recognize finite resources, and that social elements are important. A food strategy document was finalized in 2010, which is now being updated. Toronto is also part of the [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#), building a movement with cities as critical in a healthy food system. The municipalities support each other, working under five themes to ensure an enabling environment for effective action. There are also emerging themes, related to the resilience strategy that go beyond the amount of food available and include growing skills, social cohesion, food recovery. Work is done under a framework of sustainable diets and a broad food security definition. The municipal elections will be used to encourage food champions. Lori works full time and is part of an 8 person team. The group engages in formal meetings with community presentations, and informal meetings to discuss the food strategy and get feedback and good discussion. The TFPC is sub-committee of the Board of Health, a committee of the City of Toronto (the only one with citizen members), to advise on issues related to food in the city. Financially positions are cost-shared with the province. The Toronto Youth Food Policy Council is a vibrant organization with the two co-chairs (who have staggered terms) sitting on the TFPC. Opportunities are sought for internships, the TFPC provides funding for food for their events, and can facilitate meetings upon request. The TYFPC tries to create resume building opportunities, and hosts interactive meeting on specific themes. There are also many social activities over food.

Wayne emphasized that the food movement should be positive and empowering, building on serendipitous synchronicity. As the City is the lead on pressing issues, the TFPC uses a solutionary model to systematically build capacity. He noted that the concept is to bring food power to civil society. He also noted that a resilient city has power distributed throughout society. These should be missions of FPCs rather than production or nutrition - a people-centred food policy.

- 11 Bread Basket**
Tabled.

- 12 Motion to adjourn**

Moved by Marc, seconded by Sharnelle, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm