

Vancouver Food Policy Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2013
6:00-8:30pm
Town Hall Room, City Hall



Chairs: Brent Mansfield and Zsuzsi Fodor,
Council Members: Maria Burglehaus, Robyn Carlson, Kimberly Hodgson, Emme Lee, Tara Moreau, Ross Moster, Helen Spiegelman,, Shelby Tay
Liaisons: James O'Neill (Social Planning, City of Vancouver), Theresa Duynstee (MetroVan), Aaron Jasper (Park Board)
Invited guests: Herb Barbolet
Regrets: Jason Apple, Joanne Bays, Claudia Chan, Trish Kelly, Ilana Labow, Peter Ladner, Pat McCarthy, Nicholas Scapillati, Chris Thoreau, David Wilson, Heather Deal (City Council), Rob Wynen (Vancouver School Board)

Agenda Items:

1. Opening Round
Members introduced themselves. Forty-two guests were present.
2. Motion to Accept Agenda and previous minutes
Moved by Helen, seconded by Emme, carried unanimously.
3. Staff Update - James O'Neill
 - Grant opportunities - 1) social innovations funding - umbrella with many opportunities, part to food → food markets, a couple are running, criteria exists (increase access to fresh healthy food). 2) sustainable food system grants - core funding (one year only) for organizations that build partnerships to work collaboratively to achieve food system goals. Info available at Vancouver.ca/grants. Grants will be sustained.
 - Expression of Interest for Urban Ag - working with Park Board and Engineering to identify locations for urban agriculture (including orchards, gardens, edible landscaping). Submissions due Oct 2nd.
 - Urban Farming - met with stakeholders in July, received feedback and are continuing internal conversations to move policy forward. There is a desire internally to know what the community has to say on the issue, so other advisory committees (non-food focused) have been invited to a presentation and will provide feedback. Will share key outcomes at the next meeting. The aim is to bring council recommendations this fall on how to better enable/support urban farming. A presentation to Park Board may be considered. It was announced that the local food action plan was passed by the Park Board, and can be found on their website. Feedback on the plan is welcome.
4. Updates and Discussion
 - a. July meeting on Indigenous food sovereignty and follow-up
Meeting was held at UBC Farm, where food was shared and indigenous people were invited to talk about their relationship to food and current projects. Councillor Andrea Reimer (liaison to Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty) and FPC members read the proclamation for the year of reconciliation (available in full at <http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/year-of-reconciliation-proclamation.pdf>). After the meeting, Brent met with Dawn Morrison to explore how to move the issue forward. It was proposed to use this year explore how the food strategy related to indigenous issues; some gaps have been identified. It was agreed to create a working group to address the issue. Emme joined the group; if others are interested, contact Brent.

- b. October 16 meeting, CBC letter and the Welfare Food Challenge
About 20 organizations signed a letter (led by Raise the Rates, drafted by Graham Riches) to CBC about a proposed 'right to food day' to explore issues concerning the charitable food system. A response has not yet been received and an open letter could be considered. World food day (Oct 16th) is also the launch of the welfare food challenge (\$26/week for food) welfarefoodchallenge.org - members and others encouraged to participate.

Sustenance festival - Oct 16th. It was proposed to meet at the Roundhouse with the theme 'how right to food can shape our policies (transition away from charitable food system)'. Nick Saul (ED Community Food Centres of Canada, formerly of STOP) can speak. The event would be hosted by the FPC, but not a formal meeting.

- c. Working Group Activities and Budget Proposal
Form circulated prior to meeting -
For any FPC activities that are connected to the food strategy and could help move goals forward, working groups are asked to submit a proposal that describes the connection to the food charter and a detailed timeline for spending to the chairs by Oct 4th. Funds must be spent by early 2014. Once received, recommendations for funding will be made.
- d. New member recruitment
Paul Taylor has stepped down, vacating the position in the Access Sector (each of the seven sectors has two representatives, and there are seven at-large members). A continued connection to the DTES is desirable. Zsuzsi, Ross, Emme, and Brent will meet to discuss names; others can join or send thoughts. Members agreed to have responsibilities for recruiting delegated to the ad-hoc committee. It is hoped that the new member will be in place for the Oct meeting. Kim Sutherland (liaison MoAg) has stepped down, and it is unclear if her position will be replaced.
- e. VFPC Protocol and Processes Ad Hoc Working Group
Protocols are needed for issues such as partnerships on funding, projects, and letters of support. Brent, Emme, Ilana, Dave, and Zsuzsi will meet in the next couple months to draft a document that can be legacy for future councils.
- f. Possible John Ikerd Presentation on October 19
It was proposed that the FPC co-sponsor the event along with Kent Mulinix and Kwantlen. FPC role would be to promote the event. There was general agreement from the members.

- 5. Presentations on theme
Emme Lee, VFPC Food Waste, UBC
Research came from a grant from PICS to hire summer intern and previous discussions at the FPC.

Food Policy 101 -Tara Moreau, VFPC Policy Landscapes, SPEC

The definition of food policy includes individuals making decisions about food in the context of where they are. In order to rebuild the foodshed, an even deeper understanding of policy is needed - food policy 102. As a scientist looking at alternatives, Tara sees that alternatives do exist but policy is often a barrier. For example, in agriculture, there are 48 policies at different levels of government that affect agriculture. The working group will explore how we can advance the development of food policies that align with creating just and sustainable food systems? The goal is to provide policy support and guidance to the City, the FPC, and community groups to advance the realization of a just and sustainable food system. To date, the group has embarked on two processes: 1) a database of all food policies affecting Vancouver, and 2) an issue-focused scan of policies (preliminary input received from FPC). A framework has been developed using software, and the group is looking for help to populate the database.

Policy Analysis 101 - Focus on Multi-Family Residential Green Bin Participation - Katie Schilt, VFPC Food Waste Policy Intern, SFU

Katie's project looked at steps to advance food policy in the context of green bin participation. Steps taken include:

- defining problem with stakeholder
- determining main objective and secondary objectives
- identifying challenges
- completing policy scan to see how others address challenges
- developing policy options based on scan
- evaluating policy options, including evaluating effectiveness (reducing barriers)
- measuring stakeholder acceptance, analyzing results
- making recommendations

A strategy for multi-family housing in Vancouver is now being developed.

Food Waste Policy in Vancouver - Research Findings - Leah Toews, Public Policy, SFU

Consumers are responsible for 51% of wasted food in Canada, with the majority going to the landfill.

Strategies for change -

- 1) Food waste prevention systems wide -
No existing policy at any level of government.

Metro Van leads waste reduction campaigns. GCAP encourages food waste reduction. In the US, the EPA has a food waste hierarchy; the UK has a 'Love food hate waste' campaign.

Next steps - raise awareness through prevention campaigns - support and advocate for existing groups. Convene stakeholders.

- 2) Food recovery/donation - (industry)

Only the provincial government has a policy on food recovery/donation (Food Donor Encouragement Act). Need more education for businesses on how to recover/donate food safely.

As resources currently available are maximized, the FPC could help coordinating resources (convene, compile info etc). The group in discussions with BC CDC to expand donation guidelines, and develop best practice standards.

- 3) Neighbourhood composting - midscale

No existing policy at any level of government, although it would reduce transportation and could connect to urban farms. CFAI regulates sale of compost, and the Province has the same regulations for large or small operations, despite different impacts.

The Strathcona BIA composts for business and sells the product. Had to meet requirements at all levels of government, and after nearly two years of work, feels that the process is likely a barrier.

Next steps - convene interested parties, multilateral coordination, to review and update bylaws in order to streamline the process to enable neighbourhood composting.

Challenges include behavior change, a lack of capacity of charitable organizations, logistical barriers, and a lack of education and engagement among retailers and wholesalers.

Policy landscapes group will identify levels of interest of experts and volunteers to continue work. New members welcome.

Discussion -

- Education needs to come both from government and community groups.
- Donation/recovery - most donated foods are 'food products', not food. Could discourage donations of junk food in donation guidelines, as corporations get tax breaks (reduce cost of 'shrinkage') for donating junk food.
- How do we balance reducing food waste, elements of dignity without creating a two-tiered food system?
- Terminology - It was suggested to not refer to food that is recovered for the charitable food sector as 'food waste'.
- It was noted that much food waste occurs because people don't know how to cook - a policy priority could be how to store/cook/process recovered food properly.

6. Motion to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm