



Chairs: Zsuzsi Fodor and Tara Moreau

Council Members: Anna Cavouras, Trish Kelly, Pat McCarthy, Ross Moster,

Regrets: Kimberly Hodgson, Ilana Labow, Emme Lee, Peter Ladner, Brent Mansfield, Theresa Duynstee (MetroVan), Corrine Eisler (VCH), Orlando Schmidt (Ministry of Agriculture)

Absent: Jason Apple, Joanne Bays, Robyn Carlson, Nicholas Scapillati, Helen Spiegelman, Chris Thoreau, David Wilson, Heather Deal (City Council), James O'Neill (Social Planning, City of Vancouver), Aaron Jasper (Park Board), Rob Wynen (Vancouver School Board)

Agenda Items:

Opening Round and Welcome

Mary Charles (Musqueam First Nation) gave a traditional welcome to the meeting, which included a prayer of gratitude.

Trish introduced the idea of aboriginal food sovereignty. With the year of reconciliation now over, the theme follows last year's proclamation and meeting at UBC Farm. In September 2013, a walk for reconciliation took place during the week of hearings in Vancouver. Over 10,000 people walked in the rain in support of the idea to find healing and understanding between first nations and others. In June, the City moved a motion to recognize that Vancouver is on unceded territory. Staff has been directed to make the motion meaningful. There is now discussion about declaring Vancouver as a 'city of reconciliation'.

Motion to accept agenda - moved by Anna, seconded by Trish.

1. Brief update from VFPC - James O'Neil, as provided to Tara
 - GE free working group - a motion was put forward to explore what Vancouver could look like as a GE-free city. Group has met and clarified terminology, and will now focus on education and promotion. Ideas include: issuing a proclamation, FPC hosting a GE-free dinner, and press conferences.
 - ALR - following January meeting, FPC has been invited to public consultations (Emme and Pat attending). Local MLA would like to do event in the fall, FPC can likely provide input.
 - Meetings - Members were reminded that there is no meeting in August, and meetings will return to City Hall in September. A working group will be formed to refine list of priorities and send to candidates for October meeting. Trish will help.
 - Sanctuary City movement - FPC can support work of group to establish Vancouver as a Sanctuary City. Zsuzsi has met with the group, who is also working with other advisory groups and Councilor Meggs. The group has put together a fact sheet/guidelines (e.g. no requirements to access food at food bank.) Ideas have included a municipally-issued identification (such as OneCard), that in collaboration with other municipalities, would be recognized as valid ID and would not be tied to status.
 - Arbutus corridor - CP Rail gave eviction to 400 or so gardeners on arbutus corridor. The FPC considered drafting a letter of support for the gardeners; however the issue was not resolved during the meeting.

2. Appropriate and authentic ways of engaging with First Nations people and perspectives
Dawn Morrison and Kent Mullinix.
The UBC Botanical Garden would like to partner with the Museum of Anthropology and the Beatty Biodiversity Museum to showcase first nations in an authentic manner, and are looking for a better understanding of how to do that.
Dawn introduced herself and gave a sense of her background with both first nations and Western cultures. She studied horticulture, became a teacher, grew up off-reserve, then worked with elders to bridge western science to indigenous ways of knowing; a very participatory process. Dawn then created a community development project surrounding the restoration of natural systems and food sovereignty - community gardens, survival school, and teaching language through food. She participates in many cross-cultural conversations, and her work stems

from a process of healing and self-realization. She chairs a working group of the BC Food Systems Network and currently works with Kent to bring the indigenous food systems piece into a bioregional food design. The first document will be an expression of indigenous food systems in SW BC. The group has discussed protocols for engagement (recognizing internal diversity with 27 nations and 11 language groups), with the resulting themes surrounding 'a giving economy', and bringing spirit back to food system. For example, an offering is made to the unseen world when harvesting or planting, and is a ritual that represents sacred relationship. Sharing and trading are important - salmon is the most important food to Salish but now there are concerns of commercialization, large scale exploitation, and governance. The importance cannot be represented with numbers. Authentic engagement comes from developing strong relationships. It is important to make offerings, and to understand socio-economic conditions. Some communities are overwhelmed by research proposals and cannot respond to all. There is a need to understand the capacity of the community to undertake more work - lack of time/money/technology and imbalances in privilege need to be recognized. Communication patterns differ - indigenous answers may be high context, and seen as indirect. There is a need to understand a holistic world view, systems thinking, and links between things. The term 'points of entry' is used to determine how to enter into policy discussions with government. A matrix is being created to show points of entry into discussion to understand sustainable agriculture systems and indigenous food systems as one whole system.

Kent Mullinix is the director of the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, which recognizes sustainable agriculture as a foundational goal of a sustainable human society, and engages in applied research, community outreach, and educational programming. They have begun farm schools, and work with Tsawwassen first nation. The bio-regional project has an objective is to integrate indigenous food system thinking, which has been more complex than first thought. Kent has learned that working together must be predicated on solid meaningful relationships, not on status, which take time to develop. Each person must recognize that he/she has a worldview and so do indigenous people. Goal is not to give priority to one, but to find how to collaborate, and so the validity of alternate world views has to be acknowledged; Western science and indigenous science are different and produce different ways of knowing and understanding. It must be understood and accepted that indigenous science as a way of knowing is time tested, and its sanctity must also be acknowledged as a gift. With respect to agriculture, it is important to recognize value laden words (e.g. sustainable). Through residential schools, indigenous peoples were disenfranchised from agriculture, and 'agriculture' has value which may be different. Kent recommends working to gain a mutual understanding of meaning, and to be clear on goals. Be honest and authentic, and recognize ceremony and process are important to set intention. To work with indigenous communities, one must be comfortable with discussions that engage the spirit. History and context are important - our relationship is generated by colonialism, which still exists. Indigenous peoples are concerned about food and food systems as related to their cultures, especially in the North where many sources are disappearing due to climate change and other factors.

3. Explore sacred Musqueam plants and animals in the UBC Botanical Garden
Not possible due to inclement weather.
4. Discuss the COV City of Reconciliation motion
Tabled due to lack of time.
5. Adjourn meeting
Doug Justice (Botanical Gardens) welcomed the FPC to the garden and thanked everyone for bringing food.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm