

Chairs: Zsuzsi Fodor and Tara Moreau

Council Members: Anna Cavouras, Andrew Christie, Rebecca Cuttler, Heather Deal (City Council), Caitlin Dorward, Chashma Heinze, Will Jung, Ilana Labow, Emme Lee, Stephanie Lim, Pat McCarthy, David Speight

Liaisons: Adriane Carr (City Council), James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Theresa Duynstee (MetroVan), Corinne Eisler (VCH), Orlando Schmidt (MoAg)

Regrets: Veronik Campbell, Kimberly Hodgson, Gabrielle Kissinger, Dirk Gibbs, Colin Stansfield,

Absent: Janet Fraser (VSB), Antonietta Gesualdi, Larry Copeland, Michael Wiebe (Park Board)

Agenda Items:

1. Motion to Accept Agenda and Previous Minutes
Motion to accept minutes for May and June: moved by Caitlin, Seconded by Corrine, carried unanimously.
Agenda revised to add item 4e: VFPC attendance at upcoming events
Motion to accept revised agenda: moved by Ilana, seconded by Stephanie, carried unanimously.
2. Introductions
Members of the council introduced themselves, and spoke to the food issues on their minds over the summer. Many spoke of the impact of the water restrictions - in the garden, in kitchens, for wildlife, on the farms, for food sovereignty, and for the future policies of the City. The larger issue of climate change was also noted - food prices, second blooming of plants, unpredictable precipitation, and a rise in pests. Other topics included: emergency food that is not appropriate for religious reasons, hunger in Vancouver schools and Canadian universities, how food affects mood (especially in children), food waste, and food prices, food prices, and local wheat.
3. Update from the City (James)
 - Staffing - Sara Carten has joined Food Policy team. James is replacing Wendy Mendes who moved on to UBC.
 - Expressions of Interest for Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture - the call is open with a deadline of October 9. Intended to streamline process to prioritize what new gardens on City-owned land the City can support.
 - Sustainable Food System Grants - Deadline to apply is October 19. Funding supports networks to deliver food programs in the City. \$170k has been allocated.
 - Milan Urban Food Policy Pact - the pact will be a legacy of their [2015 Expo](#) (focused on how to create better food systems in cities). A framework for action has been created, with 40 cities from around the world learning about what others are doing. The pact will have signing ceremony Oct 16 in Milan. Mayor Robertson cannot attend as he will be in COP21 in Paris, but will sign the pact. As part of World Food Day, the City would like to do some promotion. There is opportunity for media engagement, and the City requests a partnership with VFPC to create joint messaging connected to pact and other initiatives. It was noted that a media partnership could be tied also to the Sustenance Fest, highlighting both local and global.
 - ACTION: James to circulate summary and website, along with the draft pact.
 - ACTION: Members will read document, vote by email, similar to soils issues.
 - Kitchen use study - RFP has been released to consult on the quality and quantity of kitchen facilities in Vancouver. Results will inform how the City can develop and support food programming. As part of research, a presentation of final results will be made in late Nov/early Dec to City staff, with a representative from the

FPC. The research will also address if some can take on a more commercial component, and if there is a lack of capacity to run food programs. It was noted that some food trucks have issues accessing kitchens.

- Metro Vancouver Action Plan for Food Strategy - James been involved, exploring what municipalities are doing over next 3 years, and opportunities for collaboration. James would like to bring this work to the FPC in part or full in the next month or so, either in person or by email.
- Greenest City Refresh - a survey was sent out, and the steering committee is meeting (Tara provides food lens). Slight modifications are being consolidated for next version of GCAP, likely to Council in early November.

4. Working Groups Updates

- GMO Free

A Motion put forward in May 2014 that was deferred to FPC for recommendations. The Motion was brought forward by Counsellor Carr inspired by people working on this provincially, trying for a GE-free BC. A working group formed then dissolved and are now picking this up. The working group worked on definitions, interpretation of motions, and possible actions under the City's jurisdiction. Vancouver has limited power to prohibit the selling or growing of GE crops, except on City-owned land. The City is raising awareness, and issued a proclamation for a GMO awareness week in October 2014. It was suggested that this could be the theme of an upcoming meeting, to attract public and to do a SWOT analysis of the issue.

- False Creek Flats

David - James provided some background reading. Ideas from the consultations were prioritized, and new ideas were added. The group wants to leverage experience from the council, with the outcome of ensuring the City address food security concerns in the area, including food hub. It was noted that the area was filled in in 1913, and could be at risk of liquification or flooding. It was suggested that this also be a theme for a future meeting.

- Soils

Members were asked by staff to review proposed policy changes, to align with the ministry. The working group put together documentation and asked members to vote electronically. Quorum is 11 for voting. It was brought to council, noting that it had been reviewed by FPC who supported the changes, and was approved. Some members thought too much information was provided. Many appreciated the option to defer to the soils working group expertise.

- Process

Endorsement and partnership - document circulate prior to meeting. The VFPC has handled previous requests from community on an ad-hoc basis to date. The working group proposed a logical process with clear criteria for VFPC to say yes or no, recognizing that FPC is in a unique situation to support many community groups and projects due to its status.

It was noted that endorsements have less implications than partnerships, and should be separated. With a quorum of 11 members needed to vote, it was decided that those who do not respond are considered abstentions. Liaisons can provide input, but not vote. An option to 'defer to the Chair of the Endorsement Committee' could be added. Will and Caitlin volunteered to co-chair.

- MOTION: that the FPC accept and endorse the recommendations of the working committee for endorsement process with minor changes. Moved by Pat, second by Ilana, carried unanimously.
- ACTION: Ilana will send to co-chairs for revision.

- Requests to attend external events

- ACTION: Tara will put together a list of events and send by email.

It was suggested to consider an invite format (with yes/no/decline options). Members were asked to specify if they prefer 'reply' or 'reply all'.

- ACTION: Rebecca will put together a list of email etiquette.

- Call for support - Food for meetings
To be revisited at a future meeting.

5. Vancouver Food Policy Council Strategic Planning Session

Emme and Aaron (guest) used facilitation and strategic planning techniques to guide discussion.

Emme gave an overview of planning techniques, including the planning wheel, which includes four sections.

- 1) Where are we now? FPC has these elements, to some degree.
- 2) Where do we want to go? The FPC has yet to form a group vision for functioning, and also to clarify what specific objectives will be worked on. A snapshot of the various passions of council members was provided.
- 3) How do we get there? The FPC has actions in the Terms of Reference (to raise issues and respond), and several action tools at its disposal. A strategy is needed to achieve objectives, actions and implementation.
- 4) Have we arrived? While the FPC has a feedback mechanism, methods and indicators to monitor and evaluate need to be formed.

Currently, the FPC will focus on question 2 - to identify objectives. Sticky notes were distributed then collected for members to write their personal objectives.

Two broad themes emerged:

- Making a concrete difference in the food system
- Learning and building experience working with policy and municipal governments

Members then broke into small groups to discuss “what’s working with the food policy council structure” and “what’s not working”.

Some ideas that emerged were that members feel free to speak from a variety of perspectives. Members also feel support and respect from City Council. However, it was noted that new members may not fully understand how the FPC operates - e.g. the role of the chairs, and sub-committees. Some members were unaware that they are able to submit agenda items; the chairs will begin requesting agenda items.

- ACTION: Emme will collate notes and form a survey to provide input. There was agreement that strategic planning is important, especially for new members. It was suggested that new members be paired with continuing members for a session to familiarize new members.
- ACTION: Pat will coordinate.

The October meeting will explore solutions to what’s not working. The transitioning of working groups will be addressed as part of the strategic planning.

6. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Stephanie, seconded by David, carried unanimously.

Meeting ended at 8:35pm