

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall

Chairs: Caitlin Dorward and Kim Hodgson

Council Members: Nikoo Boroumand, Damien Bryan, Clare Cullen, Zsuzsi Fodor, Will Jung, Dirk Gibbs, Kevin Huang, Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson, Stephanie Lim, Brianne Miller, Stefan Misse, Tara Moreau, Georgia Stanley Jessica Pautsch, Jesse Veenstra

City-Appointed Liaisons: Sarah Carten (Social Policy, CoV), Theresa Duynstee (Metro Vancouver)

Other Liaisons: Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Megan Herod (Park Board)

Regrets: Councillor Carr (City Council), Councillor Deal (City Council), Jess Dennis, Janet Fraser (Special Representative), David Speight, Chantille Viaud, Rebecca Till (Park Board Liaison)

Absent: Marc Schutzbank, Emma Holmes (Ministry of Ag), Crezien Bencio (Vancouver Youth Food Policy Council), Commissioner Wiebe (Park Board)

1 Homelands acknowledgement and introductions

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded homelands of the ʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and sel̓ilw̱it̓ulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and we give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

Members introduced themselves. Six guests were present.

2 Approve minutes from September meeting

Moved by Jessica, seconded by Brianne, carried unanimously. ACTION: Kim and Caitlin will add Megan to Google Group.

3 Liaison Updates

- City Councillors - Adriane Carr & Heather Deal
No update available.
- Parks Board
Neighbourhood matching funds for arts and culture are available, and include a food stream. Applications are due Nov 8; more info [online](#). Typically projects are awarded \$3-5k, and up to a maximum of \$10k per project.
- Parks Board Staff - Rebecca Till
No update available.
- City Staff - Sarah Carten
 - Liaisons - Sarah will be the main point of contact going forward; James will not regularly attend meetings.
 - Reports to council - The update to the Food Strategy is on track to go to council on October 31. A report on the relocation of Sole Foods will go to council next week. Sole Foods will move to city-owned (non-park) land, and will again be given a temporary license. ACTION: Sarah will send details through the Google group.

Discussion

James will be working on the social infrastructure plan, and his time dedicated to food policy will be reduced. VFPC members expressed concern about this, as it is counter to the motion passed by the VFPC asking for increased resources dedicated to food policy. It was also noted that while food is included in the work plans of some departments (notably Engineering, Parks, Social Planning), there are many where it is not. It was suggested that an ad-hoc working group be formed to work with staff to identify those units with major strategies, policies and plans that currently do not include a food lens (e.g. Renewable City strategy), and to develop relationships with individuals in those units. This would help to make connections between working groups, and also to raise the visibility of food policy within the City, in hopes that units will seek advice from the VFPC as the plans or policies are being drafted. Some concerns were expressed about this work being beyond what should be undertaken by a volunteer committee. ACTION: Members are asked to contact Kim if they would like to participate.

An interdepartmental food team previously existed in the City, which was strong. It's focus has mainly been on community gardens recently. In past, VFPC chairs sometimes participated in meetings but current chairs have found it difficult to attend the meetings as they are held during regular business hours.

It was noted that some cities have a paid Food Policy Coordinator, who works across departments and supports the work of volunteer-based food policy councils.

- Metro Vancouver - Theresa Duynstee
Theresa has circulated Metro Van recommendations for the National Food Policy, which was passed by Board and submitted.
Data from the most recent Census of Agriculture has been compiled and summarized for Metro Vancouver.
ACTION: Theresa will share a link to the summary report.
- Vancouver Coastal Health - Claire Gram
No updates.
- Ministry of Agriculture - Emma Holmes
No update available.
- Youth Food Policy Council - Crezien Bencio
No update available.
- Special Representative - Janet Fraser
No update available.

4 Working Group Updates

- Cross-Working Group Leaders Bi-Monthly Meeting
Chairs have begun working with working group representatives to increase communication between working groups through talking about overlapping issues, identifying challenges and opportunities. The first meeting went well and was helpful, and meetings will continue in December. Those present were working group leads, however any member of the working groups is welcome to attend. Due to scheduling conflicts, no representative from the Food Justice working group was able to attend.

Discussion

There was a request to see if issues could be discussed during meetings, to reduce the number of additional meetings taking place. The Chairs did not intend to exclude people, and their motivation to hold this meeting was to ensure that monthly meeting time of the full council could be allocated to addressing food policy issues. It was suggested that time could be better used during meetings if information is sent in advance by email, and also suggested that some meetings or portions of meetings could be held in-camera to discuss certain issues. The Chairs welcome additional feedback and suggestions on meeting structure by email. Kim would like to attend the next Food Justice meeting, to help identify connections. ACTION: the Food Justice working group will circulate an email address to be used to communicate with the group. ACTION: Kim will circulate the minutes of the first meeting.

- Children and Youth
There has been much press recently about the need for Canada to create a national school food program. Earlier this year, the VFPC and the City of Vancouver passed motions to advocate to higher levels of government, and recently Toronto passed a similar motion (see [press release](#)). The group also learned that resolution proposed to the UBCM in September was referred to the BC School Trustees Association, and will meet to discuss a strategy. It was noted that the UBCM motion was shortened and adapted to match UBCM language. Vicky is planning to attend the Coalition's in-person meeting next month in Montreal. The federal announcement announced three years of funding for [Farm to School](#) (Vancouver's Funding is administered by the Public Health Association of BC.)
- Waste
Single use containers - the working group met with Michelle Harris (CoV, lead on the strategy) and had consensus to endorse the work by the Composting Council of Canada (CCC). Rather than banning biodegradable plastics, which would be difficult for the industry to comply with, the CCC is working to standardize and certify materials. Over last two roundtables, stakeholders have identified that there should be a ban on polystyrene (Styrofoam). Other cities have had success with this, as alternatives exist.

5 Wild Salmon Caravan Vancouver Feast Report Back

The Caravan took place on October 7, and an estimated 1100 meals were served with the help of many volunteers. Close to \$1000 in cash donations was also received. There was high visibility of the VFPC, and the work of Rebecca, Nikoo, and David was acknowledged as well as contributions from UBC Food Services and Discovery Organics. The council may consider appropriate gifts for Dawn to recognize her for her work. ACTION: Nikoo will explore a blog post for the VFPC website. ACTION: Will to circulate photos from the waste stations. ACTION: The Co-Chairs will send letters of thanks to Dawn Morrison on behalf of the council.

6 VanPlay: Parks Board Master Planning Process | Katherine Howard and Megan Herod

The Park Board is creating its first master plan in 20 years. Recently, strategic planning has been topic based. The scale of the strategy is citywide. With a 25-year outlook based on a vision and objectives, this will be used as a long-range planning tool and is a good opportunity to embed values. The scope includes: innovation and vision, places and access, resilience and wellbeing, celebration and tourism, recreation and community, ecology and nature - which all have food aspects. Issue papers are posted on the [project website](#). The process will take inventory, assess community needs, and define a vision before identifying gaps, priorities, and best practices. They are currently in Phase 2 and expect to be finished in 2018. Background research examined how people use parks and found that small parks serve many users. A survey is being conducted and several maps have been created. Consultations with the community are underway. A [SOPARC](#) assessment is being done and will yield valuable information. The plan is focused on parks and community centres, recreation and natural areas.

The first phase which concluded in August established a baseline. The second phase of public engagement is currently underway with several activities to get people talking (outreach at events, social media, survey). The survey showed that 84% of respondents are satisfied with current parks, and that priorities are equality, inclusion, access, arts and culture, and affordability of parks and recreation.

Big ideas include access to nature, wild spaces, and biodiversity. Maintenance has been identified as a challenge. The most frequent uses are dog parks and playgrounds, with (ornamental) gardens having the highest satisfaction. Lack of availability and timing of events have been identified as barriers to access. Work is beginning on identifying opportunities and vulnerabilities. Phase 3 will look at growth, then a draft Playbook will be produced. A series of Smart City talks are planned to encourage a city-wide dialogue, in addition to deep dive workshops. There will be a special focus on downtown. A deep dive workshop includes a workbook and guide to work through issues and provide quality feedback. The VFPC is encouraged to dedicate a meeting to a deep dive workshop.

Sticky notes were distributed, and members were invited to contribute vulnerabilities and opportunities.

Discussion

- Local Food Asset Plan - the Park Board staff confirmed that they are aware of this and have reviewed it.
- Community Centres revenue generating programming and fee for service model can create zones of exclusion.
- Some VFPC members expressed critique of the SOPARC methodology. The Park Board staff responded that it has been adapted to the local environment and colour coding has been changed.
- There are limited native/interpretive plants.
- There is a long wait list for some community gardens.
- There is a lack of use of some community kitchens.
- There is opportunity to embed more permaculture principles.

ACTION: Katherine will send information on the deep dive workshop.

7 City of Vancouver Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy | Waste Working Group and Michelle Harris (City of Vancouver Solid Waste)

- <http://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/single-use-items.aspx>
- <http://council.vancouver.ca/20170627/documents/rr1b.pdf>
- <http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/single-use-consultation-paper-9-12-2017.pdf>

Michelle Harris is in Solid Waste and is leading this strategy which includes disposable cups, plastic and paper bags, as well as food containers. Vancouver throws away 2.6 million disposable cups each week, and 2 million bags. Cups and take out make up 50% of street materials and public bins, and \$2.5M annually is spent to clean them when they are only used for minutes. The last year has been spent looking at best practices and the legal authority under the Vancouver Charter. Five workshops have been done with business and public consultations will also be done, in efforts to avoid any unintended consequences. There four more workshops locally (sign up [online](#)). The consultation period will finish December 15 and a report will go to council in the new year. There is a consultation paper on the website that outlines options. Feedback is welcome through the website or by email.

Discussion

- The working group recommends following the CCC efforts to standardize and certify materials as opposed to banning soft plastics, and encourage retailers to charge a fee (e.g. \$0.25). Rather than focusing on individual behavior, this aims to change the industry as a whole.

- Recommendations from the strategy are short and long term, some are punitive, some are incentives. The City has the legislative power to implement a ban. The VFPC can recommend a stronger statement, as alternatives do exist.
- It is unclear if research has been done on the impact of compostable plastics on marine life.
- The lifespan of compostable plastics should be 45 years, but this is not the case and once on the tipping room floor, these plastics contaminate both organics and plastics streams as there is no way to discern the difference between compostable and non-compostable plastics.
- Styrofoam has been banned in around 100 cities already; the City and Park board no longer use it in-house. There is a local recycler, but it is not included in curbside pickup. One option may be to require that any disposable food ware be recyclable or compostable. If the ban is recommended, a workable system needs to be in place so the costs are not too high for retailers.
- The City is considering how to provide more support to vendors (e.g. clear guidelines for vendors like those at UBC).
- It was recommended that the City continue working with industry associations such as the [Small Scale Food Processors Association](#) and [BC Food Processors Association](#).
- There are concerns over corn-based packaging that may be GMO or produced with pesticides. Options have been suggested such as retailers providing more reusable dishware, prompting customers, and a cup share program.

ACTION: The working group will share the document and send a draft motion for review in advance of the next meeting.

8 VFPC Truth and Reconciliation training and public engagement funding request

In order to build capacity for the VFPC to take a more active role in supporting Indigenous food sovereignty a funding application to the City's Truth and Reconciliation Fund has been submitted by several members. Funds would be used for a screening and panel discussion of the film "All Our Fathers Relations" and two workshops on Indigenous food systems and broad themes related to truth and reconciliation. Dawn Morrison had offered to lead the food system training, and the group feels it is important she be remunerated appropriately. Other facilitators have been suggested for the general workshop. The group has not yet heard back about funding; the film night originally scheduled for November will be delayed as the budget depends in part on ticket sales. The timelines for workshops are flexible; the first was suggested for late 2017, and the other in early 2018. **ACTION:** Sarah to follow up on the application, to see when a decision will be made. It was noted that the training would be for all members and liaisons, and should be mandatory (members may be able to participate virtually if unable to attend). It was noted that the [Reconciliation Canada](#) website is a rich source of information. There was agreement that the council will commit to a series of sessions (beginning early in 2018) over the next nine months before the council is dissolved in advance of the municipal election.

9 2017-2018 VFPC Work Plan Update

Each working group has goals, and in addition to an overarching goal of diversity and inclusion. The City may be open to changing the recruitment process to include people with lived experience, and not structured by the current economic model. Other civic advisory committees are also exploring this, and best practices are being researched. Crecian will speak at the Council of Councils meeting. It was suggested that meeting time be dedicated to this, as it has come up several times over the years. **ACTION:** Zsuzsi will circulate the report "Food Policy for All". Members were encouraged to view the webinar that Steph had sent earlier. Members were encouraged to add key files to the Google Drive, in addition to circulating by email.

10 Bread Basket

- Co-chair transition
Caitlin is planning to step down from the co-chair position by January 2018, members are encouraged to consider taking on a co-chair position in the coming months. The goal is to have staggered co-chair terms. The new co-chair should be interested in staying on council for the next term as well. Nominations are welcome.
- Council of Councils Meeting
Tabled.
- Agenda setting
Tabled.

11 Motion to adjourn

Moved by Jessica, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm