

Vancouver Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

6:00pm-8:30pm

Woodwards Building

111 Hasting Street, 5th Floor



Chairs: Caitlin Dorward and David Speight (Acting)

Council Members: Will Jung, Kevin Huang, Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson, Brianne Miller, Tara Moreau, Jessica Pautsch Marc Schutzbank, Georgia Stanley, Jesse Veenstra, Chantille Viaud

City-Appointed Liaisons: James O'Neill (Social Policy, CoV), Councillor Carr (City Council), Sarah Carten (Social Policy, CoV), Theresa Duynstee (Metro Vancouver), Commissioner Wiebe (Park Board)

Other Liaisons: Janet Fraser (Special Representative), Emma Holmes (Ministry of Ag), Crecien Bencio (Vancouver Youth Food Policy Council), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Megan Herod (Park Board)

Regrets: Jess Dennis, Zsuzsi Fodor, Kim Hodgson, Stefan Misse, Stephanie Lim, Councillor Deal (City Council)

Absent: Damien Bryan, Nikoo Boroumand, Clare Cullen, Dirk Gibbs

1 Homelands acknowledgement and introductions

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded homelands of the ʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sel̓ilwítlh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations and we give thanks for their generosity and hospitality.

Members introduced themselves. Seven guests were present.

2 Approve minutes from June and July meetings

Minor amendments were made to the draft July meetings.

Motion to approve June and amended July minutes: moved by Tara, seconded by Caitlin, carried unanimously.

3 Liaison Updates

Park Board - Megan Herod is a new Planner with the Parks Board and is now working on the local food portfolio. Megan has a background in planning and a long interest in food. She is currently catching up with backlog of requests, and following that will look strategically at an action plan. Megan and Rebecca Till will provide an update at the next meeting as to their roles as liaisons. Megan is planning to attend VFPC meetings.

VCH - no updates.

YVFPC - no updates.

City Council - Councillor Carr attended the Urban Aboriginal Advisory Council meeting recently, at which VFPC's City staff liaisons presented about the Food Strategy Update underway. There is a willingness to work together, and the presentation was well received. Councillor Carr mentioned the upcoming by-election - Oct 14 for one council seat and a full school board. More information available at <https://vancouver.ca/your-government/2017-by-election.aspx>.

MoAg - no updates.

False Creek Flats plan public hearing will take place soon. Speakers can sign up in advance, and also onsite. Information had been circulated to the Development working group, however nobody can attend. Caitlin may attend. CAITLIN will forward info to rest of council. The VFPC's previous work related to the False Creek Flats was led by the Development Working group, which brought a motion to VFPC in June last year, asking the City to consider other options besides Malkin Ave for an East-West artillery route and to preserve Produce Row and Cottonwood gardens. It has had limited involvement otherwise.

It was clarified that the Public Hearing will specifically address land use and zoning. An innovation hub (planned across from Science World) is more relevant to the VFPC, and would entail a new land use for anticipated activities. It is

unclear if rooftop garden guidelines are included in land use guidelines.

4 Working Group Updates

Work Plan - will be finalized in the coming weeks, once all groups have entered their information, and sent to the Clerk's Office to share with City Council.

The Food Justice group suggested an overarching goal to conduct a critical review of the VFPC's membership structure. The current structure prioritizes professional and education over lived experiences, which can exclude people that have much to offer. The meeting structure may also be reviewed. Interest exists from other councils that also want to undertake a similar process, and there may be opportunity to work with all advisory groups across the City. There is openness in the City to change; the VFPC needs to identify gaps in representation and determine appropriate questions for the application forms used for Civic Advisory Committees. It was noted that the VFPC will dissolve next fall when the municipal elections take place. It was recommended that this issue be addressed during an upcoming meeting, with a small group to prepare - Cricien, Sharnelle, Kevin, Marc, and Caitlin volunteered to form the small group to prepare

TARA and CAITLIN will review and edit the work plan, and CAITLIN will circulate the final plan to the whole council with a deadline to respond with any final edits before it's sent to the City Clerk.

Waste WG met with the City to discuss single use items and what the City might be able to ban. There will be roundtables in Oct-Nov before the release of a decision to city council. Recommendations include banning biodegradable plastics, and to follow the Composting Council of Canada guidelines instead of the Zero Waste guidelines. WILL will liaise with the Chairs about invitations for the October meeting. Public consultations will take place over the next 3 months, the WASTE WG will circulate information. A ban on plastic bags has not been recommended as a study of waste in the landfill showed that many residents reuse them for garbage, rather than purchasing new bags. There may be other environmental impacts to banning plastic without an alternative available, even paper. Other options are being explored; a 5-10 cent added cost may be considered.

5 Wild Salmon Caravan Vancouver Feast Working Group Update

- Update on progress

Planning is going well, and the group is pleased with support. David and UBC food services are partnering and providing support. Dave (farmer's apprentice) is a chef and is a key support person. Nikoo is the volunteer coordinator. Bo is a site supervisor to make sure all is set up properly. The menu is being planned for 1200 and will include BBQ salmon (from Haida nation), whole grain bannock, corn bread, salad (from Discovery Organics and possibly urban farmers), tea/coffee. Food donations are much needed; menu list and amounts, and an event description are available. Fresh Roots has a refrigerated van and a cooler at the Italian Cultural Centre. Jesse, Brianna, and Georgia can help explore donations. CAITLIN will share member email addresses to facilitate communication. Donors' logos will be requested as part of the recognition process. REBECCA will see if she can share the acknowledgement process with the VFPC. Members were reminded to make the values of the potlach explicit - to give to the community because you can. There is a sacredness to the ask and the process. MICHAEL will contact Recycling Alternatives to see if they can manage waste. DAVID will liaise with WILL on a plan for food recovery after the event.

6 Food Strategy Action Plan 2010-2020 - Update from James O'Neill and Sarah Carten

The draft Action Plan was circulated with the agenda. The Action Plan is aligned with other city-wide strategies (Healthy Cities, Greenest City, Vancouver Economic Commission Economic plan), and uses a systems approach with food as a tool to advance policy. The five key goals from the original the Food Strategy remain the same; the focus on specific actions will change. The draft Action Plan is scheduled to be presented to City Council on Oct 31. The Action Plan fulfills the requirement to report back to Council on progress towards implementing the Food Strategy, and incorporates new directions that respond to emerging issues and were not in the original Food Strategy: Reconciliation, Food Access, and Resilience. James and Sarah have met with various stakeholders both internally and externally to develop the Action Plan, and have developed key performance indicators (KPIs) linked to the new actions which can be used to track demonstrate change over time. JAMES will circulate KPIs to the VFPC.

Discussion

- The Action Plan incorporates input from the VFPC and needs to be finalized a month before going to council.
- The Action Plan seems smaller than the list of actions that were included in the Food Strategy. It was clarified that previous actions which are still relevant are included in the strategy, with the new actions being prioritized. Previous actions were more specific and some became obsolete or irrelevant, while the new ones are broader and more adaptable.
- Will the specific actions be listed annually, to show what has been achieved and to allow community groups to help achieve the goals? The Action Plan includes immediate steps for each action.
- There will be opportunities for James and Sarah to work with the VFPC on specific action items, and VFPC guidance will be sought in addressing larger goals.
- As part of supporting a sustainable food system, this Action Plan does not seem to explicitly recognize the City's reliance on food from across the province. This could include institutional procurement, buy local, or an acknowledgement that most of Vancouver's food comes from elsewhere. Preservation of the ALR is still included. Previous attempts to work on procurement have not advanced the issue, and resources may be better placed elsewhere. An option could be to include language in RFPs to require a certain percentage of local/organic, or other parameters that would give Vancouver the opportunity to be a leader.
- The action related to Farmers markets can be made less prescriptive, with 'local' better defined; GEORGIA can suggest wording.
- The Action Plan does not include support for restaurants to encourage local food, and is related to the cost of local /organic food. There is no governing body to monitor or enforce 'organic restaurants'. It was recommended that the City explore ways to provide support.
- The Action Plan does not clearly indicate what 'success' looks like; perhaps KPIs could be made more meaningful.
- The Park Board's has several actions in its Local Food plan, and will work with the City to complete them. Some of the work that has been done to date, including metrics, is not reflected in the Action Plan. It was noted that some areas (such as waste) have less emphasis as the City is developing a robust plan through the 2040 Zero Waste Plan.
- The Action Plan was developed as a result of a gap analysis of the original plan, and the broadness of the goals is intended to ensure responsiveness to emerging issues.

There was general agreement that this Action Plan is supported in principle, and the following motion was tabled:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the VFPC supports the three new focus areas of the draft Food Strategy Action Plan, would like to advise (within its capacity) on implementation and measures of success, and asks the City increase resourcing to the food strategy to a level that is adequate to achieve it.

Moved Mark, seconded by Kevin, carried unanimously.

Members were reminded that they can attend and speak at the Oct 31 Public Hearing.

7 VFPC Submission to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on the National Food Policy

With the opportunity for organizations to submit a written proposal, a letter was developed in collaboration with the City, VCH, Metro Vancouver, and PHSABC and will be sent independently by the VFPC. Edits have been made, and the revised letter has been shared with VFPC members. The preamble includes the mandate of the VFPC, and the letter is limited to one page. The letter is aligned with the goals of Food Secure Canada and a joined-up food policy, and uses the language used by the government.

Discussion

- It was suggested that the word 'civic' may emphasize cities over rural areas and civic employees, and should be removed or amended to 'community representation'.
- It was also suggested that 'adaptation and mitigation' can be added to priority 5, and end the sentence at "...National Food Policy."
- Priority 2 can be clarified to reflect that 'health, food sovereignty, and land stewardship' refer to indigenous

food systems.

The following motion was tabled:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the VFPC approves the 5 priorities as in the letter, and appended to the minutes. Chairs approved to send letter on behalf of council.

Moved by Caitlin, seconded by Marc, carried unanimously.

The Chairs' names and signatures will be added.

8 Bread Basket

- Council of Councils meeting - please 'reply all' if you plan to attend.
- Google Drive - it was agreed that this be used to share meeting notes and material, with folders for each month. CAITLIN to share link to the folder.
- Walk for reconciliation - Sept 24, email will be sent to explore registering a team.
- Agenda items - members are encouraged to send ideas with a realistic idea of how much time is needed.
- The Vancouver Food Summit is coming up on Sept 28. Information at <http://gordonhouse.org/vancouver-food-summit/>
- Wild Salmon Caravan - everyone is encouraged to promote this event <https://wildsalmoncaravan.wordpress.com/>

9 Motion to adjourn

Moved by Will, seconded by Sharnelle.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm