



Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
6:00pm-8:30pm  
Town Hall Room, City Hall

**Interim Leadership Team:** Jesse Veenstra, Georgia Stanley, David Speight, Kimberly Hodgson

**Meeting Chairs:** Jesse Veenstra and David Speight

**Council Members:** Nikoo Boroumand, Zsuzsi Fodor, Kevin Huang, Stephanie Lim, Brianne Miller, Tara Moreau, Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson, Aditia Rudra, Marc Schutzbank

**City-Appointed Liaisons:** Sarah Carten (Social Policy, CoV), Megan Herod (Park Board), Commissioner Wiebe (Park Board), Lindsay Bisschop (MoAg)

**Invited guest:** Nick Page (Park Board)

**Regrets:** Clare Cullen, Stefan Misse, Caitlin Dorward, Councillor Carr (City Council), Councillor Deal (City Council), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health)

**Leave of Absence:** Dirk Gibbs

**Absent:** Joy Alexander (VSB), Kimberly Hodgson, Jessica Pautsch

## 1 Homelands acknowledgement

*We acknowledge that we are on the unceded homelands of the ʷməθkʷəjəm (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations and we give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands*

Members and twelve guests introduced themselves.

## 2 Honouring of Will Jung

Council received the sad news that Will passed away at the end of May. To celebrate his contributions, the VFPC shared a moment of silence. A letter read that was signed by the Mayor and sent to his family. Donations can be made to the Lung Association, at the request of the family. Members shared memories of Will and his work.

## 3 Approve minutes from June meeting

Moved by Georgia, seconded by David, carried unanimously.

## 4 Liaison Updates

- City Councillors - Adriane Carr & Heather Deal  
No update available.
- Parks Board Commissioner - Michael Wiebe  
No update available.
- Parks Board Staff - Megan Herod  
Local Food Action Plan update - see item #6
- VSB Trustee - Joy Alexander  
No update available.
- City Staff - Sarah Carten  
Kitchens - the City is exploring the capacity for small rentals. The question was raised about if a limit should be put on the use for non-standard uses (e.g. catering, food manufacturing). The goal is to provide enough time for a production run, and at the same time, allow time for community programming.

## Discussion

- Suggestion to have hierarchy to prioritize groups wanting to rent
- A cap may make it harder for neighbourhood houses to get revenue.
- New uses cannot take away time for programming for existing meal provision.
- Organizations could block hours for programming, and open other times for alternate uses.
- Organizations should be able to negotiate what is in their space.
- It was noted there are different mandates for community centre vs neighbourhood houses.
- It was suggested to engage community and businesses.
- Consider if the use supports the mandate/mission of the organization, or if it is a financial decision. This is important for City-run facilities, as the City wants to support local businesses.
- It was noted that the kitchens were not built as commercial spaces.

Given the discussion, it seems a hard cap is not needed, but principles can be developed and used at the discretion of organizations. Guidelines around how to resolve conflict may also be needed.

Food Assets - The Google doc is still active, and members are invited to provide further comment. The City will use the VFPC endorsement process, with a goal of finalizing the discussion at the October meeting. Members were asked to identify further actions needed in advance, to ensure there is agreement with the outcome. The Cultural Communities advisory council declined to engage, as they were unsure of what their contribution would be. Both the Healthy City and Resiliency Strategy will be engaged, along with other internal groups. The hope is that the definition and principles can be used as a decision-making tool.

## Discussion

- It is unclear how the definition will be operationalized in the food strategy 'reheat'.
- The definition is not intended to lead to specific actions. It is hoped that by using a systems view of food assets, that the definition and principles can be used to guide decisions for grant allocations, major strategies, and other areas. ACTION: Sarah will explore and provide some examples of where the definition could be used.
- It was noted that the formal definition does not include all the conceptual ideas included in the principles. There was general agreement that it should be broadened.
- 'Assets' may not be the best term, and is used in the absence of a better term.
- ACTION: Sarah will continue working on it, and bring back in October. With other strategies moving forward and given that this council disbanded, it can be powerful to say that the VFPC supports this. Would be a document on website.
- It is important to know who will refer to this definition, and if they are binding principles.
- There has been informal community engagement, recognizing it can be difficult for groups to imagine the relevance, and while it is recognized that this is culturally important, they are unclear on how to engage.
- In light of cultural development and aspects of property and licensing, it is clear that food and culture cannot be separated from these. It was recommended to continue trying to engage with the Creative City Strategy.

- Vancouver Coastal Health - Claire Gram

No update available.

- Ministry of Agriculture - Lindsay Bisschop

No update available.

## 5 Park Board Update - Local Food Action Plan (LFAP)

This update responds to the VFPC motion of Feb 2018 that requested an update on the LFAP. The Park Board commissioners were also updated on key progress to date through a memo sent on July 12.

The LFAP was finalized in 2013 as a forward-thinking planning document. The update will begin at the end of 2018. The LFAP set four priority areas:

1 Increasing physical food assets, including pollinator gardens (not only food gardens). More funding has been provided through garden infrastructure grants. A new garden at Van Dusen provides education and is food bank-focused.

2 Sustainable and local food economies - this includes farmers markets, field houses, and concession strategies.

3 Expanding Engaged and Capacity Rich Food Networks - this includes the Sustenance Festival, and a new active net category for food to connect programming to residents. Neighbourhood matching funds are also available, with dedicated funds for food projects. Soil generation is an area where more work needs to be done, as it overlaps with the concession strategy and waste management, and ties in with larger City work. There have been challenges to identify where to house facilities, and questions about if it is still needed given that the City has a regional system in place.

#### 4 Planning initiatives

In October, an update will look at what was achieved and what work needs to continue. A foundation for community engagement will also be set, to ensure the process is community driven. Questions about what has changed, what emerging priorities there are, who should be engaged and how, will be addresses.

The VFPC was asked how they would like to be engaged (during meeting time, through a working group, workshop, etc.). In the fall, a pre-strategy scoping with the VFPC and others will determine how people will be involved. The plan is to complete the update in 2019 with a goal of getting it approved by the Park Board in fall 2019.

#### Discussion

- The plan come from a task force with broad participation; a similar committee could be struck for this.
- An integrated document (with City, VSB) could lead to better connections between policies. There is a political dimension to that decision. While some strategies (e.g. Biodiversity strategy) are shared by Park and City, there can be benefits of having them separate to allow for specific focus. There is a larger gap with the VSB. In the case the documents remain separate, there can be better coordination (e.g. definition of food assets)
- As this council disbands in the fall, it will be hard to engage formally, although informal conversations can happen.
- The VSB is exploring its land use, and the staff working in Sustainability may want to engage. Park land is used as required space for VSB.
- The Park Board has proposed \$400k for gardens and local projects in the capital plan for the next 4 years to fund staff time and on-the-ground work, but has not yet been approved. The last capital plan had \$300k for local food and \$300k for environmental stewardship.
- The engagement process can be rethought in October. While informal conversations are good, formal conversations will be more meaningful. If a formal motion around stakeholder engagement is needed, it can be brought to VFPC in October.

#### 6 Sustenance Festival Report - Stephanie

The festival is focused on arts, food, and culture. In 2016, funding was cut, and it was decided to rethink the event, noting that it had attracted mostly white, middle-class people and did not represent the diversity of the City. Using an asset-based lens, it was decided to explore what minority groups are currently doing and how they can be better connected and supported. Through meetings with community leaders, it was learned that there are issues of discrimination, and that people are cynical about being over-consulted and under-represented. Given this, it was decided that rather than focus on one single event, that small grants would be offered and a fall celebration will be planned, partnering with the Food Summit and Neighbourhood Houses for food. The importance of relationship-building is key to build trust so people can feel safe working with contracted consultants. The 50-page report showcases what is happening at the grassroots level. To encourage

more engagement, relationships must be built with those that don't necessarily identify as 'foodies', and to involve people as leaders, not only participants. It was noted that resources are needed to carry out this work.

#### Discussion

- The report can be leveraged to table a motion to move the issue forward.
- An Executive Summary would be helpful to distill key recommendations/guiding principles, and lead to an appropriate engagement process.
- As this is a complex issue, a task force could be engaged on this, and would help with the work to update the LFAP.
- The report itself is specific to the Sustenance Festival; broader issues and implications can be found in the appendix.  
ACTION: Steph will keep the VFPC informed about the development of the Executive summary, which can lead to the development of a motion.

### 7 Escobar Restaurant Update

Both the letter and motion have been worked on further and drafts have been circulated to the VFPC. Community members continue to follow the development of the issue. They have been blocked on social media channels, and are focusing on trying to ensure this can be avoided in the future. The draft motion recommends that resources should be allocated to three areas. There is not a full understanding with some food and beverage actors, and some are looking for the City's perspective. The question was raised about the separation of food and history, and how this relates to welcoming spaces. It was decided to focus on the open letter, as it will have a wider reach than the motion, which only goes to council.

Motion:

To approve open letter regarding Escobar restaurant, pending final edits.

Moved by Steph, seconded by Nikoo, carried unanimously.

Members are asked to consider their roles as individuals to mobilize their networks and share the letter.

### 8 VFPC 2018 Key Priorities Council Engagement

Each group had 5 minutes to caucus and 15 minutes to engage the entire VFPC in dialogue on their priority

- Reconciliation & Decolonizing the Vancouver Food System  
A survey had been circulated to members with two questions. It was noted that the working group would benefit from more members - members are asked to contact Nikoo if interested. The first question asked "What did you take from the workshops?" Responses included: increased awareness of the issue, awareness of unintentional actions, there are gaps in knowledge (e.g. protocol), appreciation for Brad's story and Dawn's protocol, an example of how development could be done, concern of cost and question if work could be done through self-study, and that Brad's workshop was informational but general. The second question asked "What areas would you wish to explore further?" Responses included: building relationships with urban indigenous community and local first nations, supporting existing work around indigenous food sovereignty, embracing decolonized ways of operating, exploring Dawn's suggestions for action, further suggestions for first priorities, to suggest to future council, examining what could be done in the next few months and intersections with other groups, and endorsing the policy brief by Dawn.

#### Discussion

- Cost of workshops - the question of value for the cost of the workshops is problematic. There is history and reasons why not to trust this group; it is not a safe space for an indigenous person. The workshops help to be voice for those who are not here.
  - Dawn's workshop is scheduled for Aug 15. She has access to the survey, and can base the continued work on that.
  - Institutional memory - how can these conversations stand with the new council? The next council can be set up with the priority areas, which can be made more public on the website. More funding will be needed; the VFPC will need to commit to raising funds.
- Food on the Election Table

- Members were asked to submit questions based on certain themes.
  - It was noted that the election event will not replace the September meeting.
  - A venue is being sought with capacity for 100-150 people that is available in the evening during the first week of October at the latest, with chairs and tables and is accessible for marginalized people. It is hoped that the event can happen in conjunction with other events, perhaps the Sustenance Festival.
  - The goal is to have marginalized views heard by the City, to create accountability between elected officials and the food policy council, and to raise the candidate's awareness of these themes.
  - Some questions will be written and submitted to candidates beforehand, and some will be asked at the event. The working group will collect the members' questions and determine common themes.
- **Membership Structure**  
It was noted that the membership structure has not changed since the VFPC was formed. The landscape has changed, and there is a desire to reflect that at the table.

The current structure is based on food supply chain sectors. The process will need to be worked on further, recognizing barriers and providing a pathway for meaningful participation. A motion will be proposed for passing in October, which will go to City Council.

The proposal is to keep 21 voting members, and to reduce members based on the supply chain to one for each sector rather than 3. Two members each are proposed for four new priorities - diversity, access, resilience, and reconciliation and indigenous food sovereignty, with eight members of different identities. These would come from the City's priority population. It has not been decided how to ask those questions on the application form.

#### Discussion

- Disabled people are not included as a marginalized group.
- If the motion passes in October, the process may already be underway.
- Questions could be framed around language and diversity, asking for around multi-lingual skills which may also increase communications.
- The selection process involves City staff and co-chairs, who provides recommendations to City Council, who make the final decision about membership. The recruitment process will be more important than selection process.
- A timeline for revisiting the structure should be included; two years was suggested.
- The VFPC can be clearer about priorities and the work it does, so new members can come in more informed.
- It was suggested to aim for September to submit a draft motion.
- ACTION: Working group will share the draft motion with the VFPC.

#### 9 **Bread Basket** Tabled.

#### 10 **Motion to adjourn**

Moved by Georgia, seconded by Brianne,

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.