

Vancouver Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall



Chair: Caitlin Dorward

Co-Chair: Kim Hodgson

Council Members: Nikoo Boroumand, Zsuzsi Fodor, , Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson, Stephanie Lim, Brianne Miller, Stefan Misse, Tara Moreau, Jessica Pautsch, Aditi Rudra, Marc Schutzbank, David Speight, Georgia Stanley, Jesse Veenstra, Kevin Huang,

City-Appointed Liaisons: Sarah Carten (Social Policy, CoV), Megan Herod (Park Board), Rebecca Till (Park Board)

Other Liaisons: Crezien Bencio (Vancouver Youth Food Policy Council), Lindsay Bisschop (MoAg), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Jaspal Marwah (Metro Van)

Regrets: Clare Cullen, Will Jung, Joy Alexander (VSB)

Absent: Damien Bryan, Dirk Gibbs, Chantille Viaud, Joy Alexander (VSB), Commissioner Wiebe (Park Board), Councillor Carr (City Council), Councillor Deal (City Council)

1 Homelands acknowledgement and introductions

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded homelands of the $^w m \theta k^w \text{ay} \text{əm}$ (Musqueam), $s_k w x w \acute{u} 7 \text{mesh}$ (Squamish), and $m i \text{ ce:p } k^w \text{ətx}^w i \text{l} \text{əm}$ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and we give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

Revision to agenda: Item 3 (Introducing new liaisons) has been replaced with Nomination of Dawn Morrison for Arrell award.

Members introduced themselves. Six guests were present. It was noted that Jaspal Marwah (Metro Van), Trustee Joy Alexander (Vancouver School Board), and Lindsay Bisschop (Ministry of Agriculture) have been appointed as new liaisons.

2 Approve minutes from October meeting

Moved by Marc, seconded by Brianne, carried unanimously.

3 Nomination of Dawn Morrison for Arrell Food Innovation Award

A comprehensive process was undertaken to create a nomination package for Dawn's work on Indigenous food sovereignty, with the idea to use the VFPC's position to elevate Indigenous voices to the forefront. Several members of the VFPC were involved, with Dawn's support, to focus her application on the community stream.

Dawn thanked the VFPC for their support and time. If chosen for the award, the funds will be used to further her work in the coming years. The Wild Salmon Caravan parade was well attended; members are encouraged to see all the photos on their Facebook page.

It was noted that the process of drafting the application was a good exercise for the council to experience what decolonizing the food system entails.

ACTION: Caitlin will circulate the nomination package.

3 Liaison Updates

3.1 City Councillors - Adriane Carr & Heather Deal
Tabled.

3.2 Parks Board Commissioner - Michael Wiebe
Tabled.

3.3 Parks Board Staff - Rebecca Till & Megan Herod

Rebecca - Neighbourhood matching funds are available for projects involving food, greening, and arts.

Following collaboration with Planning, the fund has now been tripled. Projects can be on VSB, park, or city

land, and can include the creation of a toolkit, as long as the project is citizen-driven and has ongoing public engagement. There is now \$150k/year with intakes in the Spring (April) and Fall.

Sustenance festival - is the Park Board's food, arts, and culture festival. A report is being completed and next steps will be based on the recommendations in the report. Stephanie's role with intercultural communities will continue during a year-long process of capacity building.

Megan - is in the Planning side of the Park Board. Her work includes urban agriculture projects on Park land, with a strategic lens to improve the local food system. The Local Food Action Plan is at the end of its 5 year term, and the Park Board is beginning to scope what a new plan might look like, building on the existing plan, including looking at different models of agriculture on Park land.

The Park Board is doing capital planning for the next 4 months, and are pitching budgets for next 4 years. There are overlaps with this process and the LFAP. They are open to discussing this with the VFPC.

Discussion

The Park Board is open to engaging VFPC on the scoping of the LFAP update. This could be done through time at monthly meetings or through a working group. It was noted that the VFPC does not represent all stakeholders in the food system but can help Park Board connect with stakeholders who are not represented at our table. An update on the existing plan (what was achieved or not, or missed) will be part of the scoping.

ACTION: KIM/CAITLIN will circulate Megan's contact info to members.

3.4 Vancouver Coastal Health - Claire Gram

VCH will start an evaluation of its food security work and projects, looking at outcomes and impacts. The evaluation will also, in part, look at the model of delivery through supporting food networks, the strength of that model and how it can be used in other health promotion areas. The evaluation will be complete in the late fall 2018.

3.5 Youth Food Policy Council - Crezien Bencio

The VYFPC has struggled with its governance model and will not continue in its current form. Crezien recommended that there continue to be a seat for 'youth' at the VFPC table. VFPC members encouraged the VYFPC to reflect on any recommendations for the VFPC regarding its relationship with the youth council.

3.6 Metro Van - Jaspal

Jaspal is a Planner at Metro Van, and has replaced Theresa Duynstee as the liaison to Metro Vancouver. He is working on the Regional Food System Action Plan (following the 2011 strategy), and coordinates the social issues subcommittee.

At the end of 2017, municipal staff across the region met to talk about actions taken to date on the Regional Food System Action Plan, and the next steps are being distilled. They will continue to meet and explore issues that were identified. **ACTION:** Jaspal will circulate action items. They hope to implement 3-4 learning opportunities for staff per year, in addition to hosting semiannual gatherings of municipal staff to identify opportunities for cooperation.

4 **City Staff Liaison Update: Redefining Food Assets - Background (Sarah Carten)**

The idea to redefine 'food assets' comes in part from the Hua Foundation's research on the losses in Chinatown, and how food assets are defined. The City will look at the process and framing, and explore which questions should be asked to arrive at the answer. The process will include looking at how food assets are defined elsewhere, the heritage definition, what should be included and where the City can have influence.

Discussion

Kevin will likely be part of conversation though he was not present at this meeting, and Kim and Marc agreed to help. There is support for a themed meeting if a core group can help prepare the meeting. There is no strict timeline, the City was thanked for engaging the VFPC early in the process.

5 **Children and Youth Working Group Update**

Tara provided an overview of the working group's activities, which include motions from the VFPC and the City of Vancouver as well as a resolution that was endorsed at the Union of BC Municipalities conference, to support a national universal school food program. The group is currently working with new members and School District 44,

with support from VSB, on a similar motion for the BC School Trustee's Association. Working group representatives have gone to the in person meeting of the Coalition for Healthy School Food in 2016 and 2017.

The working group proposed a motion to request the Mayor to participate in the [Great Big Crunch](#) and to do a related proclamation on March 1.

Proclamations don't represent a policy commitment but they do raise awareness. The idea is to bring energy and attention to the need for a national healthy school food program that is cost shared by multiple levels of government that serves all children while at school. The City and VSB are working on providing healthy food to school children, however it is difficult to be fully effective, which is why there is a need for a universal system.

After some discussion, the VFPC recommended that the wording of the motion and proclamation be revised to include recognition of the 'right to food' and circulated by email for approval. It was noted that it is important to clarify that a school meal program alone will not cure food insecurity for children.

ACTION: working group to revise proposed proclamation and circulate to the VFPC for approval.

6 Reconciliation Training Planning Update

Working group submitted a grant application to the City for training with Dawn on Indigenous food systems and food sovereignty, tentatively set for April, with the February meeting as a more general 'Reconciliation 101' training. The February date may change; the group is seeking facilitators and shortlisting, and will update the VFPC by email. Factors that are being considered include the potential for a long-term partnership, accessibility of the venue, and alignment of values. Terms of any partnership would need to be reviewed by the VFPC in advance.

The working group will advise the FPC if the proposed training will happen in February or not. If not, a regular meeting will take place.

7 Priorities for 2018 and Organizing without Co-Chairs

It was acknowledged that this is Caitlin's last meeting as co-chair. Caitlin was thanked for all her leadership in the past couple years; Kim was also thanked for her time as co-chair.

The Co-Chairs are volunteers and the role can be demanding with many responsibilities, and as such capacity has ebbed and flowed. The VFPC needs to determine a model moving forward, as there are currently no chairs for the February meeting.

Summary of major outcomes from November/December discussions:

- Challenge of Co-Chair position - current scope of role is not sustainable, so other models such as a Leadership Committee or no leaders, are being considered. This is a chance to reexamine and refocus ahead of the election, and to consider unknown impacts.
- Suggested priorities for 2018 - reconciliation (including piloting training that would in future happen at beginning of term, expectation that all advisory committees should do), food on the municipal election agenda, VFPC post-election, connecting with other advisory committees, working group priorities, and redefining food assets.
- Engagement - Members (Caitlin, Kim, Marc, and Kevin) met with Sarah and James to talk about the process of policy development, and improving VFPC's relationship with the City so it can be engaged in advising on policy at an early stage. **ACTION:** Caitlin will circulate a 'cheat sheet' about the process that was developed by James and Sarah as an outcome of that discussion.
- Membership structure - to look at opportunity to work with council on a new structure that moves away from food sector professionals to one that also includes those with lived experience.

Discussion

Advisory committees will be disbanded the week after the election in November, and are expected to be reinstated in December. As recruitment will happen in January 2019, there will probably be a lag of a few months with no council. Members are reminded they must reapply.

After much discussion, the following decisions were made:

Each VFPC member should only lead one priority. Active working groups will continue their work in addition to the priorities identified below:

- Election and post-election (Sharnelle). It was noted that there is a provincial community of practice for food systems in BC that is also looking at election.
- Reconciliation (Steph, Kevin, and Jesse-film night) - Caitlin
- Membership structure (including youth seat) - (Zsuzsi, perhaps with Kevin)

Ad Hoc working groups:

- Food Assets (Sarah, with Colin as the suggested working group rep)
- LFAP (Megan, with Kim and Caitlin as working group reps)

Connecting with other advisory committees will happen as related to other priorities. Priority Leads need to consider when meeting time will be needed, and prepare the coordination of that meeting.

One option is to meet less frequently with more informal meetings with voting members. The minimum number of official meetings for advisory councils is 6-10 per year. It was decided to meet in February, even if the training does not happen.

At the next meeting, Jessica will provide a demonstration of the Slack platform for communications, with a goal of providing a safe space for more inclusive communications.

Kim, Jesse, and David volunteered to form an interim leadership team to review leadership roles and structure and coordinate the upcoming meeting. The goal will be to determine a manageable leadership model for the coming months. It was noted that members not in attendance at this meeting are also able to join the leadership group if they are interested.

8 Bread Basket

VUFS - two years ago the VFPC agreed to help the City to understand impact of the new bylaws, working with City and the VUFS. VUFS has requested a letter of support to do research around issues related to licenses and the related building code that applies to greenhouses. A motion was proposed:

To support the Vancouver Urban Farmers Society by writing a letter of support for their application for funds for their proposed research project.

It was noted that a previous motion was approved to support the new bylaws, contingent on finding the answers to these questions. Members are welcome to send edits to Marc as soon as possible. It was clarified that a working group cannot sign anything on behalf of the council. It was noted that the process for endorsement was not followed. After some discussion, the motion was MOVED by Tara, and seconded by Kim. 11 in favour, 2 opposed, motion carried. ACTION: Marc will circulate the research proposal.

9 Motion to adjourn

Moved by Jesse, seconded by Jessica.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm