

Vancouver Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall



Chairs: Emme Lee and David Speight (Acting)

Council Members: Veronik Campbell, Anna Cavouras, Rebecca Cuttler, Zsuzsi Fodor, Antonietta Gesualdi, Will Jung, Stephanie Lim, Pat McCarthy, Saber Miresmailli, Tara Moreau, Colin Stansfield,

Liaisons: vanessa bui (VYFPC), Heather Deal (City Council), Corinne Eisler (VCH), James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Sarah Carten (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Michael Wiebe (Park Board)

Invited guests: Brent Mansfield (BC Food Systems), Jessica Land (VSB), Laura Track (BCCLA), Matthew Kemshaw (Farm to School BC)

Regrets: Adriane Carr (City Council), Caitlin Dorward, Theresa Duynstee, Janet Fraser (VSB), Kimberly Hodgson, Ilana Labow

Absent: Dirk Gibbs, Chashma Heinze, Gabrielle Kissinger, Orlando Schmidt

Agenda Items:

1 Motion to accept Previous Minutes

Moved by Colin, seconded by Will, carried unanimously.

2 Introductions

Members introduced themselves and explained their connection to the food system in Vancouver. Nineteen guests were present.

vanessa bui, from the Vancouver Youth Food Policy Council was welcomed as a new liaison to the VFPC. The group has been in existence for one year and has a mission and a vision, and is working on gaining new members, determining their structure, and working on goals. Their aim is to work with youth, creating resources and increasing capacities to be engaged in food system. It was decided that the representative will be rotating. Zsuzsi has been liaising with the YFPC and is looking for an alternate liaison. Antonietta will continue to liaise with the VYFPC.

Members were reminded of the 'bread basket' to move items for future discussion. A task list will be created and will be sent shortly after the meeting.

Spotlight - Rebecca Cuttler

Rebecca is a new member on council. She wears many hats as a writer and broadcaster about food, and is passionate about what can happen when we grow our own food. She writes regular columns for the Vancouver Observer, Howe's.com, and Abundant city. She previously did a radio show and has taught for Hollyhock. She also makes gardening videos. Her garden is not where she lives, like many in Vancouver, and works to figure out solutions to growing food, and having sustainable sources for food, recognizing barriers to accessing good food. Rebecca was able to grow almost all the green produce she needed from April - October. She is interested in social and environmental issues and spoke at the Vancouver Food Summit on 'Is local food more just?' She works for Joel Solomon who invests in social environmental responsibility, and works with entrepreneurs who create more sustainable sources of food for all of us. ACTION: Rebecca will send links and video.

Spotlight - Will Jung

Will's parents emigrated from China, and he recalls how his family always had a community garden and shared food with neighbours. He remembers discussions about what could be grown. He became interested in gardening and compost but studied electrical engineering before being drawn back to compost. In 2008, he sold his engineering company and started a soil amendment company. He met Brent [Mansfield] and began attending FPC meetings. Excited to be involved in food again and to see how growing healthy food can work for immigrants, he then sold his soil company and started Bokoeco, selling the product Osmify. The company helps restaurants and hotels with fruit flies and odours, and has now received Health Canada approval for its product.

It was decided that Veronik and Stephanie will do Spotlights in September. Antonietta will do a Spotlight in July.

3 Working Group Updates

- Most received by email

Development - there is an emerging issue in False Creek flats - produce row is vulnerable if Malkin is made to be the main route when the viaducts are removed. Members met with presidents and heard valid concerns, as the businesses supply a lot of produce and employ many. There is a reason why the businesses are all together, and they will have issues with trucks getting in and out if redesigned. Caitlin went on a tour with Councillor Meggs and will work with the businesses to see how VFPC can support that group. Their business is around importing food - not local, not small scale, but crucial to local food security. The working group will be meeting before the July meeting and will bring a motion to the council. City Planners and City Council are aware of the Produce Row issue. It is unfortunate that the other option would disrupt Cottonwood gardens.

Development/right-to-food - had a great conference call with Melody and Kevin about pressures in Chinatown's food assets. The working groups will work collectively to address the issue. ACTION: Stephanie will ask Melody to share PowerPoint, and will circulate. For more information, contact the working group.

Leadership group - there are currently three seats to fill. The working group is exploring the process of recruitment and membership. The City has a new process; the VFPC may bring members in early then apply through the formal process. Individuals with communications skills are needed; send suggestions to the Chairs.

4 Liaison Updates

Reporting Framework

- **What?** - Report on the item (prioritize 2 things that are actionable)
- **Now what?** - What VFPC can/should do, what outcome is desired, or discussion

Liaisons

- City Staff

Last year, the City and Mayor signed the [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#), which spawned a C40s group, a network of 82 cities working on a number of sustainable leadership initiatives, including food. James represented the City at an international meeting last week and presented what is happening in Vancouver. The dialogue will continue over the year. Around 140 cities have signed on to the pact, and the next meeting is in October.

Stop marketing to kids - this group is putting forward campaign packages to reduce the amount of high-fructose beverages marketed to kids and would like to know if the FPC can support this through a motion. The School food working group offered to follow up. ACTION: JAMES will send more info, and put together a description to send to those not here.

- City Council

Food and neighbourhoods - There is a food connection to cities such as Winnipeg, Cleveland, and Detroit where the downtown does not thrive - there is lots of parking, concrete. Parks, art, food bring people downtown. Some cities lost 50% of their population and are looking to revive through building parks, restaurants, and hosting festivals. An "indicator species" of a recovery is the first downtown grocery store. This is a reflection on where we are in Vancouver and the importance of food in building neighbourhoods.

Mayors innovation project - Combatting Obesity conference in Berkley in August, focusing on sugary soda drinks, which are a massive issue everywhere. People look to Vancouver for leadership, and there is much interest in the food strategy.

- VCH

Endorsement of Meatless Monday - Corrine can write articles for the public and/or internal to VCH, or can meet with colleagues and let them know that VFPC has endorsed campaign. VCH wants to work with the VFPC on how to fan this out to staff and the public. At next meetings, a task list will be determined to promote the endorsement by FPC.

Corrine met with Emilie (VHS), who is working with schools and youth councils that have embraced this campaign. Corrine and VCH would approach from a health perspective, rather than an animal welfare perspective.

Healthy living program - Awards five grants per year for \$5k each - one grant recipient will be the Gordon Neighbourhood House to do Meatless Mondays, and will record sessions. There is power in the FPC making endorsements.

At City Council there is no motion but a proclamation could be done. VPB - Veronik attended the concession focus group and offered VFPC support but there is no action at this time.

Emme has resigned from the council and the FPC thanked Emme for her dedication and hard work while on council.

6 Special Topic: School Food Systems in Vancouver and Beyond

See attached report.

7 Bread Basket

No items to discuss.

8 Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Will, seconded by Anna.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm