

Vancouver Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall



Chairs: Caitlin Dorward and Tara Moreau

Council Members: Veronik Campbell, Rebecca Cuttler, Theresa Duynstee, Zsuzsi Fodor, Antonietta Gesualdi, Chashma Heinze, Will Jung, Saber Miresmailli

Liaisons: Corinne Eisler (VCH), James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Sarah Carten (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Janet Fraser (VSB), Michael Wiebe (Park Board)

Regrets: Anna Cavouras, Dirk Gibbs, Kimberly Hodgson, Ilana Labow, Stephanie Lim, Emme Lee, Pat McCarthy, Adriane Carr (City Council), Heather Deal (City Council), Gabrielle Kissinger, Larry Copeland, David Speight

Absent: Orlando Schmidt, Colin Stansfield

Agenda Items:

1 Motion to Accept Agenda and Previous Minutes

Quorum was not present; however all members present accepted the agenda and minutes.

2 Introductions

Members of and liaisons to the council and 9 guests introduced themselves.

3 Working Group Updates

Reporting framework:

- **What?** - Report on the activity of the WG over the past month
- **Now what?** - What the WG's next steps are, or what they need from the whole VFPC, or maybe they're not sure and they want to have a discussion about.

Working Groups Reporting Today

- Right to Food - Zsuzsi
What? Following the group's presentation last month, they met to reflect on the learnings and discuss how to move forward with strategic planning. They are happy to host difficult conversations about race and poverty, and are working on definitions of right-to-food, food justice, and other terms.
Now what? The WG would like to create an assessment tool that the FPC and other working groups could use to help determine if activities and policies are 'just' (e.g. for proposed endorsements). Nothing further has been heard regarding the Sanctuary city piece. The working group will convene monthly food justice beers, the Wednesday following FPC meetings. It was suggested that the WG explore the Lexicon of Sustainability project for a model on how to present complex terms. There was a suggestion to include the definitions on the website, and as part of the orientation package. WG meetings can also be listed on the website. FPC members are invited to talk to Kevin about protecting Chinatown assets and talking with Chinatown planners.
- Urban Farming
What? The online voting process worked, with 14 votes in favour. Members are encouraged to watch Council in action to see how it works. There were many meetings engaging with VUFS and urban farmers to hear the issues and concerns. At the City Council meeting, the response on how to address the concerns and engage with stakeholders was heard - it is a pilot and the process will improve the policy. The City was supportive and inclusive, recognizing the difficulty in creating a one-policy-fits all - challenges are to be expected.
Now what? Urban Farming is now a WG with Ilana as co-chair; Saber volunteered to also act as a co-chair. Working groups are open to the public. Members are encouraged to support each other to navigate the policy world. In this instance, changes were made to the Zoning and Development Bylaw and Business License Bylaw for a two growing season pilot.

Members are encouraged to send to Chairs feedback about the e-voting process. Caitlin and Tara were thanked and recognized for their leadership on this issue.

- School Food - Antonietta
What? Members of the school food working group have met and finalized a motion.

The working group is planning a school-themed meeting in June and invite three advisory groups (Cultural Community Advisory Committee, Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee and the Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee) to also become members of the Coalition for Healthy School Food.

The Motion read:

WHEREAS the Vancouver Food Strategy and the Healthy City Strategy aims to improve access to healthy and affordable foods and to increase the health of all members of our city; and
WHEREAS the Coalition for Healthy School Food's objective is to advocate for a national school lunch program, through research, engagement and advocacy;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council become a member of the Coalition for Healthy School Food.

As member of the Coalition for Healthy School, Vancouver Food Policy Council would be required to publicly support the position paper of the CHSF by placing their logo on the '[For a Universal School Food Program](#)' position paper. Membership requires participation in at least 4 meetings annually and is reviewed once a year. The WG has not yet decided who will participate in the coalition's meetings. The motion was unanimously supported by all members present, however quorum was not present and an e-vote will be circulated. If anyone has any suggestions for the June meeting, contact Antonietta. Depending on the focus of the meeting, VSB staff could be invited. Caitlin will go to the Council Advisory Committee Chairs meeting. The FPC is an active advisory committee and has a long term vision to collaborate with other councils on areas of mutual interest.

- Celebrate Food with Us Planning Committee - James
The April meeting will be a Celebration from 6-8:30. A panel of 4 speakers and a facilitator have been secured. The goal is to identify how the food strategy happens in real life, and to demonstrate the impact. The Golden Carrot Awards will be presented; members are encouraged to nominate someone or an organization or company in one of the 5 areas of focus from the food strategy. Forms were distributed and are available online. A blog post will be created for circulation; members are encouraged to get involved.
- Leadership committee update - Caitlin
Plan to meet soon and bring strategic plan in May. It was noted that the manager of community resilience, who does disaster preparedness, is interested in food;
- Development group - Pearson-Dogwood plan is going forward. Some members attended the open house. There are some concerns about the siting of the urban farm; FPC input would be welcome. It was clarified that this and the False Creek Flats redevelopment are the priorities for this WG as they have the largest food component.

4 Council Membership and Liaisons

- Discuss seat available on Council - Caitlin
City policy states that members must not miss more than four meetings without sending regrets. The FPC has reached out to a member with no response so there is a vacant seat in the access and consumption category. Suggestions are sought for a candidate; the name will be sent to the City's selection committee who will make a decision. Suggestions can be sent to the Chairs, with context including expertise. That person will need to fill in the form. There was a suggestion to revisit earlier applicants.
- Proposed Vancouver Youth Food Policy Council liaison position - Zsuzsi
The creation of the VYFPC began approximately 5 years ago, and today the VYFPC is the 2nd in Canada. They do not have official status with the City. They have requested 2 liaison seats, filled by the same people or rotating. After some discussion, it was decided to offer them one liaison seat (as with other liaisons), which can be filled by different representatives on a rotating basis. It was suggested that June be a good entry point for that group, and that they may consider joining the CHSF and participating in the School Food WG. Zsuzsi has been a liaison to their group; others could also participate.

5 Motions

Due to the lack of quorum, motions could not be made.

- Meatless Monday - Caitlin
Vancouver Humane Society will ask the City to pass a resolution for Meatless Mondays on an on-going basis, and have approached the FPC to endorse this request. Supporting documents were included the application for endorsement along with a proposed motion. This would be sent as an e-vote. It is unclear what would be the role of the City in supporting the resolution. A suggestion was made to support the idea of Meatless Mondays, rather than the VHS's request to approach the city. The motion circulated earlier will be revised and resent.

- GE Free - Tara
Councillor Carr had put a motion to Council to make Vancouver a GE-free city. The request was then sent to the FPC. A previous working group had raised awareness through a social media campaign and talked about issues of jurisdiction. After some discussion, a working group was formed to explore what other municipalities are doing: Will (Chair), Rebecca, and Saber, with support from James.

6 Liaison Updates

Reporting Framework

- **What?** - Report on the item (prioritize 2 things that are actionable)
- **Now what?** - What they want us to do about it, or what they would like to happen as a result, or maybe they're not sure and they want to have a discussion about

Liaisons

- City Staff
Urban farming - had public hearing last week. The chairs were thanked for all their work and leadership. Six people spoke at the public hearing. Councillor Carr brought forward the motion to make it explicit that staff will work with the FPC and Vancouver Urban Farming Society on assessing the pilot and providing metrics. Next steps are to ensure staff have process and systems in place so urban farmers can apply for license. The change will be enacted at the April 5 meeting; farmers can apply on April 6. Information will be online April 1. The working group will meet to establish a framework for the assessment tool.
- VSB
The VSB does not have a funded position with respect to food. Depending on the specific issue, food falls into different areas of responsibility. It was noted that the VSB banned the sale of single use water bottles, and there are concerns that sugary drinks will be consumed if no water is available. A suggestion was made to connect with the community nutritionists, as well as the VYFPC for input.
- VPB
Following the announcement last meeting to bring a staff liaison to the FPC, the PB determined that it does not have sufficient resources allocated to food issues, and will hire additional staff with the goal of bringing someone to the April meeting. Beverage contracts have been tabled for now, but the WG is encouraged to be proactive in making recommendations.
Based on a recent City Studio report, the Park Board will ensure clean zero waste bins at all its facilities, and is working with the City on a proper roll out.
- Metro Vancouver
The Food System strategy is being prepared, and will go to elected officials in April. A group from Langley has started paying farmers for ecological services; a two-year \$120k pilot initiative.
The Province now gives a 25% tax credit to farmers for food. The Food Bank was opposed to the national initiative, however produce is needed and so this initiative is welcome.
The ALC has an increased budget and new CEO, and are raising fees for exclusion applications and re-examining the role of agri-tourism.
The Water Sustainability Act is now in force, with a new regulation for large users of groundwater. It will not impact urban agriculture, as it is limited to ground and surface water, and is based on volume of use.
- MOA
Tabled.
- VCH
The provincial [Food Costing in BC](#) report is done for 2015. It may be useful for the school food working group.

7 Other/Bread Basket

- Arbutus corridor - in 2013 the FPC sent a letter supporting the Arbutus Corridor, and the City recently purchased the land. Council may want to consider what food assets would be appropriate for the greenspace.
- Province - the Ministry is seeking a logo to exemplify BC foods, as promoted in the Crown speech. There was a suggestion to hold a design competition, as part of a campaign. Other suggestions included looking at logos of the BC food security gateway, and the BC agricultural fellowship grant.

8 Motion to Adjourn

Meeting ended at 8:04pm