

Vancouver Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall



Chairs: Caitlin Dorward and Tara Moreau

Council Members: Jess Dennis, Zsuzsi Fodor, Kimberly Hodgson, Kevin Huang, Will Jung, Stephanie Lim, Brianne Miller Stefan Misse, Jessica Pautsch, Marc Schutzbank, David Speight, Georgia Stanley, Jesse Veenstra, Chantille Viaud

Liaisons: James O'Neill (Social Policy, CoV), Sarah Carten (Social Policy, CoV), Michael Wiebe (Park Board Commissioner)

Special Representative: Janet Fraser, Theresa Duynstee (Metro Vancouver)

Regrets: Nikoo Boroumand, Damien Bryan, Councillor Carr, Clare Cullen, Councillor Deal, Alan Duncan, Dirk Gibbs, Rebecca Till, Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson,

Absent: Orlando Schmidt (Ministry of Agriculture), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Vancouver Youth Food Policy Council

1 Introductions & Housekeeping

- Introductions

Returning and new members introduced themselves, and indicated which working group(s) they may be interested in joining. Two guests introduced themselves. Members are reminded to send regrets if they are unable to attend. If more than three meetings are missed without notification, members may be asked to resign from council. Members may ask for a leave of absence in extenuating circumstances. Eleven voting members are needed for quorum. Claire Gram is the new liaison for VCH, and Brianne is a new member.

- Housekeeping

- Members were thanked for responding to the call for Agenda items. For upcoming events, members are encouraged to use the email list, and items can be added to the Bread Basket if time allows. Items are added to the agenda when action is required by the council as a whole. Members were reminded that for emails, shorter is better, and to be clear if the message is an FYI or if an action is required. If so, put "ACTION REQUIRED:" in the subject of the email, and include the deadline and specifically what action is required. The default is to "Reply All" unless otherwise specified. Use attachments only when necessary, it is best to include your message in the body. For messages like the recent email regarding the proposal for the Joined-Up Food Policy event, a response is expected only if there are strong options or concerns. VFPC logo can be added as co-sponsor to events if it is currently an active area of work (e.g. food insecurity); otherwise, a vote is needed by the council. There is a formal [endorsement process](#) on the website.

- Timekeeping - To keep to the agenda, the chairs keep time with one warning sound, then another sound when it is time to wrap up.

- Co-chair transition

Tara has co-chaired for three years and will begin a transition to step down from this role. She will support a shared-leadership approach and looking for members who are interested in co-chairing. An election will be held in May or June. The role does involve some work, approximately eight hours/month, and is adaptable. Main duties include organizing the agenda, chairing meetings, liaising with staff, and supporting working groups. If interested, contact the co-chairs.

In the past, there have not been terms. There is a benefit to having chairs with staggered terms, although either a new or a returning member could fill the position, provided they are committed to remaining on council for a longer-term.

It was suggested that a Meeting Supporting Working Group be created to organize promotion of social media (Twitter, website, Facebook, Mail Chimp mailing list), and food for meetings. Marc, Dennis, Kim, and Georgia volunteered; CHAIRS will send details.

2 Approve minutes from Jan 2017 meeting

Moved by Kim, seconded by Will, carried unanimously.

3 Liaison and WG Updates

There are no longer standing working groups and liaisons updates on the agenda; these will be added through the call to agenda items.

- City Staff Liaisons - deferred to agenda item 5
- Parks Board - Commissioner Wiebe
Food Planner - Based on the success of food programming in Strathcona, the Park Board will hire a programmer to work with community centres across the city to increase food programming. A more comprehensive program will be designed, and VFPC input is sought. The position will also support people to grow food in their homes through fruit trees or on decks, for example. It was suggested that 20 min of the April meeting be dedicated to brainstorming ideas. The Neighbourhood Food Networks have not yet been engaged. Chantille, Marc, and Kim volunteered to help. April 18 is an urban farming visioning session; the largest landowners are the City and Park Board. ACTION: Marc will send details to Commissioner Weibe.
- Waste Working Group (Will, Jessica P)
Regulations and permits - update on Harvest Power. In January, the anaerobic digester was shut down, in February they defaulted on their operating permit and were fined, and at the end of February, they defaulted for 4 days, for more than 10 min over 5km. As of March 10, they need to stop receiving organics from commercial facilities. They have 30 days to get odours under control (VOCs). Organics are sent from Vancouver residents, and North and West Vancouver, along with the Tri cities and Richmond. Commercial waste is being directed elsewhere, likely to an organics site in Cache Creek.

Food waste - Commission for Environmental Cooperation (a department of the FAO) held a high-level government event about food waste. ACTION: Jessica will circulate the report once issued.

- Right to Food Working Group
The group held a meeting recently reviewing mid- and long- term priorities such as how real estate impacts food assets, various oppressions (not just income), and how to be more diverse and inclusive as a council. Short-term work will focus on the food strategy, food summit, and revisiting food and food justice guidelines with other working groups. The group worked with James and Sarah on the Greenest City Scholar project that will replicate a study mapping food assets in Chinatown, but in the rest of the city, tracking the loss of green grocers and overlaying it with the healthy cities and food strategies to see how to best help with affordability. ACTION: Kevin will forward report when ready. Gaps in key areas were flagged including spaces, indigenous food, meat and seafood, and culture.

The Development working group is creating a checklist and will meet with the RTF working group. For new developments, a broader definition of food assets is recommended.

4 VFPC in a City of Reconciliation - guest speaker Ginger Gosnell-Myers (*Manager, Aboriginal Relations at City of Vancouver*)

Ginger presented at the Council of Council meetings, and the Charis invited her to help the VFPC think about how to infuse an aboriginal lens in its work.

- Presentation
Ginger provided an overview of the City's approach to meaningful reconciliation with the three first nations (Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh), as well as urban indigenous populations. The first nations are recognized as governments. A longer-term effort beyond the year of reconciliation led to the designation of Vancouver as a City of Reconciliation (defined as cultural competency, effective decision making, and strengthening relationships). The City works with urban service organizations to reach the urban aboriginal population. There have been changes to policies that facilitate reconciliation process. For example, the Engineering department digs where many indigenous sites are, under the city. The department has developed new archeological policies for chance finds and now have a first nations coordinator to identify sites of importance. Reports to council are online and provide more examples. The City aims to go beyond acknowledgements and incorporate indigenous practices, including use of indigenous names for new civic buildings. The City is working in the spirit of building bridges, in addition to providing support. The TRC report had 94 recommendations, and to continue its work, City Council found

27 that are in the city's jurisdiction and can be acted on. The City continues to build strong foundation for ongoing work (e.g. including indigenous design principals) in an effort to strengthen relations, promote culture and understanding, and incorporate indigenous perspectives for services. The next steps are to indigenize Vancouver, to provide a unique identity in the world.

- Discussion

Indigenous design principles are not public; Councillor Reimer will put forward a motion to develop these principles that were originally created in New Zealand. It is estimated that it will take one year to develop. There local indigenous designers, but not many architects.

Canada 150+ celebrations - there is some enhanced procurement that will require cultural competency. Legacy projects have not been discussed. Ideas are welcome, as many opportunities exist to bring indigenous foods and food preparation to all Vancouverites.

It was suggested that the VFPC discuss how to incorporate this lens to the work of the council, and to use the [Reconciliation Canada](#) website as a starting point.

5 Food Strategy Reheat

This process is at beginning stages. James provided background on the creation of the [Vancouver Food Strategy](#) that aligned disparate policies in all departments under one guiding document while providing legitimacy to the food dialogue. He provided an overview of the accomplishments and highlights to date, including research and funding provided.

The rationale for the update is that the strategy must remain relevant and responsive to issues, and this also provides an opportunity to check back in with the community. The VFPC SWOT analysis identified gaps for moving forward. The goals and principles of the strategy are still relevant, and so this process will focus on a new 3-year plan, particularly on what is in the City's capacity to do (bylaws, regulations, research, infrastructure, city lands, funding). The issue of how to include action items directed by city council (i.e. food bank, school food) will be explored. Sarah distributed a draft of the priority policy actions. The goal is to deliver the update to Council by June. VFPC and its working groups will be some of the key groups engaged to provide feedback, and conversations will continue in April and May. The update, as well as implementation of any identified actions, will be done within existing resources.

Discussion

- The focus is on updating actions. New actions can be added, but the focus is mainly on reprioritizing.
- Assumptions - it is important to broaden the definition of 'food assets' to include cultural, ethnic, social, and health assets.
- Indigenous food systems - the question was raised about how to include a goal related to this in the strategy. This could be parks with indigenous plants and a guide, or bringing fishing back. For example, the Tseli-Waltuth nation wants to clam on the mudflats, which requires high water quality. It was suggested that the term 'foodlands' be used to encompass non-farm food sources. This could be a role for the VFPC, as a research topic rather than an action in the short timeframe.
- Other emerging policies - define culture as a pillar, supported by the 'access to city services without fear'.
- Increase food access by addressing poverty and food insecurity, rather than hunger.
- Explore including other groups doing similar work, in addition to the Neighbourhood Food Networks.
- Language in the food strategy - suggest revisiting the definition of food access.
- Examine workers in the food system, both temporary farm workers and fast food workers, under the green economy.
- It was suggested that staff speak to the UAAC before going to council.
- Promote more education about programs and activities.
- Use the term "Surplus food", not food waste. It was noted that the waste strategy is also being developed.
- The strategy seems to include an emphasis on food production and waste, but not a lot on the role of processing and distribution. The profile can be raised in efforts to scale up using an economic development lens. As these are in private market, the City has less influence. Research could be done on the barriers for processing and distribution (e.g. permitting).
- There is much focus on 'local' food, but few details on what the Vancouver food system is. A [recent report](#) about NYC looked at the flow of food, including transportation and distribution between the sectors. While funding is not in place for such a study here, it is important to consider connections to the transportation system.
- Food waste education - educating businesses on how to manage surplus food, working with industry associations.

- Opportunity to connect with citizens innovatively (e.g. through apps) to move pieces forward.

It was requested that materials be sent a couple days in advance to allow members to review.

ACTION: Sarah will revise the draft and add the draft to Google docs, and comments are also welcome by email to Sarah. WG chairs asked to connect if want to be part of discussion.

6 Bread Basket

Members were reminded of the event march 27 with Debbie Fields of FoodShare to discuss the national food policy.

7 Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Tara, seconded by Will, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm