

Vancouver Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

6:00pm-8:30pm

Committee Room 1, City Hall



Chairs: Tara Moreau and Caitlin Dorward

Council Members: Nikoo Boroumand, Damien Bryan, Clare Cullen, Jess Dennis, Zsuzsi Fodor, Dirk Gibbs, Kevin Huang, Will Jung, Stephanie Lim, Brianne Miller, Stefan Misse, Jessica Pautsch, Marc Schutzbank, David Speight, Georgia Stanley, Jesse Veenstra.

City-Appointed Liaisons: Sarah Carten (Social Policy, CoV), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Rebecca Till (for Alan Duncan, Park Board), James O'Neill (Social Policy, CoV), Michael Wiebe (Park Board Commissioner)

Other Liaisons: Crecien Bencio (Vancouver Youth Food Policy Council)

Regrets: Theresa Duynstee (Metro Vancouver), Janet Fraser (Special Representative), Chantille Viaud, Councillor Carr (City Council), Councillor Deal (City Council), Orlando Schmidt (Ministry of Agriculture)

Absent: Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson

1. Homelands acknowledgements

The Chairs acknowledged that the meeting takes place on unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

2. Introductions & Housekeeping

- Introductions - Round of names and affiliations
Members and ten guests introduced themselves.
- Housekeeping
 - Co-Chair - this is Tara's last meeting as Co-Chair. Kim has been nominated for the role.
Motion:
To elect Kim Hodgson as Co-Chair for the Vancouver Food Policy Council.

Moved by Marc, seconded by David, carried unanimously.
 - Meeting support working group - handle the mail chimp list and website. It was suggested that if members want to post something, Marc will update Facebook which can be embedded in the website. ACTION: The working group will meet to discuss broader communications goals of the VFPC, and present recommendations at the next meeting.

3. Approve minutes from April 2017 meeting

Item 8 of the April minutes will be amended to separate out the points from the Development working group. It was also noted that full motion approved in April was appended to the minutes.

Motion to approve the April minutes, as amended:

Moved by Kim, seconded by Georgia, carried unanimously.

4. Liaison and WG Updates

- City Councillors - Heather Deal and Adrian Carr
Tabled.
- Park Board Commissioner - Michael Wiebe
 - Park board held a plant sale at Van Dusen Garden, featuring local berries.
 - Urban tree sale was successful - most trees sold were fruit trees and for the urban canopy; some for the bird strategy.
 - Neighbourhood matching funds - five applications were received, including one for gardens in front of Raycam Community Centre.
 - Salmon are returning to salt marshes at New Brighton where a natural habitat was created.
 - Concession strategy will soon come forward, and will be presented to the VFPC for feedback. Packaging will be a big part, as well as composting in Stanley Park.

- Park board master plan - a group will present at an upcoming meeting. Infrastructure is being reviewed, and food and food waste will be a big part. Kits pool will be redone with more salt water added. Strategies are needed for putting collection bins in public places.
 - The beverage contract is on month to month. Park Board was not satisfied with the work of the contractor hired to review.
- City Staff Liaisons

City Scholar - working on a project on the value of green grocers, and are currently defining scope. ACTION: Sarah will share research papers on the topic of green grocers. The definition of 'green grocer' will be included in the scope. Locations have been identified for study, and the project will also look at the impact of land values. The RTF working group has input throughout the process. It was suggested that existing data from VCH Asset Map and/or mapping of business licenses could be used. A project in Richmond mapped 'healthy' vs 'not healthy' retail and overlaid data from My Health My Community and found differences in health outcomes. The research is being completed now. ACTION: Claire will circulate once reported. The City is undertaking this project to understand the value of green grocers to neighbourhoods and also how they serve the community. The City is embarking on projects related to retail (RFPs open now) that will inform this study.
 - Waste - Zero Waste 2040 - deferred to agenda item 6
 - Park Board

Sustenance Festival - The Sustenance festival engages with community partners to celebrate food. This year, Stephanie Lim has been hired to build cross-cultural relationships. A series of research questions will help identify barriers, stories will be collected, and grants are being offered for community-based initiatives. Rebecca is seeking members for a small advisory committee to determine how to increase diversity while rethinking the festival. Honoraria are available to advisory committee members and those who are informed by lived experience are particularly sought. Responsibilities include attending three meetings starting in June. ACTION: Rebecca will send an email to the group.

Wild Salmon Caravan with Dawn Morrison (information circulated beforehand) - Dawn's traditional territories are home to one of the largest salmon spawning grounds. Dawn has been working with the Park Board and other partners to organize the Wild Salmon Caravan on Oct 7. Where the salmon previously thrived, they now are much reduced, which is worrisome as it is a key species. The goal of the event is to transform dark energy and educate the public as part of food justice work, and truth and reconciliation. Organizations are being sought to host the Caravan as they follow the sockeye home to the Adams River. The route for Vancouver will go from the Friendship Centre on Commercial Drive to Trout Lake, with expected attendance around 5000. The event will have a global reach with professional photojournalists that will also promote partners. Cash is not requested, however, food donations, coordination, and preparation are needed with a goal of building community. The council briefly discussed the opportunity to sign on as a partner organization. There was agreement that this could be an excellent way to take action towards Indigenous Food Sovereignty but also recognized that the event would be a major undertaking. ACTION: Zsuzsi, Caitlin, Dennis, Jesse, David, Steffen, Nikoo, Jessica, Damien, Marc, Georgia, Will, and Brianne, will form an ad-hoc group to meet with Dawn and Rebecca to get more information about the event and what is expected from host partners, before determining whether or not hosting the event is within our mandate and feasible for our volunteer group.
 - Urban Farming Working Group: Report back from 2040 Visioning Session

The working group met to explore a vision for 2040. The notes are being analyzed. Strong connection to institutional land, and many are declining due to lack of economic viability. The group suggests to incentivize the ALR and use of institutional land. Using the concept of food lands, the group will consider how to think of food with an indigenous system lens. Urban farmers leave to go to suburbs to become farmers. ACTION: Marc will share notes with the VFPC.
 - Children and Youth working group

The VFPC is a member of the Coalition for Healthy School Food, whose goal it is to mobilize provincial and federal funding for a universal meal program. Momentum is gaining at the municipal level, and the Coalition would like to create a template for a motion that provides

local context but also has language that is consistent and can be used for other City Councils to adopt. In June at the FCM meeting, some members are hosting bus tours and wanted to give tools to City Councils to support this issue.

The VFPC would pass the motion, ask could ask other advisory councils to pass as well, before asking City Council to pass.

The draft motion is appended to these minutes.

This issue will be revisited to provide time for discussion.

- Development working group
False creek flats plan is currently being discussed by City Council. The plan looks good from a food systems perspective, with no real surprises. An east-west artery has not yet been named. The group will see if the plan passes and in what form, then follow to see if the plan is executed as presented. The plan will come to Park Board as one proposal is to create the east-west connector through a park. Support would be appreciated; it was suggested that the related motion that was sent to the City be reworked for the Park Board.

5. Provincial Questionnaire Reflections

The original plan was to receive responses then read through and summarize for sharing with the media, however the NDP did not respond in time for this to happen. The responses will be useful in the future, no matter what government looks like, and have been posted to our website.

6. Zero Waste 2040 Update - Ryan Bigelow

Following on the presentation to the VFPC last summer, there has been a lot of action. This presentation focuses on both food waste and food packaging waste. The vision comes from the Greenest City Action Plan that has a target to reduce material sent to landfill by 50% from 2008 to 2020. In 2015, the City had reduced waste by 27%, and now needs to determine how to get to 2040, especially as the landfill will not be operational as of 2036. The guiding principles are to protect the environment, build prosperity, and connect people. Using a waste management hierarchy, efforts will be made first to avoid and reduce waste, then redistribute/reuse it, and finally to recycle and recover energy from it. The City recognizes limited jurisdiction, and can direct some activities, support others, and hope to influence others. Several factors increase waste in the food system - for example, global trade, income disparity, and new forms of packaging, which lead to a rising cost of food, increased water consumption, etc. Ideally, we will grow and import only what we need and food will be sustainably sourced, all surplus healthy, edible food will be redistributed and rescued, and all food scraps and wasted inedible food will be recovered.

The team is taking information from consultations to determine how the City can best move this forward. A summer workshop will be posted soon, and the draft strategy is due in late 2017/ early 2018.

Questions for VFPC -

1. How can food be redistributed to be incorporated into other food products?
2. For inedible food disposed, is there an appetite for localized composting or biofuel production replacing the need to haul this material to centralized processing facilities outside of Vancouver?
3. Some inedible food can be used in the production of animal feed. Have you seen this occurring with Vancouver food waste or in other urban locations?

Discussion

- An additional question about food packaging was added.
- Research into other cities shows that most cities' 'zero waste' plans are more akin to waste management plans.
- A combination of policy tools have been used. For example, 90% of demolition waste is required to be diverted from landfills for pre-1970 homes. The Vancouver Charter is the City's most powerful tool; however, it was noted that this is a community zero waste plan; the City cannot do it on its own.
- The City is collaborating with other networks, and exploring the possibility of working with other

cities to influence corporations.

Members and guests broke out into small groups to discuss the questions above.

Report out from small group discussion:

Packaging - the city has less control over this, and would be better to incentivize such as fees on products to return, making manufacturers responsible for that packaging through lifecycle (such as the ban at farmers markets). VCH can sometimes be a barrier (e.g. with reusable containers).

Animal feed - some good examples exist such as saving scraps for pig farmers, however there are challenges such as refrigeration.

Composting - Education is needed to engage youth and also show the potential for composting and how to use the finished project. Alternative composting methods, such as bokashi can also be used.

Redistribution - can happen all along the food chain, however logistics are an issue, and health and safety is a concern. More education can be done both on the bylaw, and to reduce stigma. Working with the supply side has been a barrier, as it is more expensive to redistribute than dump. If there were free pantries as in Germany, the City might be able to help inspect them.

Ryan will come back to this group. Smaller questions can be addressed to Zero Waste working group.

7. Food Strategy Actions - James and Sarah

- Food strategy update -the Food Strategy update to City Council has been postponed until the fall. This is not abnormal, and it will allow time to collect more data and to create a resource/impact analysis. Staff will report to their General Manager then to the VFPC. The GM has expressed interest in coming to a meeting, and may come in July.
- Kitchens - a project is looking to increase capacity for food programming in community centre kitchens, following last year's report on the state of kitchens. A workshop has been done that noted many centres have not had requests for kitchen space. For-profit businesses are not able to use the space, however social justice businesses might work. It was noted that kitchens work well for making food, but are not well-designed for food processing. Further ideas can be sent to Sarah.

8. Bread Basket

- The VFPC must submit to the City its priorities for work plan in the year ahead. ACTION: working groups are to choose one priority each to move forward and send to Chairs by the end of the month.
- Policies that are cross cutting that could be changed include those related to first nations, right to food, and development. Members were asked to consider these for the June meeting.
- It was suggested that the VFPC as a whole could have a paid staff position, funded by the City or by a foundation. Another suggestion is to have a food policy director in the City that works across all departments.
- Tara was thanked for all her work as Co-Chair of the VFPC.

9. Motion to Adjourn and after meeting social gathering

Meeting adjourned at 8.32 pm

Moved by Marc, seconded by Will, carried unanimously

Coalition for Healthy School Food – Draft Template for Municipal Support [Vancouver Food Policy Council / City of Vancouver]

[Local context: refer to local policies and research where relevant]

WHEREAS through the Vancouver Food Strategy the City of Vancouver has a goal to advocate for a just and sustainable food system with partners and at all levels of government, including strengthening partnerships and leveraging funds to ensure that residents and governments collaborate together toward food system goals. The Vancouver Food Strategy also includes a goal to improve access to healthy, affordable, culturally diverse food for all residents.

AND WHEREAS through the Healthy City Action Plan the City of Vancouver has a goal to ensure Vancouver's children have the best chance of enjoying a healthy childhood, which includes a priority action to expand access to healthy foods and food literacy development in schools.

And WHEREAS through the Greenest City Action Plan the City of Vancouver has set the goal to become a global leader in urban food systems. It also identifies advocating for food issues regionally, provincially and nationally as a key strategy, including collaborating with the Vancouver School Board to ensure schools receive adequate funding for meal programs.

And WHEREAS as part of the development of the Ministry of Health-led Provincial Healthy Eating Strategy, the Healthy Food and Healthy Eating in School Community Action Plan Team and the Leadership Council recommended an action to improve access to healthy food for students in school communities by: establishing strategic partnerships and developing models that enhance school food programs; and staying connected with national, provincial and municipal efforts to establish models for a cost-shared universal healthy school food program that would enable all students to have access to healthy meals at school every day.

And WHEREAS the VSB has succeeded in providing meals to thousands of vulnerable students over the past 29 years, and that ALL students and families would benefit from the expansion of these programs to ALL students if supported through additional funding.

AND WHEREAS the cost of food in BC for a reference family of four has increased 56%, from \$626 in 2001 to \$974 in 2015, along with increases in housing, child care and other family expenses, stretching families' ability to make ends meet. This has resulted in 12.7% or 523,500 British Columbians experiencing food insecurity in BC in 2012, an unprecedented high in the prevalence of food insecurity in BC.

[Coalition for Healthy School Food context]

{the aim is for this language to be consistent across municipalities}

And WHEREAS Canada remains one of the only Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development nations without a national school food program. Canada's current patchwork of school food programming reaches only a small percentage of our over 5 million students.

And WHEREAS school food programs have been shown to increase children's consumption of vegetables, fruits and other healthy foods and decrease the consumption of unhealthy ones; improve students' mental health, including reductions in behavioural and emotional problems; improve cognitive skills and increase scholastic success.

And WHEREAS the Coalition for Healthy School Food¹ is working at a national level to advocate for the creation of a cost-shared Universal Healthy School Food Program that will enable all students in Canada to have access to healthy meals at school every day, which builds on existing programs across

¹ For more about the Coalition for Healthy School Food, including its members and collaborators go to <http://foodsecurecanada.org/CHSF>

the country, and would include food education and serve culturally appropriate, local, sustainable food to the fullest extent possible.

“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that” or “Recommendation THAT”:

- the [City of Vancouver] advocate to the provincial and federal governments regarding investment in a cost-shared universal healthy school food program that would enable all students to have access to healthy meals at school every day, as advocated by the Coalition for Health School Food.
{the aim is for this language to be consistent across municipalities}

[more detailed as relevant to the municipality]

- the City of Vancouver advocate to other municipalities through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) ...

DRAFT