



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall

Interim Leadership Team: Jesse Veenstra, Georgia Stanley, David Speight, Kimberly Hodgson

Meeting Chairs: Jesse Veenstra and David Speight

Council Members: Clare Cullen, Caitlin Dorward, Kimberly Hodgson Kevin Huang, Stephanie Lim, Brianne Miller, Tara Moreau, Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson, Jessica Regan, Aditi Rudra, Marc Schutzbank, Georgia Stanley

City-Appointed Liaisons: Joy Alexander (VSB), Sarah Carten (Social Policy, CoV), Councillor Carr (City Council), Megan Herod (Park Board)

Regrets: Nikoo Boroumand, Stefen Misse, Councillor Deal (City Council) Zsuzsi Fodor

Leave of Absence: Dirk Gibbs

Absent: Commissioner Wiebe (Park Board), Lindsay Bisschop (MoAg), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health)

1 Homelands acknowledgement and introductions

"We acknowledge that we are on the unceded homelands of the ʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and sel̓íwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and we give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands"

Members and 13 guest introduced themselves.

2 Approve minutes from September meeting

Motion to approve amended minutes. Moved by Brianne, seconded by Marc, carried unanimously.

3 Liaison Updates

- City Councillors - Adriane Carr

The City government is in transition, and there are no items of relevance on the agenda for the last council meeting. The new Council will be inaugurated on November 5. A motion has passed to re-evaluate the advisory councils, however the presentation of the report is not on the agenda, so will likely be addressed by the next council. There has been a genuine appreciation of the role of the advisory committees to provide expert advice. With only 2 of 11 incumbents on Council, there will be a lot change. Councillor Carr expressed personal thanks to members of the VFPC for their work, which is essential in the larger context of climate change.

She then explained that after the election, the Mayor will speak to each Councillor to ask their preference for committee liaisons. The Mayor will then recommend liaisons to Council at the first meeting after the inaugural meeting, and Council will vote to approve.

Input regarding membership structure can be directed to Mayor and all Councillors, along with recommendations regarding reconciliation training for all advisory committees.

Advice was sought on how the report from staff on the evaluation of advisory committees should be received. VFPC members recommended that advisory groups be consulted prior to finalizing the report, to provide input that may be relevant to other committees, which could also be an opportunity for collaboration. The evaluation was requested because the number of advisory committees has increased to 24. Staff liaisons have not yet been engaged.

- Parks Board Commissioner - Michael Wiebe
No update available.

- Parks Board Staff - Megan Herod
The Park Board is also in transition with only two incumbent commissioners. The Neighbourhood Matching Fund applications are being reviewed. The Park Board is developing a stewardship framework to explain to citizens how to get involved in a meaningful way.

The Local Food Action Plan is part of the capital plan to begin in spring 2019 and is on the work plan. The amount of funding is unclear.

On Wed Nov 7, a [Vanplay](#) event will be hosted to consider the long term vision and strategy for the master plan, including inventory and big directions for what the park board should work on over the next 25 years.

- VSB Trustee - Joy Alexander
Joy has not been able to attend because the VSB consistently meets on the same night as the VFPC meets, which prevent fuller participation despite the potential for collaboration. The new liaison will be determined once the new Board and Chair are in place. The VSB is also in the process of reviewing its 25 sub-committees to determine if a VSB liaison is needed. There is an opportunity to send a staff member if a trustee is unavailable.
- City Staff - Sarah Carten
 - Small businesses - challenges to small food businesses are being considered (zoning, permitting, affordability) as part of a potential small business strategy. Particular issues to consider include the super small entrepreneur (e.g. 1 person) and unconscious bias (e.g. that could affect property rentals). VFPC members are welcome to send input on the issue to Sarah.
 - It was noted that several food hubs around the province have been established. There are still plans for one in Vancouver; space is being held for the Food Bank as part of that. More discussion will happen soon about the arterial route that will be used once the viaducts are removed.
 - Staff is working with community on the Punjabi market as part of the work on small businesses. UBC students are doing research into possible pop-up markets there.
- Vancouver Coastal Health - Claire Gram
No update available.
- Ministry of Agriculture - Lindsay Bisschop
No update available.

4 **Motion - Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation in Vancouver's Food System**

In light of the IPCC report about the dire situation and immediate action required. It was noted that this piece is missing in City's larger strategies, and that the newly-elected council will need to consider the role of the food systems in adaptation, and also as one of the sectors that will be the most affected.

After minor amendments were made, the motion was voted on (final motion is appended below).

Moved by Tara, seconded by Clare, carried unanimously.

5 **Motion - Membership Structure**

The motion proposes a new structure for how the 21 seats are allocated to reflect different ways of knowing and lived experience. The motion will be provided to City Council to direct staff to implement a process for the application period before the new advisory groups are formed. It was suggested this be shared with the staff writing the report about advisory councils.

It was clarified that professional and lived experience will be parsed out, with lived experience included as an opt-in. The lived experience portion would be confidential, and members that opt-in will not be expected to represent that minority group.

The model would be reevaluated after one year, and could be used as a model for other advisory councils.

It was suggested that it be made explicit that if the City is not able to fill all seats with this structure, those seats be left empty (quorum is always a majority of those appointed). Members would be listed on the website according to their professional experience only.

It is unclear how the application form would be adapted, or if candidates would be told they were chosen for their lived experience.

The VFPC members can be active in recruiting, given that the City's recruitment is not very active. It was noted that it is important to relay that citizens can also be engaged through working groups.

After discussion and changes were made, the final motion, appended below, was tabled.

Moved by Zsuzsi, seconded by Sharnelle, 2 abstentions, 1 opposed, motion carried.

6 Letter of Support - Community Gardens

The Cedar Cottage Community Garden has received notice that they will lose the space to a new development in 2019. The specific request was to support the garden's application to relocate to Trout Lake. There was significant discussion and desire to draft a broader letter to provide support for all gardens that have the potential to be lost.

Recognizing that many gardens may be displaced, if one letter of support is written, it would set a precedent to expect a letter of support for all future applications. There is a need to balance land use. The park board does public consultations, and the VFPC has not heard from neighbours at the proposed site.

After the discussion, the final motion, appended below, was voted on.

Moved by Marc, seconded by Clare, carried unanimously.

A related motion was tabled to allow CAITLIN to draft a letter for Cedar Cottage that explains the VFPC's approach and includes the motion.

Motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the VFPC draft a letter to send to Cedar Cottage garden by November 5 that will reference the motion VFPC passed in Oct 2018 regarding replacement of existing food assets that are displaced by development.

Moved by Caitlin, seconded by Marc, carried unanimously. The letter will be sent before Nov 5.

7 VFPC Term End Update

All councils are dissolved Nov 5 and will no longer be active. It is anticipated the committees will be reestablished in Nov or Dec. If this happens by the end of 2018, applications would be received in January 2019, with recommendations to Council in March or April.

8 Election Results Discussion

Tabled.

9 Bread Basket

9.1 Escobar letter - Communication strategy

The letter will be posted on the website and sent through social media channels. As the council we be disbanded, there will be no one to speak on behalf of the council. Requests for media will be directed back to the letter.

9.2 Food bank event

Registration was not requested, and while it was difficult to anticipate how many would attend, 30-40 people were present. There was less time for questions than expected, and strong opinions expressed around the need for food banks and their structure. It was noted that the Food Bank AGM is Nov 15 and

members are invited to attend to get involved in deeper conversations, especially as Directors are being sought. There is an acceptance of food bank as a general good, however the VFPC should consider its role in identifying the issue and pushing back against it (e.g. over production, tax donations).

9.3 Unpacking White Privilege workshop

Dismayed by lack of applications from around the table, now 8. Will be 1.5 days and longer follow up. Is looking for members who can billet a member of the Kamloops council. Have had requests to do it on Vancouver Island. Still looking for funding. Robin deAngelo talk may be streamed STEPH will send link. Nov 20 at 4:30. Deadline to apply is Sunday Oct 28, will be informed on Monday.

10 Motion to adjourn

Moved by Marc, seconded by Caitlin, carried unanimously.

Everyone was thanked for their individual contributions to the council over the last term.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

MOTION Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Vancouver’s Food System
Vancouver Food Policy Council
Passed October 16, 2018

WHEREAS: The global climate is changing faster than agriculture and food systems can adapt to. Recent findings of The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlight that we are already seeing consequences of 1°C global warming and that limiting warming to 1.5°C requires rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society;

And WHEREAS agriculture contributes over 20% of total global GHG emissions and is the key sector threatening global biodiversity of plants;

And WHEREAS the *Consultations for a Food Policy for Canada* revealed that climate change is viewed as a significant issue facing Canada’s national food system;

And WHEREAS the *Pan-Canada Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* identifies that agricultural lands across Canada will play an important natural role in a low-carbon economy by absorbing and storing atmospheric carbon; and that continued innovation and clean technology in agriculture will build on past GHG reduction successes of decreasing emissions per unit of production. ⁵

And WHEREAS ensuring sustainable food supports Canada’s *Federal Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2019* targets related to climate action, healthy ecosystems, clean water, and sustainable communities; ⁶

And WHEREAS BC’s Agricultural Land Reserve, under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Land Commission, preserves land across the province that absorbs and stores carbon and provides essential food and ecosystem services for the City of Vancouver and the residents of Vancouver;

And WHEREAS through the Vancouver Food Strategy the City of Vancouver has a goal to advance just and sustainable food systems with partners and at all levels of government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends that the City of Vancouver advocate to the Federal and Provincial governments to immediately address food system climate change adaptation and mitigation across agencies (including but not limited to agriculture, health, environment) in an effort to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees C; and,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver integrate food system climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies with associated resources within its own policies and strategies including but not limited to the Renewable City Strategy, Greenest City Action Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the Vancouver Food Strategy.

MOTION Preservation of Vancouver’s Food Assets Displaced by Development
Vancouver Food Policy Council
Passed October 16 2018

WHEREAS: Established community gardens within the City of Vancouver are at increasing risk of being lost due to competing land use needs, such as the creation of new housing developments and 2018 marks the first year since 2010 that a reduction in the City’s number of community garden plots has been recorded.

And WHEREAS a goal of the *Healthy City Strategy* is a “healthy, just and sustainable food system” with a target to “increase city wide and neighbourhood food assets by a minimum of 50% by 2020.”

And WHEREAS community gardens are recognized as important food assets within *Vancouver’s Food Strategy*, which outlines Food Production as one of five priority action areas, including “Support and enable all forms of urban agriculture (specifically community gardens and urban farms).”

And WHEREAS the Vancouver Parks Board land is home to 56 community gardens (1219 plots) and the *Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Local Food Action Plan* recognizes the Park Board’s “vital role to play in achieving a just and sustainable food system.”

And WHEREAS the *Vancouver Food Charter* is guided by a principle of Celebration, recognizing that “Food brings people together in celebrations of community and diversity” and community gardens are recognized to “serve as important community gathering places where gardeners and non-gardeners alike can enjoy green spaces to grow food, have a picnic or participate in garden activities.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends that the City of Vancouver direct City staff to study and report to VFPC and City Council on the feasibility of implementing new policies which:

- Require new developments which may threaten existing food assets, including community gardens, to fund relocation of existing food assets such that they remain operational, of equal value to users, and are accessible to the general public.
- Explore opportunities to measure the impacts of food assets on the community and, where appropriate, incorporate new food assets into development designs.
- Require City and Parks Board staff to work together to identify appropriate land suitable for potential community garden, or other food asset, relocation opportunities.

MOTION Vancouver Food Policy Council Membership Restructuring Motion
Vancouver Food Policy Council
Passed October 16 2018

WHEREAS the Vancouver Food Charter:

- Commits the City of Vancouver to a just and sustainable food system that “contributes to the economic, ecological, and social well-being of our city and region,” “recognizes access to safe, sufficient, culturally appropriate and nutritious food as a basic human right for all Vancouver residents,” and “celebrates Vancouver’s multicultural food traditions,” and
- Is guided by the principle that food brings people together in celebration of community and diversity; and

WHEREAS, as a City of Reconciliation, the City of Vancouver is committed to forming a sustained relationship of mutual respect and understanding with local First Nations and the Urban Indigenous community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver is committed to inclusion, equity, and diversity as expressed in policies such as the Healthy City Strategy. This policy recognizes that those who experience marginalization and oppression are denied opportunities for full economic and social participation in society; it further identifies the need for collaborative efforts in order to realize equity; and

WHEREAS, research including *Vancouver Community Leaders on the Role of Food in Cultural Inclusion and Engagement* (2017) and *Planning for Whom? The Practice of Cultural Inclusion in Alternative Food Initiatives in Metro Vancouver* (2018) highlight the need for underrepresented groups to be heard and meaningfully engaged in decision-making to support accountable relationships in the community and public policy reflective of Vancouver’s diversity; and

WHEREAS, the Vancouver Food Strategy 2017 update calls for the inclusion of a diversity of voices in the City of Vancouver’s food policy work; and

WHEREAS, the Food Policy Council Terms of Reference have not been updated since 2004, and reflect neither current understandings of food systems complexities, nor the City of Vancouver’s commitments to Reconciliation, equity, and inclusion. The membership structure should be updated to reflect current understandings.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council endorses the attached restructuring of its membership and asks that City Council:

- a. Approve the amended membership structure and update the Vancouver Food Policy Council Terms of Reference accordingly;
- b. Direct City staff to update the Food Policy Council application questions, in collaboration with members of the 2016-2018 Vancouver Food Policy Council. The application should align with the updated membership structure;
- c. Implement these changes for the incoming Food Policy Council (2019-2020).
- d. Evaluate this amended structure, with leadership from City staff and Vancouver Food Policy Council members in 2020, prior to the subsequent citizen council recruitment cycle.

AMENDED MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

Retain the current total number of voting members (21). There will necessarily be overlap between Category A and Category B:

Category A: “Expertise”

Retain existing VFPC food systems expertise areas, adding four additional categories, in alignment with the 2017 Vancouver Food Strategy update/VFPC-identified priority areas:

VFPC membership is to include a minimum of the following, with qualifications including work, and/or volunteer, and/or research experience:

- Production (2 members)
- Processing and Distribution (2 members)
- Retail (2 members)
- Food Security (3 members)
 - Includes Financial Accessibility + Availability
- Food Waste (2 members)
- Indigenous Food Sovereignty (2 members)
- Resilience (2 members)
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (2 members)
- Members at Large (4 members)

Category B: “Lived Experience”

Recognizes that intersecting lived experiences inform individuals’ perspectives and priorities, and that recruitment of citizen council members with different perspectives is critical to developing policies reflective of Vancouver’s diversity.

The proposed membership structure recognizes that 1-2 persons cannot be expected to offer representative expertise on behalf of a large population group, and that such an expectation would be tokenistic and unfair. In the event that broad expertise from those with particular lived experience is required to inform food policy, City staff liaisons will reach out to the appropriate citizen advisory committee (e.g. Seniors Advisory Committee, LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee or other, as relevant). *While VFPC members’ lived experiences are anticipated to inform their food policy perspectives, they are not expected to represent the views of broad constituent groups in which they self-identify.*

VFPC is to include a minimum total of 12 members self-identifying (through the confidential application process) with the following lived experiences. If the City is not able to recruit members with the following lived experience, these seats shall remain empty until qualified candidates apply for these seats. Applications shall remain open until all seats are filled.

2 members at minimum for each of the following:

- Indigenous Communities (2 members)
- LGBTQ2+ (2 members)
- People of Colour/Racialized Communities (2 members)
- Persons with Disabilities (2 members)
- Seniors (2 members)
- Youth (2 members)