

Vancouver Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 12, 2019

6:00pm - 8.30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall



Council Members: Evan Bowness, Erica Commons, Gurjot Dhaliwal, Heather Escobar, Kaitlyn Fung, Tamer Mohamed Hussein, Patrick Johnson, Joey Liu, Martina Marsic, Darlene Seto, Andrew Stephens-Rennie, Kelsey Timler, Jesse Veenstra, Jason Yip

City appointed liaisons: Caitlin Dorward (Social Policy, CoV), Trustee Gonzalez (VSB), Katelyn Ling (Park Board), Rachel Telling (Sustainability, CoV)

Invited guest: Erin Nicholls (Solid Waste Strategic Services, CoV)

Regrets: Councillor Bligh (City Council), Delphina Kejo, Sarah Siska, Emily Voong, Clare Cullen. Councillor Wiebe (City Council)

Absent: Commissioner Dumont (Park Board)

Minutes

1. Call to Order

1.1 Land acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and (Tseil-Waututh) Nations and give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

1.2 Quorum

There is quorum at the meeting.

2. Consent agenda matters

2.1 Previous minutes

MOTION: To approve minutes from the August meeting, as circulated
Moved by Kelsey Timler, Seconded by Erica Commons, carried unanimously

2.2 Liaison Reports

2.2.1 CoV Councillor Liaisons

No update available.

2.2.2 VSB Liaison

- Trustee Gonzalez has put forward a motion at Committee - Development of a Holistic Food Framework through an External VSB Food Working Group. This group will focus on preparation for implementation of a national school food program. The Working Group may want a VFPC representative on this group. It will go to the first board meeting on September 23rd
- All committee and board meetings are live streamed - Council members should check posted agendas ahead of time for items of interest.

2.2.3 Park Board Liaison

- Katelyn Ling provided a staffing update - a new Planner 3 has joined the team - Chad Townsend - and part of his role will be reviewing the Local Food Action Plan.
- The Fall Tree Sale is currently occurring - trees for \$10.

2.2.4 CoV Sustainability Staff Liaison

- Rachel Telling provided an update on the Greenest City Action Plan - comprehensive engagement is planned for the spring.
- The 2020 Greenest City Grant program is accepting applications until Oct 11 for projects in support of GCAP goal areas (including local food); there will be a workshop help tomorrow (Fri Sep 13) at City Hall from 3-5pm for interested applicants.

2.2.5 CoV Social Policy Staff Liaison

- Caitlin Dorward provided information on a City Council Motion - Transparent Process and Taxation for Land Banks Repurposed as Temporary Recreational Properties, carried unanimously at the June 25 City Council

meeting. Reclassification of land on vacant development sites to a recreational tax class allows it to be used as a community garden and substantially reduces the property tax required. This results in a reallocation of property taxes and shifting of the tax burden. Staff will report back to City Council in Q4 2019 with recommendation and potential bylaw amendments.

- Chasma Heinze is the liaison from Social Policy working with the Finance Department on this work.

Discussion

There is an opportunity for members of the VPFC to discuss this with Chasma, and/or to take a formal position on this. Caitlin suggested October for the latter, in order to put it in front of City Council before November.

ACTION: Caitlin will circulate the motion to the VPFC and follow up with the Development and Urban Agriculture working group to connect them with Chasma.

- Caitlin also provided an update on the two VPFC vacant positions - two people have been nominated and notified that they have been nominated. Caitlin hasn't had the chance to connect with them yet - will do tomorrow (Friday) and they will hopefully be in attendance for the Oct meeting.

Discussion

It would be nice for the two new members to meet with some of the existing members before the next meeting.

ACTION: Invite them to the next working group meetings.

- Caitlin also provided information on the Land and Food Systems 350 class at UBC which is undertaking a project this year to look at the Sustainable Large Sites Rezoning Policy and the impact it has had on food assets in the City.

2.2.6 Chair update on external liaisons

- VCH is interested in participating as an external liaison to the VPFC beginning Oct and outreach to other potential liaisons is required to move this forward.

Discussion

ACTION: As a first step, the leadership team will reach out to the City's Intergovernmental Relations Department, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and Metro Vancouver to see if there's interest. They will report back next meeting and wait until then to invite all at once (for onboarding).

2.3 Working Group Updates

2.3.1 Food Cultivation & Urban Agriculture

No update available.

2.3.2 Development/preserving diverse food retail

An update was provided by Darlene - this group met last weekend to work through the specifics of what their potential actions should be. There was discussion around interests and they developed a short description, which was read out to the VPFC, as well as a potential activities list. Next steps are to check with City staff on the current status of a number of different projects.

2.3.3 Food Waste

Gurjot provided an update - this working group has not met yet, but has created a spreadsheet with a brainstorm and tentative ideas, which include plastic waste, food waste awareness, and BYOC decals. They will meet and update Council next meeting.

Discussion

ACTION: Caitlin Dorward will connect the working group with the City's Single Use Item Reduction Strategy team.

2.3.4 Children & Youth

Heather provided an update - the group met last week. There is very strong connections/representations in this group, which has been around since 2015. They are focusing on building momentum and raising awareness in partnership with the Coalition for Healthy School Food for a universal school food program. Looking at how it will work, and what recommendations they could make for when the program starts running. Also discussed Eat Think Vote and Nourish Kids Now.

2.3.5 Leadership team

Update provided by Jesse. Please reach out to the leadership team if interested in supporting and/or planning the VPFC's social media (e.g. for Eat Think Vote and Nourish Kids Now - can reshare content).

Discussion:

- The Coalition for Healthy School Food is an initiative of Food Secure Canada with 70+ member organizations.
- Does the current VFPC want to continue being a member of the coalition?
- Caitlin explained the ways in which the VFPC has been involved in the past.
- Being a member doesn't mean that we have to agree with everything they put out.

MOTION: For the Vancouver Food Policy Council to continue being a part of the Coalition for Healthy School Food. Moved by Gurjot Dhaliwal, Seconded by Joey Liu, carried unanimously.

- The working group google doc needs updating to reflect changes from last meeting e.g. disbanding the food justice working group (replaced by a cross-cutting theme).

ACTION: The Leadership team will rename the sign-up sheet 'working group members' and circulate the link to it. Everyone to check in the sheet that their name is in the right place so there is an accurate up to date document.

ACTION: Leadership team to ask that Vicky to send an email to the VFPC notifying the whole group of when the draft minutes are available - so that actions can be acted on sooner.

3. Matters requiring discussion

3.1 Cross-cutting theme discussions: Reconciliation, Food justice, Climate emergency

- For reconciliation and food justice, information was pulled from existing City documents.
- Will need a process for formally adopting the definitions.
- Sets of questions/prompts would be very useful.
- Potential to invite Matt Horne from Sustainability and a SME from a food systems perspective to present at October's meeting.

ACTION: Caitlin to send most recent version of Reconciliation Report.

June 2019 Reconciliation Update available at <https://council.vancouver.ca/20190626/documents/cfsc1.pdf>.

ACTION: Between now and the next meeting in October, everyone to look through the definitions and add comments, reflections, etc.

ACTION: Kelsey will draft a new format with prompts and circulate to Council.

ACTION: Leadership team to liaise with Caitlin and Rachel to organize a presentation for the October meeting on Climate Emergency.

3.2 Working Group Project Planning

- There is a [rolled up work plan](#) and [charter template](#) for working groups to use.

3.3 Continuous learning at VFPC meetings: process & guidelines

Discussion

- Climate emergency scheduled for October (see above).
- Brainstormed ideas for future meetings
- Cover all 3 cross-cutting themes to start (Reconciliation, Food Justice to follow Climate Emergency).
- Understanding food distribution was suggested for the New Year - this could be an event to organize and invite the public.
- Have a small amount of funding from a grant to support reconciliation e.g. education, honorariums, food, etc. Food justice could also be a good fit for this.
- ACTION: Caitlin to share the grant description, so VPFC can make a decision next meeting on November, December speakers.

Uploaded to Google Drive at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/156oN6pwP0-hJun4n4nIIoNQeNGbkoKW->

- Helpful to know ahead of reaching out to people if there is an honorarium available.
- ACTION: Kaitlyn Fung to put together a list of recommendations for a food justice speaker and forward to the leadership group.
- November - potential focus on GCAP and workshopping it with the Social Policy team.

- **ACTION:** Leadership team to look at updating the guideline document based on discussion today, to consider the burden of asking speakers, especially with reconciliation.

3.4 Six Primrose Film Screening

MOTION: We, as a council, support the screening of the Six Primrose Film, and potentially tying it in with an Eat. Think. Vote panel if possible.

Moved by Jesse Veenstra, Seconded by Erica Commons, carried unanimously.

Discussion

- October 16 (World Food Day) at the Anglican Cathedral downtown
- Kelsey may be able to moderate - can confirm in the next few days
- Brainstormed ideas for panel members- Generation Squeeze, Mr Bannock.
- Decided on free tickets.
- **ACTION:** Start up email conversation to discuss this further with Kelsey, Andrew, Evan and keep Leadership Team in the loop
- **ACTION:** Andrew to follow up with Councillor Wiebe on potential funding for food.

3.5 Motion Archive

- A disclaimer is required - stating that the archived motions do not necessarily represent the views of the current VFPC.
- Maddie (Guest) may be able to assist with putting these together and in the right format. **ACTION:** Leadership team will follow up on this.
- Agreed to move forward with this, and plan to share when done through social media and other groups such as the Municipal Food Policy in Canada listserv.

3.6 Bread Basket: Chair & Food sign-up

- Reviewed draft guidelines.
- Tip from Marc - can do Doordash or Skip the Dishes (usually free delivery)
- Caitlin reminded Council that there is a servery next door with a sink; Caitlin can provide access.
- **ACTION:** Please sign up - October needed

4. Adjourn Meeting

Moved by Andrew Stephens-Rennie, Seconded by Kelsey Timler, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8.27 pm.