



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall

Meeting Chairs: David Speight and Jesse Veenstra

Council Members: Damien Bryan, Clare Cullen Caitlin Dorward, Zsuzsi Fodor, Will Jung, Kim Hodgson, Kevin Huang, Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson, Stephanie Lim, Stefan Misse, Tara Moreau, Jessica Pautsch, Marc Schutzbank, Georgia Stanley

City-Appointed Liaisons: Sarah Carten (Social Policy, CoV), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Megan Herod (Park Board), Commissioner Wiebe (Park Board)

Regrets: Nikoo Boroumand, Brianne Miller, Lindsay Bisschop (MoAg), Joy Alexander (VSB), Jaspal Marwah (Metro Van) Councillor Carr (City Council), Councillor Deal (City Council)

Absent: Aditi Rudra

Leave of Absence: Dirk Gibbs

1 Homelands acknowledgement and introductions

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded homelands of the ʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and mi ce:p kʷətɬwíləm (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and we give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

Members and one guest introduced themselves.

2 Approve minutes from January meeting

Moved by Marc, seconded by Kim, carried unanimously.

3 Leadership Update

An interim leadership team has been created with Jesse, David, and Kim, and support from Georgia. It was proposed that this model be in place until October, the last meeting of the term.

MOTION:

To dismantle the co-chair structure and trial a leadership team from now until October.

Moved by Tara, seconded by Sharnelle, carried unanimously.

Going forward, members are asked to email all three. David will be the coordinator and will keep the calendar of meetings and who will chair each meeting. Each month there will be a different chair. Georgia will handle the website and social media, Kim will keep the work plan, and Jesse will be the external communications person.

The Leadership Team will meet monthly, one week after council meetings, to plan. They have reviewed the list of responsibilities drafted by Kim and Caitlin, along with the expectations of the City. Some responsibilities have been left out that may be addressed in working groups. The Google doc contains the list of the actions that will not be done. Jesse will act as Aditi's mentor.

Membership - Chantille has stepped down; there is a vacancy that will not be filled until the FPC is reconstituted. Dirk has requested a leave of absence and may step down. That would reduce quorum from 11 to 10 members. It was decided to not request his resignation yet, and to wait and see if there is an issue with quorum.

MOTION:

To approve the leave of absence requested by Dirk.

Moved by Caitlin, seconded by Tara, carried unanimously.

Georgia will update the website to reflect changes in leadership structure. If anyone wants to chair a meeting for a month, contact the leadership team.

4 Liaison Updates

- City Councillors - Adriane Carr
 - With the election coming up, Council is meeting every 3 weeks rather than every 2 weeks. The March 13 Council agenda includes a discussion on a bylaw change in the definition of 'grocery store'. It is not clear who the staff responsible is. ACTION: Sarah will look into it and report back.
 - North East False Creek plan was approved. There are implications for the Cottonwood and Strathcona gardens related to the removal of viaducts and the new main artery. With Andrea Reimer, the concern about the impact on the gardens has been raised. The Park Board is also concerned about potential impact on the Park.
 - Councillor Carr congratulated the FPC for the recent work on the leadership structure. In her experience shared models work well.
- Parks Board Commissioner - Michael Wiebe - Tabled.
- Parks Board Staff -Megan Herod will be the sole representative moving forward. Rebecca will not attend in person.
- VSB Trustee - Joy Alexander - Tabled.
- City Staff - Sarah Carten
 - Caitlin was thanked for her time as Co-Chair.
 - 4 year capital budget - The Capital budget planning has three phases - the 10 year plan that guides the 4 year plan that guides the 1 year plan. All 2018 food strategy funds have been allocated or spent. While the timelines of the 4-year plan are not known, it is expected that requests will be compiled in the next 3-4 months. The process is led by Finance and Real Estate. Funds are allocated towards: research, renovations (city owned), capital grants (non-city owned), and new developments. Park Board staff, Engineering staff, and all other departments will also be making their requests which may relate to various food files. Food policy staff shared the last four year's social policy/food spends: \$450k was spent mostly toward kitchens and urban agriculture (through renovations and grants). Looking forward, food policy staff plan to request funds for research around food resiliency, food recovery and rescue, and funds for renos and grants related to food assets (e.g. food distribution and storage, resilience, reconciliation, farmers markets, garden infrastructure improvements, a smaller focus on kitchens). Social Policy and Park Board staff are working together to coordinate requests. The food policy team's requests will be rolled into Social Policy's requests.

Discussion

- The 2040 zero waste committee looks at food waste reduction across the city, request can be aligned with Engineering. It was suggested that the capital budget process could be an opportunity for departments to apply for funding to hire, and that Social Planning could use the opportunity to increase staff resources from the current 1.5 FTE that is allocated to food. It was noted that any staff hired would need to relate to capital planning, such as a temporary position to work on a specific piece. This is not operating budget. ACTION: Kim will look into an example from another city where they created a pilot position that turned into a permanent position.
- A visioning session about food infrastructure in 2060 (e.g. food stands, outdoor kitchens, fruit trees) that allows for community connections with food.
- Indigenizing the food system - the Park Board is daylighting streams, and trying to bring back shell fish. The City could direct funds here.
- It is unclear if funds for the food exchange district are part of this capital budget. The district is a collaboration between different initiatives including the Food Bank, for an innovation hub. This would come from an additional pool of funds (not renos/grants, not research).
- Discussion about whether Resiliency Office is requesting 4 year capital funding for any projects, including food ones. ACTION: Sarah will reach out to the Resiliency Officer soon to discuss funding for food resiliency.

- It will be up to James and Sarah to make the case for these requests. If members see gaps, they are asked to contact Sarah. Once the 4 year capital budget is confirmed, input can be sought during the annual budget request.
- Food policy budget is in one bucket in one department and competing against other priorities.
- Food is as important as Housing, and Transportation but is not given as much importance, which highlights that food policy exists in silos the City.
- The March meeting will be a training session. ACTION: The leadership team will explore if time can be made for a motion regarding capital budget planning.
- The Park Board is going through the same process, and have had meetings with Social Policy to ensure they are working together as the timelines are the same. They are working on a list of priorities that is expected to be ready in the next two months. Requests will be considered in the context of other requests.
- Re-indigenizing the food system is broad and goes beyond Social Planning.
- It was noted that the intercultural engagement and re-indigenizing the food system should be coordinated.

Park Board Capital Planning Discussion

- Parks has both a Recreation and a Planning side, and is determining where elements fit into a cohesive 'food ask', or if it is better to have pieces spread out.
- They are considering input, and will report back on specific ways to provide input. The importance of community engagement is recognized; funding will be put aside, however it is not clear who it will land with.
- Parks Board allocation for food in the last budget is unknown, but was less than the City's. ACTION: Megan will report back on the amount of funding allocated to food in the last budget, and the process and timelines for input to the planning process. All requests must be for capital expenses.
- Councillor Carr noted that typically Council will meet with senior managers, and this has not happened yet. The Park Board will do the same. Staff will work out budgets given priorities, politicians can advocate for other asks with the opportunity to expand budgets. The timeline must be linked to when politicians will be in those meetings. ACTION: Adriane will advise of the dates of meetings with senior managers.
- It was recommended that the VFPC liaise with the Urban Indigenous Advisory Committee for a more powerful request.
- The operating budget is worked out by senior staff during the summer. In early fall, City Council has a first review, and after being up through consultations, there is a vote in December.
- Metro Vancouver - Jaspal Marwah - Tabled.
- Vancouver Coastal Health - Claire Gram
 - VCH is continuing with the process of evaluating their model of food delivery.
- Ministry of Agriculture - Lindsay Bisschop - Tabled.

5 VFPC Updates

- Reconciliation Training
Brad Mardsen has been confirmed as the facilitator for the March training session. He has been given the background and the hope is that all advisory committees will undergo the training. ACTION: Tara will circulate information for his May 4 session with the Park Board, for those who can't make the March training. ACTION: Caitlin will check with Brad on the maximum number of people, before the VFPC determines if other advisory groups or their chairs should be invited. It was noted that there is value in doing it as a team, and that the session will not be open to the public. The Youth VFPC had been invited but has since dissolved.
- Park Board Local Food Action / Capital Plan
[see discussion below]
- All Our Father's Relations film screening

It was decided that the screening will take place at Science world in late May or early June, and it has been confirmed that May 31 is available. Zsuzsi will moderate the panel. The Museum of Vancouver will help promote the event.

- **Great Big Crunch**

To enable the participation of the VFPC in the Great Big Crunch, it was decided to take a photo of the VFPC and liaisons doing the Great Big Crunch at the meeting, rather than March 1. Councillor Carr read the Proclamation and presented it to the Children and Food working group. The working group will coordinate the promotion on the website and social media.

6 Slack Demonstration / Training

After discussions at the November meeting, it was suggested that a new communications tool be used. Slack aggregates messages on 'channels' (topics) and can be a more inclusive way of communicating. There is integration with Google docs and direct messages can also be sent.

Discussion

- To differentiate between email and Slack, Slack can be used for internal communication, and email can be used for external communications. It is not possible to send an email to Slack.
- For working groups, external members can be added to those specific channels.
- There is an option to receive notifications by email for each message (but not the entire thread). There is an app that can send messages to a phone. In addition to the app, Slack can be browser-based.
- A concern was raised about sensitive data being potentially stored on servers outside of Canada, which would violate privacy rights. Slack is a BC-based company that has worked with large corporations; their servers are likely in Canada.
- Non-profit (non-governmental) groups can have a free upgrade, but then would be unable to use it themselves.
- The system can store up to 10000 messages with the free plan, a notice will be sent when close to the threshold, to allow for archiving of messages for institutional memory.
- It was noted this could help new members become familiar with the work of the council.
- **ACTION:** The Leadership Team will trial it, and all members are asked to send a message and become familiar with the system before the next meeting when a decision will be made.

7 Introduction of Food Justice and the Buffer Zone

Zsuzsi is working on a proposal to bring a racial equity workshop to Vancouver with a local facilitator. Information was circulated. The workshop is designed for people with white/light skin working in the food system. While originally targeted at women, it was clarified that both men and women are welcome. Zsuzsi is working with the Vancouver Food Summit to present the workshop during that event. The cost is about \$1800, to be paid either through fundraising or by charging on a sliding scale. Funds from the City are welcome. She is looking for support from the VFPC to ask for funding and also for participation, and will ask formally at the April meeting. **ACTION:** Zsuzsi will draft letter of support be ready for approval at the meeting.

8 Strategic Planning - 2018 Key Priorities and 2018 Map the Meetings

As there are seven meetings remaining (including October), key priorities need to be finalized. The following priorities have been identified, in addition to ongoing working group work.

- Reconciliation / Decolonizing the Vancouver Food System
- Membership Structure & VFPC post 2018 Election
- Food on the Election Table

Discussion

- Budget requests should be a priority.

- The “All candidates town hall” can be a regular meeting or an additional meeting. The September meeting is 6 weeks before the election. For the meeting, policy priorities need to be clear to ask all candidates for their feedback. Previously, questions were sent in advance and published on website for those who couldn’t attend. An ad-hoc working group may be needed to consider public engagement before and during and after the event.
- Each member should only lead one group.
- May - working on food assets.
- June - Dawn’s training (this will be a full meeting)
- September - All candidates town hall.
- There are many current City strategies at various phases of update. Much of the work could be done through working groups; relevant strategies can be tied to the election / All candidates town hall.
- \$32k is available to a non-profit organization for research or training to explore what decolonizing food system could look like. This is under ‘social innovation’ and needs to be spent by the end of 2018. Suggestions are welcome.
- Wild Salmon Caravan - a subcommittee worked on this last year with support from Park Board, and the VFPC will likely be asked again soon for support for 2018. The Park Board will support again, but not to the same degree. This aligns with key priorities of the VFPC.
- It was suggested that the VFPC and the City engage in a public visioning session that is professionally facilitated. This could help attract a more diverse membership.
- Given current issues with capacity, it was felt that the VFPC should focus on existing priorities, and do them well.
- The Local Food Action Plan - the goal is to provide an update on the plan as soon as possible. This is needed so the VFPC can provide informed input into the next iteration.

MOTION: moved by Caitlin, seconded by Marc, carried unanimously.

That the VFPC requests an update by April 30th on the progress of implementation of the LFAP (2013), to determine how much staff FTE will be dedicated to the update and prioritizing next steps, and advise the VFPC on how it will be engaged in the update.

- Ideally, the LFAP update will be on the agenda for the next Park Board meeting.
- After much discussion, it was decided that the Leadership Team will map meetings and share with the group.
- ACTION: Sarah will look into timelines for major City strategies and report back on where they are at in their process to know which ones the VFPC can have input on and which are the most important. There will not be heavy engagement on the Greenest City Action Plan and Healthy City Strategy before the election.
- ACTION: Sarah will continue to look at food in retail including legacy businesses and small business protocols that can have an impact on food.

10 Bread Basket - Tabled.

- Food Tank Policy Summit draw
- Endorsement Policy Review

11 Motion to adjourn

Moved by Marc, seconded by Tara. Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm