



Chairs: Caitlin Dorward and Tara Moreau

Council Members: Dirk Gibbs, Chashma Heinze, Kimberly Hodgson, Ilana Labow, David Speight, Rebecca Cuttler, Zsuzsi Fodor, Will Jung, Stephanie Lim

Liaisons: Heather Deal (City Council), James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Rebecca Till (Park Board)

Representatives: Theresa Duynstee (Metro Van), Orlando Schmidt (Ministry of Agriculture)

Regrets: Crecien Bencio (VYFPC), Veronik Campbell, Adriane Carr (City Council), Sarah Carten (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Anna Cavouras, Gabrielle Kissinger, Pat McCarthy, Saber Miresmailli, Colin Stansfield, Kitty Yung (VCH)

Absent: Michael Wiebe (Park Board)

1 Introductions

- Round of names
Members and 22 guest introduced themselves. Ilana Labow noted that it is her last meeting after being on the council for six years.
- Identify spotlight for January meeting
The agenda referred to the December meeting, and has been amended here to January as there is no meeting in December. Spotlights are an opportunity for the council to get to know each other's background and interests better. David volunteered to present in January.

2 Food Secure Canada conference report back and next steps

- Report from attendees
The conference took place in Toronto in October and a number of members attended. Caitlin and Anna also attended a planning meeting of the Coalition for Healthy School Food (the VFPC became members in May, and are committed to collaborating with the group). Most other members of Coalition work at the provincial and federal level; Caitlin and Anna pushed to include advocacy at the municipal level in the strategic plan. It was met with limited success; the final version has not been circulated. The School Food working group will review the plan and explore how best to contribute. Caitlin successfully applied to the Public Policy Institute as a member of the VFPC and will do a project on school food. The Coalition is planning research projects that the working group may be able to connect to.

An open format part of the conference was dedicated to discussing ideas raised by participants. One topic was networking of municipal food policy actors, in which Sarah and Caitlin participated with people from across Canada. Caitlin has set up a Google group to continue the conversation. ACTION: Caitlin will circulate the invitation to join.

Zsuzsi and Stephanie attended a Food Share workshop on transformational communication. The opening plenary spoke about the indigenous food lens, and speakers also mentioned the importance of economic policy, innovation in the food system (e.g. the idea of food as a community utility), and the need to change communities on the ground rather than rely on government policy. At a session with food policy councils and municipal staff, a network of municipalities that can be food systems leaders was formed, led by Sarah. ACTION: Caitlin will verify if it is the same network referred to above. It was noted that the Milan Pact can be a model for food systems change.

- Discussion: Potential VFPC role in National Food Strategy development
[The mandate letter to Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food](#) Laurence Macaulay specifically mentions a directive to "Develop a food policy that promotes healthy living and safe food by putting more healthy, high-quality food, produced by Canadian ranchers and farmers, on the tables of families across the country." FSC is working to develop an action plan to be prepared to provide input. There has not been much discussion at the VFPC, and members are asked to reflect on what a national policy would mean for the City and the food movement in BC. The chairs have spoken to Brent Mansfield ([BCFSN](#) director) about coordinating networks across the province for an organized response. It was clarified that a food *policy* will be created, not a food strategy. ACTION: Caitlin will circulate the presentation via email.

The ADM from the Ministry of Agriculture Greg Meredith is responsible for the interdepartmental committee that is tasked with creating the plan. At the conference, he listed priorities including conservation, access, profitability of the sector, and global food security. The hope is to have a draft early in the new year to share with stakeholders. As this is moving quickly, the VFPC needs to be ready. This is in the VFPC mandate, Goal 5 in the Food Strategy speaks to advocating to higher levels of government, and speaks to the role that the VFPC can play with the City to engage on this issue. It was noted in the Council of Councils meeting that a priority of the VFPC is to participate in the creation of national food policy. There have been four different food strategies/policies by different agencies in recent years - [Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Food Secure Canada \(2011\)](#), [Canadian Agri-food Policy Institute \(2011\)](#) and (2016), [Conference Board of Canada \(2014\)](#), each with a different perspective. ACTION: Caitlin to send article in Globe and Mail that summarizes these.

Discussion

- Members are exploring if a representative from Agriculture and Agri-food Canada can present to the VFPC.
- Another suggestion was to send an introductory letter to the ADM, possibly in collaboration with other groups.
- There has not been a formal invitation to participate from the Ministry, however it is expected that all FPCs will be stakeholders, and should collaborate.
- There is a separate framework for policy strictly related to the agriculture sector.
- It was noted that marine food may be under the Department of Fisheries.
- The Ministry will work with eight government departments including Natural Resources Canada and Health Canada.
- When consulting on affordable housing, the government released a report about what they heard in the consultation process and invited feedback. A report summarizing the feedback was drafted and used in the strategy. If this uses the same process, the VFPC will need to reach out to community networks to ensure their issues are on the table.
- It was suggested that FSC be asked if they can provide tools similar to those for the Eat Think Vote campaign so communities can organize their own town halls.
- ACTION: An ad-hoc working group was formed with Orlando, Teresa, Kim, Rebecca, who will meet before the next meeting and report back.

3 Liaison updates

Reporting Framework: What? Report on the item(s) (prioritize those that are actionable); Now what? How can VFPC take action?

Liaisons

- City - Staff Liaison
 - Milan Urban Food Policy Pact - Vancouver received special mention in the governance section for its work on the Food Strategy, bringing international recognition. A representative from the Canadian Embassy received it in Rome on behalf of the City.
 - Update on False Creek Flats
James - Cory and Megan are the planners involved with the False Creek Flats planning process. The plan has taken shape over past couple years, with the VFPC participating through the Development working group, and members on the steering committee who have visited the area.

Draft Plan - Cory

The goal is to release to the public on Dec 8 and will be announced soon. The area plays a strategic role as a jobs and economy zone that is close to downtown. There has not been much focus on it lately. A regional policy overlays this area to secure industrial lands, areas of mixed employment, general urban/residential, and park. A goal is to increase employment close to transit. Residents were asked 'What are your favourite places?' and 'What are the challenges?' in the area. Many favourites are easy accessible, although half of challenges relate to connectivity due to the railway. The plan seeks to unlock the economic potential of the area by creating a more productive, sustainable, and integrated False Creek Flats. This includes spaces to meet the needs of business, places for public events, a healthy and resilient environment, connections between businesses, and programs to support business. It was noted that there are seismic and sea level challenges in the area.

The 'Key moves' of the plan are to: put people first, ensure long-term viability of rail, connect to and through the flats, leverage key institutional anchors (Emily Carr, St Paul's), create amenity rich public nodes, intensify employment and industrial operations, build greener more resilient flats, secure and strengthen food/culture (artist studios, food business, commissaries, gardens), innovate housing opportunities, supporting new and existing businesses, and finally to tie all the pieces together, connecting people over the rail. The City has explored the relocation of E-W artery (bridge/overpass over rail) as a replacement for Malkin Ave. Earlier consultations resulted in 1/3 vote for Venables, 1/3 for National, and 1/3 for neither. Due to a push by many groups, the City is in conversations with Parks Board to open William St as an option, as it would cut through a park. The strategy is to move the plan forward to council in February, and it may not include a final alignment recommendation.

James showed a map of existing food assets in the area, including a concentration of warehousing/distribution businesses on Malkin, the food bank, some of the City's largest urban farms, and the City's largest and oldest garden.

Strategic Directions:

- Support food related businesses, largest at Produce row on Malkin Ave.
- Enhance opportunities for urban agriculture and community gardens.
- Support the greater Vancouver food bank.
- Create opportunity for a food centre of excellence. Principles have been identified - public, inviting, people-centred, showcase community food systems, strengthen assets, support creative community economic development opportunities, and co-location opportunities. It would recognize the role of non-profit and commercial enterprises, consider food waste activities, expand urban agriculture, and include outdoor food and drink celebration.

There are a number of City-wide policies to support the plan (GCAP, Food Strategy, Healthy City, Local Food Action Plan). The City has strategies to support food-related businesses, urban agriculture and community gardens, and the Greater Vancouver Food Bank.

Discussion

- East-West artery - Park board will consult with public about impacts of choosing William St, and will be clear about the trade-offs.
 - It was confirmed that the Food Bank is relocating within the flats and that the City is working with them to identify sites.
 - It is unclear to what extent for-profit urban farms have been interested. A neighbourhood energy utility is looking at a shared greenhouse (growing) structure but is very early on in the process. A food utility could be such a neighbourhood amenity partnership.
 - ACTION: James will circulate open house info once confirmed.
- Parks Board - Staff Liaison: Update on [Local Food Action Plan](#)
Rebecca Till (Green Programmer) provided an update on status of local food action plan on behalf of Alan Duncan, the interim representative. She noted that VFPC members were part of the task force that drafted the plan that was published in 2013. The priorities of the plan were to: increase food assets; support sustainable local economies, develop engaged and capacity-rich food networks, and generate soil through composting.
Of the 51 actions in the report, 16 have been completed, 14 are in progress, 25 are remaining or have unknown status.

Highlights of 2016: sold 100 fruit trees, planted 150 native edibles, have good examples of food engagement tactics such as Dunbar community centre artist in residence's work around food and Kits community centre garden use in programming and kitchen. Social policy will hire a new contractor with the objective to build capacity in community centre staff to increase programming in community kitchens. A plan to pilot bake oven in a park was done behind the Italian Cultural Centre. Some fieldhouses have been repurposed for food-related activities (Norquay - Fresh Roots food hub, Stratchcona - Village Vancouver). There will be a new call for fieldhouses in 2017. A donor funded an upgrade to Van Dusen's food production area, and the Park Board is matching funds. New concession offerings have been successful with 16 vendors in parks, and a fruit stand will be added in 2017.

The Sustenance festival has a new direction in the spirit of including underrepresented groups. A job description is being developed for someone involved in local food community, to map out initiatives outside of the dominant food movement. This is an opportunity to build relationships in the community. The position will also design a process to bring out stories about food.

The Park Board will be sending out the contract and asks that the VFPC circulate it. The community has identified a gap in staffing at the Park Board.

Discussion

- Rebecca will explore if the food asset maps can be made accessible and shared. It was noted that one action is related to putting information online, so the intent is there.
 - The VFPC can provide support on actions that are 'in progress'. There is a need to bring focus to the many actions require a lead/staff attention and update document. The Action Plan came into force with support from VFPC, and there is a desire to get re-involved at a higher level. Although the task force no longer exists, it can be reconvened as a working group.
- It was decided that the VFPC table a motion on resourcing of the Local Food Action Plan:

WHEREAS the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation adopted the "Local Food Action Plan" (LFAP) in 2013; and

WHEREAS to the best of the Vancouver Food Policy Council's knowledge, as of November 2016 many LFAP Actions remain incomplete and staff are no longer assigned to the ongoing implementation or monitoring of the plan; and,

WHEREAS achieving a just and sustainable food system remains a priority for the City of Vancouver and its residents, as evidenced by the 2013 adoption, and ongoing implementation, of the Vancouver Food Strategy;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council (VFPC) asks the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation to

- Assign staff and other resources to support a review and update of the 2013 LFAP to ensure its relevancy today;
- Assign staff and other resources to support the implementation and monitoring of the updated LFAP;
- Assign a permanent staff liaison to the VFPC to ensure ongoing consultation with the VFPC on the review, update, implementation, and monitoring of the LFAP.

Moved by Tara, seconded by Ilana, all in favour, carried unanimously.

Other

○ City - Council Liaisons

[Sea level rise report to council](#) notes that agricultural lands could be affected. Councillor Deal is now on the Metro Vancouver Water and Waterways group, and notes that mitigation is part of the plan. A Motion was passed regarding liaisons on different committees. Committees can choose to invite the most recent former trustee to sit as a special representative. Councillor Deal will verify if the VFPC can invite Janet Fraser as a Special Representative, as well as invite a staff member liaison to the VFPC. The School Food Working Group will consider the best approach at their next meeting.

○ Parks Board - Commissioner Liaison

No representative available.

○ Regional Representatives

Metro Vancouver

- completed a [review of the farm property tax](#) which became a headline story, as people are using farm land for non farm uses to build mega-mansions. The tax structure has created unintended incentives for people to own land in ALR even if they are not farming as they receive tax benefits.
- Agriculture and Water forum on Nov 3 drew 100 attendees to discuss the new water sustainability act and farming.
- An agri-food and seafood conference held by the Ministry brought industry representatives together.

- The BC Ministry of Agriculture has a bylaw standard for residential guidance to limit home size and location on ALR land. A number of local governments have adopted this to limit monster homes, some have not (Richmond). With heightened awareness, local governments expressed renewed interest in developing bylaws. This been challenging for government as open houses are attended by real estate developers. Metro Van called for regulation in 2011 but was not successful.
- Government of Canada national agriculture policy - currently the '[Calgary statement for agriculture](#)' provides general guidance on the agricultural policy framework, and is not as relevant to food policy. Orlando can connect with colleagues on the development of the policy. ACTION: Councillor Deal will verify that it has not been discussed at Council. If other cities have signed on, a motion could be tabled from the VFPC.

Vancouver Coastal Health, Vancouver Youth Food Policy Council
No representatives available.

4 Working session to prepare for transition to 2017-18 term

This item was tabled due to lack of time. ACTION: Working Groups are asked to discuss the issues below and report back in January. ACTION: Chairs will send out template.

- Update on timeline of transition to next term
- Working Group transition strategy development
 - *Outline: WG Mandate/Priorities, Top 3 Accomplishments in 2015-16, Top 3 Goals for 2017-18 term*
 - *Discuss transition strategy: who reapplied, who did not, how many new people are needed, and who will co-chair the WG next term?*
 - Working Groups transition strategy report back to whole council

5 Bread Basket

- Council of Councils meeting - attended by Will, Rebecca, and Alan. The meeting is for advisory groups to connect, and was very focussed on indigenous incorporating perspectives in the context of reconciliation. Working groups are challenged to consider and be proactive on this. The Right to Food working group had previously indicated that they would produce materials related to food justice for the website. The website is currently unavailable but the material can be added once the issues are resolved. Rather than acknowledging that the meetings take place on Coast Salish territory, groups are asked to name the three first nations individually (Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh) as there are other Coast Salish nations. It was clarified that reconciliation is more about process/lens than actions and outcomes.
- The VFPC has never focussed on the marine food system, and is identified as a gap in current work, as it is not addressed in food strategy, or local food action plan. The Tsleil-Waututh First Nation with North Van created the [Burrard inlet action plan](#) with 6 guiding principals. One action is to increase the amount of consumable fish by 10%. A suggestion was made to invite Ocean wise and/or Sea Choice programs to present at a themed meeting.
- Membership - diversity on the VFPC has been noted in the past. There is a question on the application form about what cultural groups, income, etc. applicants feel connected to. Recruitment aims for a diversity, if gaps remain after the application process closes, there is a possibility to reach out directly to fill them. It was noted that the VFPC does not have a first nation lens, and a suggestion to add a liaison from each first nation. If there are financial barriers to attending a request to City Council could be made to request honoraria.
- Orientation materials are needed to get new members active. Caitlin has done some work on the website to include policy and process documents. A social gathering/icebreaker will be organized, although the timeline is still unknown. Suggestions included community kitchen activities, planning, etc. ACTION: Members are asked to send Caitlin any activity ideas. The meeting would occur outside of a regular meeting, and the Food Bank has offered to host.
- Provincial election in May - the VFPC would like to host an all-candidates meeting (as done previously with the municipal election) to ask 5-10 questions of candidates about their position on food issues, especially the national food strategy. The results can be publicized through media. ACTION: Tara will discuss with Brent the creation of a template that can be used across BC. There was a suggestion to work with other groups (e.g. the BC Anti-Poverty Coalition, Metro Van Alliance). ACTION: Working groups are asked to draft one or two questions to bring to the January meeting, so that gaps can be identified and a final version ready by the end of January. Working groups will need to consider what actions cannot be accomplished without provincial support.
- It was noted that working groups will need some training on what is meant by 'indigenous lens'. ACTION: James will see if a representative from the City can present on the issue in February or March.

- A suggestion was made to connect with other FPCs in BC. ACTIONS: Caitlin to explore if Brent has contact info. Orlando offered to connect through local agrologists.
- Each March, FoodShare has a [Great Big Crunch](#) event that is used to get healthy food on the minds of schools, and can be used to leverage networks, launch campaigns, and catalyze issues. CAITLIN will receive and send reminder.

6 Motion to Adjourn

As there was not quorum at the meeting's end, there was no motion to adjourn.

Meeting ended at 8:30pm