

## Vancouver Food Policy Council

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall



**Chairs:** Caitlin Dorward and Tara Moreau

**Council Members:** Veronik Campbell, Zsuzsi Fodor, Dirk Gibbs, Kimberly Hodgson, Will Jung, Stephanie Lim, Pat McCarthy, David Speight, Colin Stansfield (via teleconference)

**Liaisons:** Adriane Carr (City Council), Sarah Carten (Social Policy, City of Vancouver, Heather Deal (City Council),), Rebecca Till (Park Board), Michael Wiebe (Park Board)

**Regional Representatives:** Crecien Bencio (VYFPC), Kitty Yung (VCH)

**Regrets:** Anna Cavouras, Rebecca Cuttler, Gabrielle Kissinger, Chashma Heinze, Saber Miresmailli, Colin Stansfield, James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Theresa Duynstee (Metro Van), Orlando Schmidt (Ministry of Agriculture)

### 1 Introductions

It is acknowledged that the meeting takes place on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh first nations.

- Announcing [Global Pulse Day](#)  
2016 was the UN international year of pulses to showcase its importance as an alternative to meat consumption. It has been used as a positive strategy for engagement.
- Round of names  
Members and ten guests introduced themselves.
- Spotlight: David Speight  
David has cooked professionally for 27 years. He noted that previously in the restaurant industry, everything went to the garbage, as there was no composting or recycling, and the Ocean Wise program did not exist. As Executive Chef at a seafood restaurant, he regularly bought Chilean sea bass, a good seller with high profits. Over time, the fish became smaller, which is when he realized the impact of the restaurant's decisions and how important they were. Ocean Wise was just beginning, recognizing the role of chefs and restaurant procurement. He then became the Executive Chef at Bridges on Granville Island, which was Ocean Wise certified but still threw out lots of garbage. Gregor Robertson was the MLA at the time, and David met with him and proposed that restaurant owners, suppliers, and consumers played a role. While there were no direct results, that conversation may have had influence, as now systems are in place for composting, recycling, and donating food. He then moved to Rogers Arena, with a greater impact and more waste. In collaboration with a Metro Van representative, an on-site composting and recycling programs, and plans for a food donation program. When he requested that Aaramark implement the program, the initial answer was No. David then secured letters from the Canucks, Pivot Legal Society, the Food Bank, and sent them along with a copy of the Food Donation Encouragement Act, with another request. The answer was again No. In 2012, the NHL became a partner to the [Rock and Wrap It Up program](#), which had previously been used in the music industry for groups to include in their contracts that all venues must donate surplus food. It is now mandated that every team must participate. David is now the Executive Chef at UBC, where all systems are in place. In his role, he is working with students on food-related projects, and is exploring a sugary soda tax or ban for the university.

For the March Spotlight, Zsuzsi and Michael or Kim will present.

### 2 Update on transition to next term

**ACTION:** Caitlin will send an email to returning members about the February meeting. The meeting will be closed to the public, and used as a time to train new members and socialize. The goals are to provide an overview of VFPC history, City procedures, internal processes, and to have fun doing "working group speed dating." Space at the Food Bank may be available to use for cooking a meal collectively. **ACTION:** Caitlin to follow up with Zsuzsi on space, David on menu planning. Members are encouraged to send chairs other suggestions or to help with planning.

### 3 Working group reports on 2015-16 and plan for 2017-18

Working groups can be created at the City's request, or from member's own interests, and are the workhorse of the council. There is potential to add more working groups based on interests of new members.

While the VFPC advises the City of food issues, there is a recognition that many food issues are under provincial jurisdiction. The VFPC had previously engaged municipal candidates on food issues, and plans to do the same for provincial candidates, through an online questionnaire with about 7-10 questions, which could be adapted by other groups for use across the province. A media outlet is being sought to help with dissemination of results. Working groups were asked to draft 1-2 questions for the questionnaire.

## 1. Biotechnology

### Mandate:

The current function of this workgroup is to determine how city council can effectively change the perception of Genetically Engineered (GE) / Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) on the food strategy; such as awareness on labelling food products or on the local food ecosystem.

### Top accomplishments 2015-16:

Understanding the limitation of the City of Vancouver within the Vancouver Charter.

### Top priorities 2017-18:

Labelling of GE/GMO food products.

- A continued Proclamation for GE/GMO FREE Week.
- Ongoing Promotion & awareness of GE/GMO within the Food Strategy & our local food ecosystem.

### Question for Provincial Candidates:

Will the new government-elect follow the City of Vancouver's policy of banning Neonicotinoids pesticides; so that beneficial insects are protected within the food ecosystem?

The waste working group is looking for members with expertise with the CFIA in GE/GMO animals in relationship to food and expertise with GE/GMO on edible plants and the effects to humans.

## 2. Development

### Mandate:

Our goal is to look closely at new developments or major re-zoning projects within the City of Vancouver and ensure that adequate food assets are built into the vision of the future of the project. Our group began as the False Creek Flats Working Group as that was a major project underway within the city of Vancouver that has a large impact on the food system within the city. We expanded our scope to support any new or major city project.

### Top accomplishments 2015-16:

- Passed a motion in 2016 to support the protection of Produce Row and Cottonwoods garden by encouraging the city to explore another east / west arterial route rather than choosing Malkin Avenue.
- Have been at the table throughout the City of Vancouver's planning process for the redevelopment of the False Creek Flats with a directive of supporting existing and the creation of new food assets to be prominently embedded with the overall development strategy.
- Provided feedback and guidance to the City of Vancouver in regard to the Pearson Dogwood development.

### Top priorities 2017-18:

- Our major focus for 2017 will remain to be to work closely with the City of Vancouver as they complete their draft plan for the False Creek Flats.
- Our vision includes seeing through the final decision made on the east / west arterial route as it pertains to Produce Row & Cottonwood Gardens
- Within this plan we are in conversation with the Vancouver Food Bank as the potential hub of the planned Centre of Food Excellence.
- We will also be connecting with the Vancouver Farmer's Market as they bid to house a permanent market location within the new development.

### Question for Provincial Candidates:

Our working group is fairly specific to the decisions made by the City of Vancouver staff and council.

This working group is seeking additional members with a background/expertise in planning.

### 3. Right to Food

Mandate:

To ensure that the collective work of the Vancouver Food Policy Council and liaison organizations aligns with the principles of food justice and the right to food.

Top accomplishments 2015-16:

- Motion (yet to be adopted) recognizing the link between income and food security (September 2016)
- Deepening and broadening the VFPC and wider food movement's shared understanding of the Right to Food
  - Moving beyond income inequality to broader intersection of various oppressions
    - Hua Foundation guest presentation (February 2016)
    - Right to Food participation in Access to City Services Without Fear (February-April 2016)
    - Participation in Vancouver Food Summit (May 2016)
    - Participation in Maisonneuve article (November 2016)

Top priorities 2017-18:

- Continue growing VFPC collective knowledge of and ability to pursue action in line with right to food and food justice
  - Food justice and right to food resources for VFPC website
    - Hosting guest speakers at meetings & organizing informal gatherings
    - Strategically crafting VFPC motions related to right to food and food justice
    - Identify gaps in Vancouver Food Strategy with right to food/food justice lens
    - Revisit developing right to food/food justice guidelines for use in other working groups
- Support Greenest City Scholar
  - Application for scholar to look at access to cultural food assets (green grocers)
- Diversity and Inclusion of VFPC Membership for 2019-20 Term
  - Actively participate in membership framework review for greater diversity and inclusion with food justice principles

Question for Provincial Candidates:

We know that food insecurity is intimately linked to the unacceptable rates of poverty in BC. If elected, would you support the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition's comprehensive poverty reduction plan and how?

### 4. School Food

Mandate:

To advocate for and support school food programs and food literacy in schools.

Working Group Goals:

Increase access to healthy and local food for all kids in school.

Support positive policies and leadership to advance food literacy, gardens, food services and food procurement within schools.

Top accomplishments 2015-16:

- Joining the Coalition for Healthy School Food (May 2016).
- Hosting and convening a panel discussion on school food in BC (June 2016).
- Participating in Food Secure Canada's annual conference in Toronto (Sept 2016).

Top priorities 2017-18:

- Improve connections with other BC members of the Coalition for Healthy School Food.
- Support a policy project with Caitlin through the United Way Public Policy Institute.
- Host and convene a June meeting where results of policy program are presented and discussed.

Questions for Provincial Candidates:

If elected, how will your government be willing to support policies that increase access to healthy and local food for all kids in school in BC? How would your government support positive policies and provide leadership to advance food literacy, gardens, food services and food procurement within schools?

### 5. Urban Farming

Mandate:

To provide advice to the City on how to support and measure the impact of the new Bylaw on urban farms in Vancouver. To recommend policy that enables diverse, viable, urban farms.

Top accomplishments 2015-16:

- Developed and presented the VFPC Position of Support for the Proposed Policy Changes for Urban Farming to City Council (March)
- Completed a review of the Zoning and Development By-law that summarizes the benefits and concerns raised by urban farmers (May)
- Supported a proposal to conduct an Urban Farmers Survey in 2016-17 (October)

Top priorities 2017-18: To be determined.

Question for Provincial Candidates: To be determined.

This group is seeking more members that are active.

## 6. Waste

Mandate:

Diverting food waste from landfill in the two categories: Pre-Consumer waste (Redirection of edible food, Reduce consumption) and Post-Consumer waste (Community base composting, Large scale composting)

Top accomplishments 2015-16:

COV 2040 Zero Waste Advisory Panel

- The City of Vancouver has appointed 22 representatives from Vancouver to help design a vision and implementation strategy to achieve the goal of zero waste by 2040. Tara Moreau (VFPC Co-Chair) and Dirk Gibbs (VFPC and Organic Recycling) sit on Panel.

Top priorities 2017-18:

- Organic Waste Recycling
  - Monitor Industry Regulation Changes
  - Report challenges and opportunities in local industry
  - Liaise with Right to Food working group to eliminate edible food from the waste stream
- Investigate NZWC Federal Tax incentive for nutritious food donations - Is it beneficial? Should the VFPC support?
- Examine strategies by Compost Council of Canada towards Food waste - How to keep within regulation?

This working group is seeking new members.

## 4 Acknowledging 2015-16 Members

As this is a volunteer committee, the Chairs presented each member and liaison with a certificate that recognized each of their specific strengths.

## 5 Motion from Right to Food Working Group on Food Insecurity

A motion was first raised in September, but did not pass as no quorum was present. Revisions were requested and completed.

### **MOTION**

**WHEREAS** 1.7 million Canadian households, including over a million children, experience food insecurity;<sup>1</sup> in British Columbia, 1 in 10 households, representing 485,000 individuals, experience food insecurity<sup>2</sup> and a total of 5% of Vancouver households report being food insecure;<sup>3</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> Laura Track, *Hungry for Justice: Advancing a Right to Food for Children in BC* (March 7, 2016). [https://bccla.org/our\\_work/hungry-for-justice-advancing-a-right-to-food-for-children-in-bc/](https://bccla.org/our_work/hungry-for-justice-advancing-a-right-to-food-for-children-in-bc/)

<sup>2</sup> PROOF Food Insecurity Policy Research, *Priority health indicators for British Columbia: Household food insecurity indicator report* (August 2016). [http://www.phsa.ca/population-public-health-site/Documents/Household%20food%20insecurity%20in%20BC\\_full%20report.pdf](http://www.phsa.ca/population-public-health-site/Documents/Household%20food%20insecurity%20in%20BC_full%20report.pdf),

<sup>3</sup> City of Vancouver, *What Feeds Us: Vancouver Food Strategy* (January, 2013), 28. <http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/vancouver-food-strategy-final.PDF>

**WHEREAS** the Vancouver Food Charter endorses the position that “Food is a basic human right. All residents need accessible, affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food”;<sup>4</sup> and

**WHEREAS** the Vancouver Food Strategy references the growing income gap as a key vulnerability in the local food system,<sup>5</sup> and calls on the City of Vancouver to, “Support the provincial government in creating a comprehensive antipoverty program that brings attention to the links between food, health and income”;<sup>6</sup> and

**WHEREAS** the Healthy City Strategy states “Income is a strong determinant of health and well-being. While Vancouver is a growing, thriving city, we also have high poverty rates, and many people struggle to make ends meet”;<sup>7</sup> and

**WHEREAS** food security organizations and poverty reduction initiatives acknowledge that sustainable and adequate sources of income for households are key to achieving sustainable food security.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, in conjunction with the 2017 Poverty Free BC Action Week (February 25-March 4), the Vancouver Food Policy Council recognizes and affirms the connection between food security and income security and calls upon the City of Vancouver:

- To act in its own capacity to address the link between income and food security in their poverty reduction initiatives and food policies;
- To advocate that the Federal and Provincial governments address the link between income and food security in their poverty reduction initiatives and food policies;
- To introduce motions at the Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities which call upon member municipalities to address the link between income and food security in their poverty reduction initiatives and food policies.

No questions were raised. Moved by Stephanie, seconded by Zsuzsi, carried unanimously.

Caitlin has been reviewing and compiling a list of past motions to be added to the website, in an attempt to make the website more of a resource. Working groups are encouraged to consider hosting a themed meeting and make motions. The resource will make the Council’s work transparent and will be helpful to others engaged in similar work.

## 6 Liaison Updates

### *Reporting Framework*

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

### *Liaisons*

- City - Council Liaisons
  - Chair of Orillia, ON Food Policy Council would like to connect with Chairs next week.
  - The [consultation process for the Arbutus Greenway](#) is being launched. There is much opportunity for urban agriculture, and members are encouraged to voice their opinion. The process is led by Engineering, and also involves Planning, Parks, and possibly Active Transportation. ACTION: Caitlin will circulate letter written by the VFPC to City Council in 2014 advocating for its protection. The Food Strategy is to be adaptive, with the Arbutus Greenway as an emerging issue.
- Parks Board - Commissioner Liaison
  - Michael Weibe is now Chair of Park Board.
  - Warming Centres - food at warming centres became an issue, with more knowledge is needed on how to serve and take donations. It was requested that the VFPC create a framework for how to provide food. This strategy would be included in a full report next year, and could be part of municipal disaster planning, which has come up in the past but no working group has formed.

<sup>4</sup> City of Vancouver, *Vancouver Food Charter* (January 2007). [http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/Van\\_Food\\_Charter.pdf](http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/Van_Food_Charter.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> City of Vancouver, *What Feeds Us: Vancouver Food Strategy* (January 2013), 28. <http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/vancouver-food-strategy-final.PDF>

<sup>6</sup> City of Vancouver, *What Feeds Us: Vancouver Food Strategy*, (January 2013), 122. <http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/vancouver-food-strategy-final.PDF>

<sup>7</sup> City of Vancouver, *Healthy City Strategy: Our Goals: Making Ends Meet and Working Well* (2015). <http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/healthy-city-strategy.aspx>.

- Strathcona - the Park Board went on a tour of the community centre, and notes that food is included as part of all of their programs. ACTION: VFPC Chairs will explore a meeting off-site to tour Strathcona. Their work could be shared with other community centres to highlight their work.
- City - Staff Liaisons
  - Kitchens - An RFP will be released to do kitchen programming to activate kitchen space in community centres.
  - School food - funds are available to support school food initiatives that increase access and develop policy.
  - Green Scholar application - submitted for the Right-to-Food WG, and could be done annually for different working groups.
  - [Greenest City grants](#) - an email has been sent by Sarah; members are asked to distribute.
- Parks Board - Staff Liaison
  - VFPC motion - a motion was passed in November to resource and review the [Local Food Action Plan](#). In response, the director of planning thanked the VFPC and noted that a position is making its way through the required process, with hopes to post in February. This will augment the current work and support the LFAP, and lead to better information flow.
  - The citywide interdepartmental steering committee has been reactivated.
  - Sustenance festival - a contractor has been hired to work on mapping as well as connecting with underrepresented groups to collect stories. A contractor is also being hired for creative documentation, event production, and future direction.
- Regional Reps - Metro Vancouver, Ministry of Agriculture, No representatives present.
- VCH
  - Grants - provide seed funding to grassroots organizations. A CFP will soon be launched. Organizations in Vancouver can apply or contact Kitty (healthylivingprogram@vch.ca) Vancouver Coastal Health, ACTION: Kitty to send email with Call for Proposals for circulation. The focus is on healthy eating, active living, and smoking cessation. Initiatives must be new and not ongoing, and targeted to adults or families.
- Vancouver Youth Food Policy Council
  - This council is in the process of selecting new members, and continues to recruit. The council has struggled with choosing youth to represent other youth, and is slow to create a framework. A meeting is planned soon to draft a letter to the Vancouver Foundation regarding the elimination of Generation Green funding which provided up to \$10k for youth led green projects.

## 7 Bread Basket

- Election Questionnaire - Kim has volunteered to work on it. Media will help make the connection of food to poverty.
- National Food Policy - an ad hoc group was formed at the last meeting. It was noted that it is important to follow national issues, such as the impact of free trade agreements on the city.
- Food Assets - it was noted that green grocers are being lost in multiple neighbourhoods. ACTION: The Development and Right-to-Food working groups will co-host a meeting, and liaise on the City Scholar project. The hope is that the VFPC can have a say in food justice and accessing affordable food. The City has a Sustainable Large Development policy that mandates food assets, yet at the same time the space at the former Chinatown grocer is \$9000/month for pop-up establishments. It was noted that rents across the city have increased, and there may be opportunity for BIAs to engage on how to keep smaller food assets in business. A suggestion was made to look at other cities, e.g. Wayne Robert's work, to preserve bio-cultural diversity and heritage.

It was Pat's last meeting, and he thanked everyone and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to engage with the members of the VFPC.

## 8 Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Pat, Caitlin carried unanimously  
Meeting ended at 8:02pm.