

Vancouver Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall



Chairs: Caitlin Dorward and Kim Hodgson

Council Members: Nikoo Boroumand, Damien Bryan, Jess Dennis, Zsuzsi Fodor, Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson, Will Jung, Stephanie Lim, Brianne Miller, Stefan Misse, David Speight, Georgia Stanley, Jesse Veenstra, Chantille Viaud.

City-Appointed Liaisons: Councillor Carr (City Council), Sarah Carten (Social Policy, CoV), Councillor Deal (City Council), Rebecca Till (for Alan Duncan, Park Board), Michael Wiebe (Park Board Commissioner)

Other Liaisons: Crecien Bencio (Vancouver Youth Food Policy Council), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Theresa Duynstee (Metro Vancouver)

Regrets: Dirk Gibbs, Janet Fraser (Special Representative), Tara Moreau, Marc Schutzbank, James O'Neill (Social Policy, CoV)

Absent: Clare Cullen, Kevin Huang, Jessica Pautsch, Orlando Schmidt (Ministry of Agriculture)

1. Homelands acknowledgement and acknowledgement of National Aboriginal Day
In the future, this day will be the National Day of Indigenous Peoples. The Chairs acknowledged that the meeting takes place on unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, and gave thanks for their hosting us on their land. It was mentioned by a Council member that appropriate protocol would be to invite a Musqueam, Squamish or Tsleil-Waututh Elder to open the meeting. Members are encouraged to read the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) report and consider how our working groups can contribute to its action areas and ensure that a positive indigenous lens is used to inform policy and priorities. It is thought that many conversations around reconciliation do not go far enough, and that true reconciliation means ensuring that Indigenous people have final say about what happens on their territory and in their lands. As food is land, it is important to consider who is not in those decision-making processes around tables such as ours, and why not.

It was noted that there is no specific time for liaison updates, as the discussion of a national food policy is prioritized. Updates can happen in the breadbasket or by email afterwards. ACTION: Heather and Adriane will send updates by email.

Council members and liaisons, and guests introduced themselves to council.

2. Approval of May 2017 meeting minutes
Sharnelle's was included as 'absent' despite sending regrets. The minutes were revised to show Sharnelle as present. Councillor Carr's name was also corrected.
Motion to approve minutes as amended: Moved by Brianne, seconded by Georgia, carried unanimously.
3. Working Group Update:
Children & Youth Food WG- Motion on a National School Food Program

The draft motion was circulated prior to the meeting. Some 'whereas' statements are specific to Vancouver, and others are more general to be used as a template for other municipalities. The aim is to give municipalities more of a voice, and to have more of an impact with higher levels of government. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities represents 90% of the population, and has a strong voice with government. It is too late for consideration by the FCM this year, as the next meeting is in June 2018, however there may be time to raise with the Union of BC Municipalities, and the City Council liaisons offered to do so. The motion could also be circulated to other food policy councils to raise with their municipal councils.

It was suggested that the motion include wording to reference why children and youth are challenged, in the framing of a 'just and sustainable food system' and that a background document with citations be included. An additional Whereas statement was added referencing child poverty and food insecurity in BC (see appended full motion).

BE IT RESOLVED that

- the Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends that the City of Vancouver advocate to the provincial and federal governments regarding investment in a cost-shared universal healthy school food program that would

enable all students to have access to healthy meals at school every day, as advocated by the Coalition for Health School Food.

- the Vancouver Food Policy council recommends that the City of Vancouver advocate to other municipalities through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to adopt this motion and advocate to provincial and federal governments.

Moved by Caitlin, seconded by Zsuzsi, carried unanimously.

4. VFPC Priorities for “A Food Policy for Canada” Summit

Caitlin and Kim are excited to be representing the VFPC at national discussions in Ottawa. They would like to present the VFPC’s input. Background material, including food policy proposals already being advanced by other organizations, was sent in advance. Across the globe there are only a few national food strategies; members were encouraged to take the [online survey](#) to add their individual voices to the development of the national food policy for Canada.

It was noted that a food policy working group was formed at the FCM to provide input, and Councillor Deal is a member of that working group. For the discussion, members were reminded to focus on federal jurisdiction and to save actions related to provincial jurisdiction for further discussions.

Members broke into groups according to the four themes below, and members of the public formed a fifth group. Groups were asked to discuss the top three food-related goals, and what actions the government can take to achieve those actions (policies, laws, directives, etc.)

- Increasing access to affordable food;
- Improving health and food safety;
- Conserving our soil, water, and air; and,
- Growing more high-quality food.

Part A: Small Group Report back

- Increasing access to affordable food;
 - Not captured – right to food, incorporation of cultural food, food sovereignty.
 - Document lays out process pieces that do not overlap with principles, and with no mention of food systems.
 - This process needs to be linked to national poverty reduction strategy.
 - Must ensure that international trade and investment do not undermine rights and sovereignty abroad.
 - Truth and Reconciliation should be a goal unto itself, as it intersects all other goals. Nation to nation discussions, recognizing difference between elected and hereditary members.
 - Need to avoid urban/rural divide when thinking of nation to nations.
 - Objectives 2 and 3 talk about “supporting local...all Canadians”, and can be leveraged to link to agriculture, prioritizing when appropriate.
 - Importing food should be done sustainably and not negatively impact lives where produced.
 - Clean drinking water should be included.
 - Model after best practices in other countries.
 - Funding for remote communities can be provided for technology to grow their own food.
 - Should be linked to climate change policy.
- Improving health and food safety;
 - Keeping food safety standards that are flexible to allow for response to emerging opportunities to promote localized food systems
 - Focus on health as a nutrition issue is too narrow and does not include social and other dimensions. Food can be recognized as a pillar of a health strategy that includes impact of how, where, and with whom food is consumed.
 - Access to the knowledge and skills to use food.
 - Canada food guide – industry representatives should not be allowed to be part of crafting it.
 - Support a national healthy school food program, procurement, subsidize food producers that grow healthy options, how to support small-scale industries.
 - Labeling – clear labels and regulations are needed on what words can be used.
 - GMO labeling should be included.
 - Link to water is missing.
 - Taxing unhealthy and sugary food should be examined.
 - Large projects should be reviewed to analyze impact on access to traditional foods
- Conserving our soil, water, and air;

- Have federal plan by 2030 for recycled/compostable plastics, currently not uniform across municipalities and provinces.
- Agriculture waste is 30-40% from farm to table. More incentives are needed for recovery.
- Encourage technology to trace food in the food system.
- Mandatory labeling of GMO, promotion of organic agriculture to improve soil and water across Canada.
- Have fish farms be closed systems only to not degrade natural habitats.
- Federal funding - [IRAP](#) and [SHRED](#) that give funding to business to do R&D - should have to follow 20 step sustainability checklist to access funding.
- Introduce punitive measure for companies that have high spoilage.
- Growing more high-quality food;
 - The FSC document was reviewed with a nuanced approach.
 - Objective 1 - missing 'new and existing' to support and maintain, serving both domestic and export markets. All aspects of success (not just financial), missing animal welfare (characteristics of a successful farm), should also include reference to the labour force - justly traded. Changes are needed to the TFWP
 - Objective 2 agriculture-focused, not enough attention to other means of production such as preserving foodlands for production and gathering (hunting, foraging, steward water)
 - Objectives 3 and 4 should have corresponding objectives of creating infrastructure needed to scale up industrial domestic markets.
 - Objective 5 can be enhanced as supplier for own citizens - promote Canadian products domestically, and respect food sovereignty of other nations.
 - Wording of goal is too production-focused, could be more inclusive of other ways.
 - Decision making processes on how to grow food should be made with nations.
 - Import/export balance needs to be addressed to reduce redundant trade.
- Public group
 - It seems goals were chosen with no consultation, with an assumption to increase production at a reduced cost.
 - Link to poverty reduction plan to increase access.
 - Re-examine Nutrition North, and other regionally appropriate ways to spend money.
 - Food price controls - set minimum price for farmers, maximum price for foods or food basket.
 - 1st goal can include how to better support domestic markets
 - Marketing to kids should be restricted.
 - Create employment projects in the north to access food production.
 - Create a national universal school food program.
 - Explore changes to Temporary Farm Worker program.
 - Match import/export goals with other goals - e.g. climate change.
 - How to better label - fair trade, etc.

Part B: broad discussion

- Broadly, the process and content is lacking a focus on Indigenous people and food systems, food sovereignty. Indigenous people are only mentioned in the documents in the context of poverty.
- Canada Food Guide could talk more about sustainability and not just nutrition. Consultations are [online now](#). Social determinates of health and cultural aspects should be embedded into policy.
- Exports - to help other countries to develop their own capacity while maintaining sovereignty.
- Broad framing focuses on the market and industry. Better language could be used, away from competitiveness, to better reflect values.
- This needs to be linked to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- There was a concern that this framework will create four new silos that will not be integrated. Focus needs to be on linkages, to inform work at each department.
- It was felt that the document is too production-focused, both in goals and details, and excludes other ways of acquiring food.
- There will be chance for to submit a full written submission later in the summer. This will be discussed in a phone call with other municipal food policy folks. The FSC toolkit will be released soon to encourage more public engagement.

5. Bread Basket

- Wild Salmon Caravan - four members and Rebecca met with Dawn and Brenda about the feast at Trout Lake. There is support and opportunities, along with many details that are unclear at this point. It is not clear at what level the VFPC can provide support. ACTION: Nikoo will work on suggesting options based on varying levels of capacity.

- Naloxone training - the Food Bank runs programs in community centres and it has been identified that community centre staff are not permitted to take naloxone training. ACTION: Commissioner Weibe will raise it with the park board and determine if it is Park Board or Association staff.

6. Motion to Adjourn and move to social gathering
Moved by Stephanie, seconded by Sharnelle.
Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

**Motion for National School Food Program
Vancouver Food Policy Council
Passed June 21 2017**

WHEREAS Canada remains one of the only Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development nations without a national school food program. Canada's current patchwork of school food programming reaches only a small percentage of our over 5 million students. School food programs have been shown to increase children's consumption of vegetables, fruits and other healthy foods and decrease the consumption of unhealthy ones; improve students' mental health, including reductions in behavioural and emotional problems; improve cognitive skills and increase scholastic success.

And WHEREAS the Coalition for Healthy School Food is working at a national level to advocate for the creation of a cost-shared Universal Healthy School Food Program that will enable all students in Canada to have access to healthy meals at school building on existing programs across the country and including food education to serve culturally appropriate, local, sustainable food to the fullest extent possible.

WHEREAS through the Vancouver Food Strategy the City of Vancouver has a goal to advocate for a just and sustainable food system with partners and at all levels of government, including strengthening partnerships and leveraging funds to ensure that residents and governments collaborate together toward food system goals. The Vancouver Food Strategy also includes a goal to improve access to healthy, affordable, culturally diverse food for all residents.

AND WHEREAS through the Healthy City Action Plan the City of Vancouver has a goal to ensure Vancouver's children have the best chance of enjoying a healthy childhood, which includes a priority action to expand access to healthy foods and food literacy development in schools.

WHEREAS 1.7 million Canadian households, including over a million children, experience food insecurity; in British Columbia, 1 in 10 households, representing 485,000 individuals, experience food insecurity and a total of 5% of Vancouver households report being food insecure; and research demonstrates that a universal healthy school food program can help address these injustices, and other important issues.

AND WHEREAS through the Greenest City Action Plan the City of Vancouver has set the goal to become a global leader in urban food systems. It also identifies advocating for food issues regionally, provincially and nationally as a key strategy, including collaborating with the Vancouver School Board to ensure schools receive adequate funding for meal programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that

- the Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends that the City of Vancouver advocate to the provincial and federal governments regarding investment in a cost-shared universal healthy school food program that would enable all students to have access to healthy meals at school every day, as advocated by the Coalition for Health School Food.
- the Vancouver Food Policy council recommends that the City of Vancouver advocate to other municipalities through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to adopt this motion and advocate to provincial and federal governments.