

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall

Interim Leadership Team: Jesse Veenstra, Georgia Stanley, David Speight, Kimberly Hodgson

Meeting Chairs: David Speight and Georgia Stanley

Council Members: Aditi Rudra, Caitlin Dorward, Zsuzsi Fodor, Kevin Huang, Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson, Will Jung, Brianne Miller, Tara Moreau, Jessica Pautsch, Marc Schutzbank

City-Appointed Liaisons: Sarah Carten (Social Policy, CoV), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Councillor Carr (City Council), Councillor Deal (City Council)

Regrets: Nikoo Boroumand, Clare Cullen, Damien Bryan, Kimberly Hodgson, Stephanie Lim, Stefan Misse, Jesse Veenstra, Joy Alexander (VSB)

Leave of Absence: Dirk Gibbs

Absent: Lindsay Bisschop (MoAg), Megan Herod (Park Board), Commissioner Wiebe (Park Board)

1 Homelands acknowledgement and introductions

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded homelands of the ʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and mi ce:p kʷətx̓wíləm (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and we give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

Members and six guests introduced themselves.

2 Approve minutes from February meeting

Moved by Marc, seconded by Caitlin, carried unanimously.

3 Liaison Updates

3.1. City Councillors - Adriane Carr & Heather Deal

- [Langara Gardens Policy Statement](#) has been passed by the City and is related to land use south of Oakridge, including residential, park, and garden space.
- Langara Golf Course - an idea was proposed to work with Park Board to look at the Langara Golf Course to redevelop it in a way that will allow wider public access. This is an emerging idea; there has been no confirmation from Park Board. It was clarified that this does not refer to Pearson-Dogwood, where the Farmers on 57th are.
- A report went to Council about using city-owned land for housing on the current site of the Cedar Cottage Community Garden, with an amendment to have staff work with the Park Board to explore if the housing and gardens can co-exist. The City has data on how many are on City, Park, or private land. VFPC input is welcome and will be sent to staff.
- Small business strategy - There are no recent updates. ACTION: Councillor Deal will get an update for the next meeting.

3.2. Parks Board Commissioner - Michael Wiebe

No update available.

3.3. Parks Board Staff - Megan Herod

No update available.

3.4. VSB Trustee - Joy Alexander

No update available.

3.5. City Staff - Sarah Carten

- Capital budget - an 'emerging directions' report is expected to go to council next week. Food will be rolled in with Community Services broadly. A full report will go to council in July.

- Zero waste report will go to Council in May (May 16 expected) with directions> it was rescheduled to line up with green demolition and single use items. Feedback is welcome, either by email or by speaking in person.
- Large site rezoning - Sarah recently circulated an email about this issue. Some members have provided feedback which will be incorporated. Further input is welcome, either now for the current iteration or later in May.
- Poverty reduction - the current direction of the group is intended to facilitate community-led conversations (e.g. “a day in the life of...”). They are open to hearing from other groups, either with or without City staff. There is opportunity for the VFPC to add input. An upcoming training session by the Community Action Network will teach people how to facilitate a session on this theme.

Discussion

- Capital budget - an estimated \$600k has been requested for the next four years for research (incl. on resilience), grants for nonprofits, and some for renovations.
- Large site developments - a related email was recently circulated to members. ACTION: Sarah will follow up on the integration of small sites, and the potential for different assets for different-sized developments.
- Zero Waste - reports to council are available one week in advance. ACTION: Sarah will receive notifications and advise the group. The group will review and compile comments, and allow 48 hours for the VFPC to review and approve. A tentative meeting has been set for May 11 with Brianne, Tara, Kevin, Jessica, and the Waste working group.

3.6. Metro Vancouver - Jaspal Marwah

Jaspal has moved on to a position with the City of Vancouver. There will likely not be a replacement for the Metro Van liaison until next term.

3.7. Vancouver Coastal Health - Claire Gram

Working on long-term pieces, VCH is starting the evaluation of their community food grants.

3.8. Ministry of Agriculture - Lindsay Bisschop

No update available.

4 Letter of Support (motion)

Food Justice and the Buffer Zone Workshop

The request was resent with the agenda for a 1.5 day workshop for white/light skin privilege working in the food movement. The Vancouver Food Summit is open to hosting, as the summit is now a series of workshops and learnings. The Kamloops Food Policy Council has confirmed their support and the VFPC is being asked to also be listed as a supporter.

Discussion

- The capacity is estimated at a minimum of 12, and a maximum of 24.
- The date is tentatively for the end of Sept or beginning of October.
- As the Hua Foundation is listed on the application, Kevin left the room to avoid a conflict of interest.

Motion:

That the VFPC be listed as endorsing partner on the application package for the Food Justice and the Buffer Zone & White Privilege Workshop, as part of the 2018 Food Summit.

Moved by Zsuzsi, seconded by Marc, carried unanimously.

Members were reminded that anyone seeking endorsement, including working groups, etc., need to follow the [endorsement process](#) found on the website.

5 Working Group Updates

5.1. Development - Flats Update

False Creek Flats - The decision about a new arterial route has yet to be decided. There are four options being explored, one of which (Malkin) would impact Produce Row. Businesses on Produce Row are again

seeking support to advocate for alternatives other than Malkin. There are numerous benefits provided by produce row including thousands of jobs, the benefits to co-location of businesses, efficiency of the local food system, etc.

Discussion

- Another option through William St would divide Strathcona Park and Cottonwood gardens, but would not impact the gardens.
- The 2013 food strategy does not mention food processors as an asset, which should be reconsidered going forward. Tours may be developed for the public, which could be considered a food literacy asset as a tool for the council and the public.
- When members first toured produce row 2 years ago, there was an impression that the VFPC was focused on community gardens and local food. However, it is recognized that much produce in Vancouver comes through produce row.
- This issue is contentious and a third party has been engaged. The issue should not be framed as Produce Row vs Community Gardens.
- There is a [webpage](#) with a sign up for updates.
- ACTION: Sarah will check when the public process will take place, and going forward will check on relevant reports that will go to council and advise the VFPC.

5.2.Children & Youth

Written update submitted in advance. The group worked with an LFS class, and while some worthwhile information was gained, it was felt objectives were not met as the product did not have the intended utility.

6 UBC LFS Student Presentation - Food Recovery

LFS 350 is a required course to get students connected to the community. In collaboration with waste working group, the students worked with [Food Mesh](#), (an organization for the ethical diversion of organics, and [Nada Grocery](#). The students did an environmental scan and found statistics on food waste. They also created a food recovery asset map, and developed a resource toolkit for businesses to manage waste. They found that in Vancouver 47% of food is wasted at the consumer level. Data on other municipalities was hard to find; it was noted that more accessible data is needed. The toolkit includes where to find alternate uses for edible and inedible food using a colour coded asset map. They noted there is a need to inform businesses and hope policymakers will be motivated to regulate responsible waste.

Discussion

- This could be added as a layer on the Vancouver food asset map, along with information for Richmond and the North Shore.
- The information is included in the Mesh network and will have real results.
- There is a limited scale of the market for reclaimed food, with some being very limited in what they will accept.
- It was noted that the changes to Metro Van bylaw 181 passed, which will require 25% diversion of waste haulers.

7 Truth & Reconciliation Training Reflection

Members were encouraged to share their reflections on the training session, what actions they have since taken, and specific topics for discussion for the June session with Dawn.

Reflections and suggestions included:

- Continue the conversation at work and at home
- Pros (more people trained) and cons (less accountability) to opening participation in training
- How to be a good ally - more practical tidbits are needed
- Reading the recommended books
- Be aware of the echo chamber and how it impacts food systems
- Understand and advocate for other forms of knowledge (e.g. use of videos, not reports)
- Try to understand what it means to 're-indigenize' as a settler
- Visit the newly opened [Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre](#)
- Continue deep work on reconciliation and diversifying membership
- Reflect on your role in the food system

- Read [UNDRIP](#), as a rights-based approach could be useful
- Advocate for policies that support indigenizing the food system (e.g. for clean water to allow for clamming)
- All members were challenged to continue engaging in discussions and to read the [94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#)

8 VFPC 2018 Key Priorities Workshop

- 8.1.Reconciliation & Decolonizing the Vancouver Food System
- 8.2.Food on the Election Table
- 8.3.Membership Structure & VFPC post Election

With 2 leads for each priority, members chose two stations and were reminded that input can be sent by email anytime.

9 Key Priorities Report Back

9.1.Reconciliation & Decolonizing the Vancouver Food System

It was agreed that this training should continue for new members and that doing it near the beginning of term will help with a common understanding. There are links to the membership structure; the VFPC could set policy importance of T&R, recommend reading materials or training as part of the application. A budget may be needed to pay honoraria for workshops and not rely on volunteer labour.

There is further need to understand the relationship between food policy, reconciliation and decolonization. The impact and inputs are broad, and a number of impacts are still missing. There are questions of self-awareness and food sovereignty, and the structure of the FPC itself. It could open a conversation to reconciliation with all cultures in Vancouver.

Membership of indigenous people - how to recruit and build relationships. Respecting that the municipal government construct is contested, what is the appropriate approach? The Council can both work on their own projects tackling indigenous food issues, and provide a space where those doing that work can ask for support for their initiatives.

The VFPC needs to know how to create a safe space, including appropriate protocols, to build trust and relationships. For project and policy areas of focus, the task should be about the issues and better supporting indigenous people.

9.2. Food on the Election Table

The goal is to be able to hold candidates accountable, making sure our issues are raised and allowing candidates to respond. As the VFPC bridges citizens to candidates, another goal is to engage new people in civic process (voting and VFPC membership). Priorities should be raised, noting how food issues are siloed and under-resourced in the City. It was noted that there are only four meetings before the election. ACTION: Sharnelle will lead a task force with Tara, Jessica, Marc, Georgia, and David for the planning and execution of the event.

9.3. Membership Structure & VFPC post Election

Work has been done to explore a different membership process and structure, to move away from a system based on food system sectors. A draft motion will be proposed in July for approval in October, as one of the last actions of this group. With a document that addresses the barriers to participation, a more formal selection committee will be requested. Groups who were both over- and under-represented at the table were noted to guide the framing. It was noted that liaisons could be invited strategically to fill gaps. By considering what the Council could look like, and work backwards to see what would be needed in the next 3 or 5 years.

10 Bread Basket

The motion passed at last meeting requested an update from Parks Board. Commissioner Weibe brought it up at their March 12 meeting, and it was noted in the minutes. An update is expected in May or July.

11 Motion to adjourn

Moved by Marc, seconded by Caitlin, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm