

Vancouver Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall



Chairs: Tara Moreau and Emme Lee (Acting)

Council Members: Veronik Campbell, Anna Cavouras, Rebecca Cuttler, Theresa Duynstee, Chashma Heinze, Antonietta Gesualdi, Dirk Gibbs, Will Jung, Ilana Labow, Pat McCarthy, David Speight

Liaisons: James O'Neill (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Michael Wiebe (Park Board)

Regrets: Caitlin Dorward, Zsuzsi Fodor, Kimberly Hodgson, Gabrielle Kissinger, Adriane Carr (City Council), Heather Deal (City Council)

Absent: Larry Copeland, Stephanie Lim, Saber Miresmaili, Orlando Schmidt, Colin Stansfield, Corinne Eisler (VCH), Sarah Carten (Social Policy, City of Vancouver), Janet Fraser (VSB)

Agenda Items:

1 Motion to Accept Agenda and March Minutes

Moved by Dirk, seconded by Antonietta, carried unanimously.

2 Introductions

A meditation exercise was undertaken. Members and five guests introduced themselves.

In an effort to work better as a group and learn more about each other, the idea of a 'Spotlight' was presented. At each meeting, one member will take 5 minutes to present their background and current activities. There was general agreement that this was a good idea. It was noted that it is not a mandatory exercise. Rebecca and Will have offered to do a Spotlight in June.

3 Liaison Updates

Reporting Framework

- ***What?*** - Report on the item (prioritize 2 things that are actionable)
- ***Now what?*** - What they want us to do about it, or what they would like to happen as a result, or maybe they're not sure and they want to have a discussion about

Liaisons

- City Council, VSB, MoA, VCH
Tabled.

- City Staff

- April's meeting was a celebration and recognition of the work of the FPC and food systems champions.
- Urban farming implementation - info session May 31 in collaboration with the Urban Farming Society to provide information on the new City processes. The event will be a drop in at the Hive; there will be no formal presentations.
- Community garden infrastructure upgrades - the City has provided \$30k for this year to improve community gardens. Previously a focus had been on adding new gardens, now the priority is on maintenance and capacity building, in partnership with Engineering and Parks.
- Food systems planners - James met with colleagues in other cities (Edmonton, Calgary, Victoria, Toronto, and Montreal) and discussed similarities and differences in their work. The conversations will be ongoing.
- Development working group - False creek flats and Pearson-Dogwood developments are moving forward.

Discussion

- Food strategy - FPC will work to provide recommendations on priority actions from the food strategy. ACTION: Ilana will review the SWOT that was done and priorities identified by the FPC to create a list of themes. These will be circulated for feedback in order to create a list of recommendations to the City. Tara, Emme, and Veronik have offered support.
- Urban farming - changes were implemented April 5 and as of today (May 11) no urban farmers have applied for a license, due to a busy time of year.
- Community Garden Governance - it was suggested that groups experiencing conflict can review the workbook for creating more inclusive community gardens, and to see if the organization Can You Dig It? has any relevant information, as they do a lot of work on inclusive gardens. ACTION: James to send workbook to Tara. Park Board is also looking at ways to reduce tensions in parks and orchards.

- VPB

Park Board will look to balance needs of existing food establishments and look closely at locations of food trucks. The relevant staff position to sit at the FPC table has not been filled. The Park Board is looking at ways to work closer with City. The RFP for beverages is on hold.

- Metro Vancouver

Regional food system plan was endorsed and will be sent to municipalities for endorsement. A list of collaborative new actions will be prioritized.

4 Spotlight - Dirk Gibbs

Dirk introduced himself and presented some of his background. At a young age, Dirk became interested in seeds, and decided that he wanted to work in the food system. He worked on a farm in Saskatchewan then moved to BC. There he also worked on a farm before going back to school to study Chinese Medicine. Combining his passions of traditional Chinese medicine and farming, he began practicing shiatsu at the farm. He then moved to Vancouver and fell in love with the outdoors. After studying outdoor recreation at Capilano U, Dirk worked at MEC teaching about the outdoors. Following this, he co-founded a company called Sky Harvest before working with Net Zero waste. Now, Dirk operates the composter, provides training, and sells certified class A organic compost. He very much enjoys being part of the VFPC.

5 Upcoming meetings

- June meeting - School food theme (Antonietta)

A panel of four speakers will provide their perspectives on the school food system in Vancouver. If interested in helping, contact the chairs. ACTION: Antonietta to send call out for help.

- July meeting - Waste theme (Dirk)

City staff would like to come and talk about food waste. Dirk will organize the meeting with Emme's support. ACTION: Emme to send message soliciting help. Will volunteered to help.

It was noted that a full meeting includes a regular meeting until 7pm then 1.5 hours dedicated to the theme, although this is flexible. Members are encouraged to contact chairs with ideas.

6 Motions

- Meatless Monday

Emily Pickett (with Vancouver Humane Society) had applied through the endorsement process. FPC has previously recognized the value of the initiative, supporting it in June 2013 for a one-time endorsement by the City. Now, they are hoping to build longer term support, similar to Los Angeles, where a resolution was put forth to encourage citizens to do a meatless Monday and was implemented by the school district and U of California. The initiative aligns with the FPC mandate, food charter, GCAP, as 40% of our ecological footprint is associated with food. It was clarified that this is a moderate suggestion to include one meatless option, not a resolution that would mandate people to eat vegetarian. Endorsement by the FPC will allow the Humane Society to advance the issue with the City.

MOTION:

WHEREAS the Vancouver Food Charter commits the City of Vancouver to

- Supporting a food system that "contributes to the environmental stability and well-being of our local, regional, and global communities",
- Encouraging the "humane treatment of animals raised for food", and
- Increasing "the health of all members of our city"; and,

WHEREAS contemporary animal agriculture has negative environmental impacts including greenhouse gas emissions and water pollution and often does not confer humane treatment of animals¹; and,

WHEREAS scientific evidence links excess meat consumption with heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, obesity, certain cancers, and earlier death²; and,

WHEREAS "Meatless Monday" is a global movement endorsed in global cities such as New York, Portland, and San Francisco that uses a simple message ("once a week, cut the meat") to raise awareness that reducing intake of meat and animal products, particularly from industrial sources, can help protect human, animal, and environmental health;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council endorses the concept of Meatless Mondays and encourages Vancouver citizens to choose plant-based meals on Mondays

1,2 See: http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/projects/meatless_monday/resources/meat_consumption.html

Moved by Tara, seconded by Pat, carried unanimously. ACTION: Tara and Caitlin will send to all liaisons and work with those in the City to move forward through city council.

7 Working Group Check-In/Strategic Plans

GOALS:

- WG Co-Chairs share WG work plans, progress, and challenges to date
There are currently 12 working groups identified: Development, Food hub, Procurement, Right to food, School food, Urban farming, GE free, Waste, Disaster resilience, Procurement, Renewable energy, Leadership (including orientation, membership, and communications).

Members broke out into working groups to with the goal to update member list, status update, goal, needs / gaps.

- Plug people in that aren't in a WG
- Flag priority skills/expertise that are gaps
- GE Free group - is working on clarifying parameters of the non-GMO awareness week in October. They are trying to achieve clear and contained recommendation to the food policy council. Their need is to figure out what the city has jurisdiction to do. ACTION: WG members will speak to James, who can provide notes from past working group.
- Development - for the False Creek flats, the group had a meeting with City to determine how they can best provide support. They will focus on a defining what a successful food district looks like, including support for existing food assets. They aim to create a document to present to city planners that will help shape food strategy for that region.
Pearson-Dogwood - the group will meet with a planner next Wednesday. It was noted that the location of the proposed farm might not be ideal. They will connect with farmers in that area.
There is not a cohesive vision for a food hub, with some references to a food district rather than a hub. This could potentially be a topic for a fall meeting. ACTION: The working group will check in with James.
- School Food - has been active and have no needs at this time.
- Right to food - has sub-projects, and has identified that FPC membership is not diverse. ACTION: Anna will send an email reminding the FPC of their pub nights, which happen on the Wednesday after the FPC meetings.

See below for a record of what the groups came up with from the discussions that were held. (Note that this is not a comprehensive record of the WGs statuses, but a glimpse.)

WG NAME	MEMBERS	STATUS/UPDATE	AIMING TO ACHIEVE?	NEEDS/GAPS
Development	David, Theresa, Veronik	False Creek meeting - responding to requests for support Pearson Dogwood - getting updated next week	Document to help shape food strategy for these areas Create → present	TBD
Food Hub	Veronik	Folded into Devp. discussion		Is there a cohesive vision for food hub an alignment with False Creek
Procurement	Chashma	Didn't meet tonight, folded into Devp.		
Right to Food	Anna	Folded into School Food discussion		Beers next week
School Food	Antionietta, Vicky, Tara			All set for June's meeting Callout to VFPC for ideas/input on the upcoming meeting
Urban Farming Policy	Ilana	Actively working, no need to meet tonight.		

GE Free	Pat, Rebecca, Will	Parameters - getting clarity Aware of GE free week in October	Want to make a recommendation to the big group	What can the city do? Tasks: Talk to Adrienne Talk to James
Soil/Waste		Not active at this time		
Disaster/Resilience				
Procurement				
Renewable Energy				
Leadership	Dirk	Didn't meet tonight		
Membership	Anna	Had a separate discussion		See tasks
Endorsement				
Communications				

7 VFPC Membership

Terms for current members end in February. City Council now has 4-year terms, and it was thought that it was too long of a commitment for advisory councils. Members do not have to term-out, and can continue with no need to reapply. The FPC needs to recruit one more member. The current process is based on an old division by sectors in the food system, and there is now an opportunity for restructuring. Members were asked to consider what voices should be represented on the FPC that currently are not. Initial suggestions included looking to the other advisory councils, more first nations representation and also from those who can speak to how money flows through the food system. It was also noted that there is no definition of food security on the webpage. ACTION: Rebecca will attend the relevant panel at the Food Summit and report back.

For the current vacancy, the FPC can either revisit applications from those that applied last time, or suggest a new individual that would have to go through the application process. The City's Nomination Committee meets quarterly, with the next meeting in mid-June. ACTION: Anna, Dirk, and Will are on the membership committee and will conduct a SWOT on membership to determine priorities for membership and then work with the leadership committee before presenting it to the larger group. The outcome will be tested in February 2017 when there is no municipal election. If successful, the process could be implemented for the next round in 2019.

Given the commitment by the City to seek input from the urban farming working group, a new co-chair needs to be appointed, and should be considered for membership. ACTION: Ilana to send recommendation to the Chairs.

8 Bread Basket

There were no items in the breadbasket.

9 Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Tara, carried unanimously

Adjourned at 8:38pm