

Vancouver Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

6:00pm-8:30pm

Town Hall Room, City Hall



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

Meeting Chairs: Jesse Veenstra and David Speight

Council Members: Clare Cullen, Caitlin Dorward, Zsuzsi Fodor, Kevin Huang, Stephanie Lim, Brianne Miller, Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson, Jessica Regan, Georgia Stanley

City-Appointed Liaisons: Sarah Carten (Social Policy, CoV), Megan Herod (Park Board), Commissioner Wiebe (Park Board), Lindsay Bisschop (MoAg), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health)

Regrets: Nikoo Boroumand, Aditia Rudra, Marc Schutzbank, Stefen Misse, Tara Moreau, Councillor Carr (City Council), Councillor Deal (City Council)

Leave of Absence: Dirk Gibbs

Absent: Joy Alexander (VSB), Kimberly Hodgson

1 Homelands acknowledgement and introductions

"We acknowledge that we are on the unceded homelands of the ʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and we give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands"

2 Approve minutes from July meeting

Moved by Steph, seconded by Brianne, carried unanimously.
Members and five guests introduced themselves.

3 Liaison Updates

- City Councillors - Adriane Carr & Heather Deal
No update available.
- Parks Board Commissioner - Michael Wiebe
No update available.
- Parks Board Staff - Megan Herod
No update available.
- VSB Trustee - Joy Alexander
No update available.
- City Staff - Sarah Carten
 - Several strategies are undergoing review, including the Healthy City and Greenest City Action Plan (GCAP). The strategies are being evaluated with respect to food and implications for the food strategy. Both will undergo public consultations in 2019. Staff are willing to present to the VFPC on engagement for the GCAP. The Resilience strategy will also be undergoing consultations in 2019. It was noted that the Food Strategy will end in 2020, which is when the others are set to start. It has not yet been decided whether to revisit the original framework and action plan and possibly restructure for the next five years. Some strategies operate on a four year time frame, while others use a five year term. Targets will be based on the year 2050. Resources are being sought, also in hopes that food will be included as part of the consultations.

Discussion

- The previous work with the Food strategy update created a two year action plan. Staff will be hired to work on this, and ensure it is relevant with the other strategies. The Healthy City Strategy operates on a four-year cycle (aligned with capital budget planning processes) while the GCAP is updated every five years. The Park Board will also be working on their Local Food Action Plan, which may be combined with the Food Strategy, or highly integrated. There are also advantages to having a stand-alone plan. A joint community engagement process was recommended. It was noted that this work is subject to any post-election changes.
- The Food Strategy update is directed from, and championed by, Social Policy. As food is integrated into other strategies, there is not a resource conflict with those, although other priorities affect social policy that may pull resources away. The GCAP is exploring a shared leadership model to ensure city-wide support.
- Report to Council - recommend renewed funding to VSB, Fresh Roots, and Strathcona. The report will go to council next Tuesday. The motion on a universal school food program was referenced, as well as the motion that ties together income security and food security.
- Climate change adaptation strategy will be renewed, and is on the agenda for the first meeting of the new City council. Staff in Social policy have looked at it with a 'food lens' and have reached out to key individuals to explore how salmon habitat can be protected. Sarah can pass on relevant input to the staff responsible.
- Food assets - will not be discussed in October; work will continue next year.
- Accessibility strategy - Social Policy will take the lead in 2019; SARA will check if any related reports are expected to go to council.
- Vancouver Coastal Health - Claire Gram
No update available.
- Ministry of Agriculture - Lindsay Bisschop
No update available.

4 **Wild Salmon Caravan Update**

The caravan will begin on Sept 22 in Vancouver. A concrete suggestion for action from Dawn's training was that the VFPC formally support the Caravan, leading to the proposed motion. Georgia tabled the motion that was circulated in advance through email, and was seconded by David. After the motion was read, it was amended to incorporate more general language to support also future iterations of the caravan. The amended motion:

Moved by Georgia, seconded by David:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council endorses the Wild Salmon Caravan (which in 2018 takes place September 22 to 29), starting in Vancouver and travelling to the Adams River by encouraging Vancouver residents and City of Vancouver staff and elected officials to take part in the event, encouraging its members to contribute to the event as volunteers, and committing to promoting the event through its own promotional channels.

All in favour, carried unanimously (see full motion appended).

Nikoo has circulated information about volunteering for the event; the info will be sent again to encourage support in all ways. GEORGIA will promote through the VFPC twitter account and email listserv.

5. **Open letter re: Escobar restaurant**

Previously the VFPC had voted in principle to support the drafting of an open letter addressing the issue, pending edits. Edits have not yet been shared with council members. The changes include the removal of what

the City is being asked to require of food businesses, although the spirit still exists as a recommendation. The new draft commits the VFPC to support the Latin community to research alternative approaches. The language is better aligned with the food charter, and examples were added from other jurisdictions. The revised letter was read aloud to ensure members are comfortable with the changes made without voting again.

Discussion

- It was clarified that the VFPC commitment is to support the Latin American community to do research, not to conduct the research.
- The VFPC will support the local Latin American community, who is connected more broadly.
- There is no call to action for the restaurant; the letter aims to support the Latin American community and promote a wider dialogue, not to shut the restaurant down.
- It was suggested that businesses could be required to submit a checklist when applying for a business license that would ask if they have considered the cultural implications of the chosen name.
- It has been confirmed that the restaurant was named after *the* Pablo Escobar. The messaging changed after the community's reaction.

The FOOD JUSTICE working group will finalize and distribute the letter to VFPC members.

5 Letter of Support - Cedar Cottage Community Garden

An application for endorsement was submitted, and Yiman (garden member) was invited to present. Cedar Cottage garden is seeking endorsement of their application to the Park Board to relocate the garden to a section of Trout Lake (view proposal [here](#)). The garden, including fruit trees, a bee garden, and communal areas, is currently on City-owned land, which will soon be occupied by the Vancouver Affordable Housing Agency (VAHA). The current site is two blocks from Trout Lake. A large portion of the garden will be displaced, and the remaining part will then likely be heavily shaded. It was noted the area will be heavily densified.

After exploring other nearby sites, garden members determined that with its size, Trout Lake would be the best option for relocation. A 2014 proposed draft Park Board plan had designated an area of the park for a garden, which is the proposed area for relocation as it is the least-used part of the park. More details can be found in the application about why other sites are not suitable. The application was submitted in late July, and members are in conversations with stakeholders to seek support.

Discussion

- Members pay a \$30 annual fee per plot, which would be waived for low-income residents if requested to ensure public access to the space. Neither the current nor the proposed sites have fencing.
- The entire garden would be moved, even though part of it is on land leased from TransLink. That space will be kept, however it's not yet clear what could be grown there due to expected shading from the new buildings.
- To incorporate green space, it was suggested that the roof of the new development be used for a green roof. It was noted the roof would not have public access.
- Garden members are not aware of a current land use plan for Trout Lake; the 2014 draft plan was the most recent found. The Park Board will begin renewal for Trout Lake in 2019.
- Garden members are not aware of other organizations that want to use the space, and have not spoken to neighbouring residents. There are nearly 100 members of the garden, over 60 of which have signed their support. One member does not agree.
- An image taken from Google satellite shows sufficient light at the proposed site. The orchard section of the garden would be integrated with existing trees on the proposed site.
- It was noted that there will be more temporary housing built on City land, which may impact current gardens, and that this could be a recurring issue. This is the first year since tracking began that the number of food assets will decrease, due to the loss of garden plots.
- The current site is not large enough to trigger the large-site rezoning process. If the application is supported by the VFPC it was suggested that VAHA could be asked to incorporate a food asset to replace what will be lost.
- The current application would relocate the same area as the current garden, and does not request an increase in space, although members would be willing to increase the size.

- If approved by the Park Board, a public engagement process would be conducted. The Park Board is doing an internal analysis to determine the best location.
- It was noted that the 2014 draft plan was not approved by the Park Board, and the preferred concept did not include a garden.
- A question was raised regarding supporting this specific application, or providing broader support, noting that it would set a precedent.
- With less City-owned land available for gardens, and to balance space needs, it is important to know if there are objections from the Park Board before providing blanket support for gardens in parks.
- For permanent (non-modular) housing, resident-oriented rooftop gardens could be explored.
- It was noted that VAHA, as a city entity that wants to support both food and housing priorities, is willing to cover costs of relocation. Another site was proposed, but members felt it was not ideal.

After discussion, it was decided that the leadership group will summarize themes and get feedback to draft a letter to vote on in October.

6 Motions for October Meeting

With one more formal meeting before the VFPC dissolves, there may be a desire of working groups to present motions. As these often need discussion, working groups were invited to present preliminary issues for discussion now. The Membership working group is working on revising the structure, and will table a motion to support the revised structure and process to implement that structure. Drafts have been circulated. Other working groups are encouraged to send material in advance if intending to present a motion.

7 Big Hunger & Food Bank Nation Event Update

In April 2018, a motion was passed to support a book launch for Graham Riches. The event will take place Oct 2, 7-8:30pm at the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House. Working on formatting, David will act as Chair and work with them on the Q&A. Communications are being drafted for distribution. VFPC's role is to chair and support the event through communications. There will be introductions, 15 min presentations, and then questions from audience. Some questions will be prepared in advance - VFPC members are invited to provide questions. All questions can be sent to members in advance for feedback. The event is titled: Domestic Hunger in the U.S. and Canada - Towards Food & Social Justice members encouraged to attend.

8 Election Working Group Update

Given the tight timeline and other related events, the groups has decided to move away from a civic-engagement event. With the three goals, the group is open to reaching out to other groups with marginalized voices to develop questions for candidates. To build networks to support process going forward. Members were asked to identify new groups that may be interested; SHARNELLE will contact them.

9 Working Group Recommendations

As recent work has focused on the three priority working groups (membership, reconciliation, election), other working groups were asked to share thoughts that will be passed on to the next council for consideration.

Food Justice - has been active (film showing, indigenous-led workshops), and the work still needs to continue. The VFPC is engaged on some of the wider issues, and while there are no specific priorities, members were encouraged to share and promote the 'Unpacking White Privilege' workshop during the hiatus. The groups offered to invite a member (Colin) to do a future presentation based on research.

Development - has not been very active, have met on an as-needed basis. More work will need to be done (e.g. with Britannia redevelopment), as it will continue to be relevant. The group struggled with process, and would like to develop relationships in Planning to encourage them to send relevant info early in the process. Typically, information has been received from Social Policy.

Waste - Will Jung had been the lead. A major outcome was the toolkit produced by UBC students that identifies potential end users. The group also advised the City on single use items. The work has much potential, and should continue. It was noted that Engineering may hire someone to look at food waste.

Children and Youth - have been active, continuing work as member of the Coalition for Healthy School Food. The work is still relevant, especially in light of the VSB motion to explore a model for a universal food program.

Urban Farming -have put together recommendations for the City, and meet seasonally during the winter. Urban farm farms are good incubators for those who want to expand rurally. In the city, there is a network, mentors, and support from formal organizations that is not available in rural BC. BC farmers are aging and there are not many mentors. Farmers find it challenging to go through licensing, there could be a role to facilitate those processes. The group's work also includes land retention (ALR) and other suitable lands in the urban environment. There is a commitment of the group to evaluate the City's policy.

Reconciliation working group - has had nebulous membership. Work needs to be done to finalize the report for the grant, and to check in with Dawn about the workshop report, to provide continuity for the next council. SARAH will check in on requirements. It was suggested that this work could be shared with other FPCs through the listserv.

Discussion

- Each working group will need to articulate their role, priorities and any recommendations. New members may or may not support the work.
- It is unclear if binding motions made by this council would be binding for subsequent councils.
- The City puts out one call for all advisory groups; it was suggested that the VFPC put together a blog post (as done before the current term) that outlines the work of the VFPC.
- It was suggested that a mixer be hosted for old and new members to share information. SARAH can assist contacting old and new members.

10 Bread Basket

- 10.1 DAVID will work with and Sarah and city clerk's office for info for what happens beyond that meeting. It was noted that the VFPC can continue to meet informally.
- 10.2 Will Valley (UBC) has expressed willingness to support the VFPC and partner with working groups for the LFS 350 class.
- 10.3 Some members were at place-based food systems conference recently. One session on FPCs indicated that many challenges are similar to those of the VFPC. One keynote speaker said social justice is at the heart of many issues- need to confront those to address food systems issues. Talks have been recorded and are [online](#).

11 Motion to adjourn

Moved by Caitlin, seconded by Sharnelle, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm

**Motion for the Wild Salmon Caravan
Vancouver Food Policy Council
Passed September 12, 2018**

WHEREAS the Vancouver Food Charter

- Commits the City of Vancouver to a just and sustainable food system that “contributes to the economic, ecological, and social well-being of our city and region”, “recognizes access to safe, sufficient, culturally appropriate and nutritious food as a basic human right for all Vancouver residents”, and “celebrates Vancouver’s multicultural food traditions,” and
- Is guided by a principle that food brings people together in celebrations of community and diversity.

WHEREAS, as a City of Reconciliation, the City of Vancouver is committed to forming a sustained relationship of mutual respect and understanding with local First Nations and the Urban Indigenous community.

WHEREAS wild salmon, which for thousands of years have been an important Indigenous food and cultural and ecological keystone species in the Pacific Northwest and beyond, are facing many environmental and socio-economic threats.

WHEREAS the purpose of the Wild Salmon Caravan is to build capacity of coalitions and campaigns that link Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, artists, food systems networks, individuals, organizations, and communities who are working to protect, conserve and restore wild salmon and its habitat in the Fraser Basin and Salish Seas corridor.

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