

## Vancouver Food Policy Council

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 7, 2019

6:00pm-8:30pm

507 West Broadway - 5th Floor Cityscape Room



**Meeting Co-Chairs:** Jesse Veenstra

**Council Members:** Gurjot Dhaliwal, Kaitlyn Fung, Tamer Mohamed Hussein, Delphina Kejo, Joey Liu, Martina Marsic, Sarah Siska, Kelsey Timler

**City appointed liaisons:** Caitlin Dorward (Social Policy, CoV), Katelyn Ling (Park Board Staff), Rachel Telling (Sustainability), Councillor Wiebe (City Council)

**Regrets:** Evan Bowness, Erica Commons, Clare Cullen, Heather Escobar, Patrick Johnson, Marc Schutzbank, Darlene Seto, Andrew Stephens-Rennie, Emily Voong, Jason Yip, Trustee Gonzalez (VSB)

**Absent:** Jolene Andrew, Bea Jablonska, Commissioner Dumont (Park Board), Councillor Bligh (City Council)

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome/Call to Order

##### 1.1 Land Acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded homelands of the *w̓məθkʷəy̓ əm* (Musqueam), *sk̓wx̓ wú7mesh* (Squamish), and *seɬl̓wítulh* (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

##### 1.2 Quorum

There is not quorum at the meeting.

##### 1.3 Roundtable introductions

Members, liaisons and six guests introduced themselves.

#### 2. Consent agenda matters

##### 2.1 Previous Minutes - tabled until December meeting due to lack of quorum

- October 2018
- October 2019

##### 2.2 Liaison Reports

- Councillor Wiebe  
Council recently passed a [new strategy to manage rainwater](#) that addresses infrastructure changes that aims to increase and protect biodiversity, including salmon. More people recognize the waterways are also local food assets that contain anchovies and Dungeness crab, for example. To clean the water, \$70M has been diverted from sewer pipes to creating a 'blue community' that would allow activities such as swimming and fishing in Trout Lake. Indigenous sciences are being looked at to help inform what this lens could mean for food.  
Metro Vancouver recently committed to purchasing more parks and greenspace, as part of a goal is to have 50% of Canada's land protected, with 25% by 2025.
- Councillor Bligh - no update available.
- Commissioner Dumont - no update available.
- Trustee Gonzalez - no update available.
- Katelyn Ling (PB staff) - The review of the Local Food Action Plan is ongoing with public engagement planned for Spring 2020. An event is planned at Little Mountain Nov 26 to bring together community garden coordinators.
- Rachel Telling (Sustainability Staff) - no updates.
- Caitlin Dorward (SP staff) - no new updates, has been working on the update to the Greenest City Action Plan.

##### 2.3 Working Group Updates

- Food Cultivation & UbAg - met by phone regarding Class 8 community gardens with City staff to discuss what benefits the community gardens should bring to the rest of the community. Questions related to mobility, aesthetics, permitting, cost, and effects on other gardens were considered. The discussion informed the feedback provided to Finance for the report back/memo to council. It is unclear if further information will be requested.  
Urban farming - VUFS is planning to host an urban farming forum in January 19, 2020 at PNE. The urban farming census has been done twice and will be done again, as well as a bylaw study to look at the differences across the province. Caitlin is doing an urban farming review internally.
- Development/Retail - the group is working with LFS to look at small grocers including location, cost and availability of produce; the project will wrap up in November. Then, the supply chain and distribution will be examined to look for barriers and opportunities in policies so the City can provide more support. Information about low-cost markets run by NGOs could feed into policies related to access to retail. This group wants to connect with the Food Programming WG to explore future programming at the new Evelyn Saller site. The acquisition of Balmoral will also be considered. ACTION: Martina will send an email about situation at Evelyn Saller.  
As part of continuous learning, an opportunity exists to have City staff present on zoning regulations. There was general agreement from members that this would be welcome.
- Food Waste - has met and will reach out to last year's group to see what was done previously. Once the Engineering report on single use plastics is available, they will be able to provide feedback. The group will also look at diversion, composting and organic waste, and maybe waste water. The group will reach out to UBC students to explore existing diversion programs, and is looking up the food chain at how to reduce surpluses, and into recycling capacity of the city.  
Councillor Weibe mentioned that Stanley Park is considering managing their own compost, and suggests the working group could explore neighbourhood scale solutions due to the closing down of regional facilities. Currently there are no organic waste bins in the public spaces. Restaurants are also struggling with the cost to compost organic waste. It was noted that water is removed from waste at Pacific Centre which reduces the amount that is shipped.  
Caitlin also noted that one asset developers can provide under the Sustainable Large Sites Policy can be onsite organics management but the City could use more direction on what should be provided. Managing compost within the city will reduce pressure on ALR land. It was noted there is also a demonstration centre in Kitsilano at City Farmer
- Children & Youth - the group has been in touch by email and is contributing to the planning of the first event to bring BC members and supporters of the Coalition for Healthy School Food together to discuss what a universal school food program for BC might look like. City Councillors are also discussing what municipal support might look like.
- Leadership Team - no new updates. As part of continuing education, it was suggested to bring Spencer Lyndsay in December to talk with an indigenous lens for how to connect with host nations. or dec. for indigenous lens connecting with host nations. Funds from can be accessed from those kept by Hua Foundation for honoraria.
- Community Food Programming [NEW] - this group has met and has community members on the working group. At an investigative stage, the group is focused on narrowing its purpose and researching what counts as a community food program, and compile resources. This will tell what gaps exist in what neighbourhoods, both for quality and quantity. Also looking at changing the conversation from the idea of food deserts (deserts occur naturally) to something more of an apartheid (which is created by society), with a stronger equity lens. The City will fund the Evelyn Saller Centre so that it is open longer, as the current wait time is 1.5 hours. Other suggestions include the ability to check in and return later, or adding more locations. VCH had previously looked at food standard guidelines, from the lens of access. That report contains many recommendations.

### 3. Matters requiring discussion

#### 3.1 Vancouver City Planning Commission May 2020 summit meeting: The Vancouver We Want, The City We Need.

Based on the invitation, prior to the meeting Andrew had sent some background based on experience and concerns about the last VCPC event. Specific concerns included whose priorities helped shape the meeting, the fact that there was a cost to attend, and that the list of invitees did not represent diverse representation.

The cost has been removed, and the recent invitation pointed to how the information will be used. VFPC members are encouraged to attend to make for a more representative event. Clare has indicated she can go but wanted to

leave the opportunity for someone from the bipoc community. Two seats are available. ACTION: leadership team will email to all members.

### 3.2 Greenest City Action Plan [see accompanying presentation]

- Update on preliminary ideas & results of engagement

Sarah and Chashma introduced themselves and explained their goals to share the work done so far, how they are exploring emerging directions, and listen to ideas.

GHG emissions are a big part of the food system, but there are many other environmental impacts. The City is developing actions and targets over next 5 years. Staff have received direction to be bold and ambitious.

A literature review is being done, along with interviews and staff workshops to explore emerging directions. The hope is to move to people and planet friendly diets, moving forward on food production potential, and neighbourhood food infrastructure and supports. Additionally, staff is exploring how to accomplish the Big Move 1 (that 90% of residents are within a 400m walk of their daily needs by 2030) in a way that reduces GHG and other environmental impacts.

Social Policy is identifying the development tools available, on the spectrum from policy to service delivery. Innovative examples from cities around the world were presented.

Members then participated in an activity where they were asked to identify what is currently happening including good, gaps, bad (now), then visualize an ideal food system in 2050 (wow), then to come up with strategies to achieve that (how).

#### Discussion

- There was some general alignment with the existing directions.
- Water has not been included, especially waste.
- How to embed Truth and reconciliation needs to be considered
- Next steps - staff will look at feasibility and cost/benefit analysis and will integrate findings from interviews and small workshops for the public engagement in the spring.
- It was noted that it is up to each first nation to decide if they want to engage with the , and on which pieces.
- Sustainability will be a do a public engagement campaign.

A teleconference with interested members will be set to discuss ideas and process ACTION: Sarah will send an invite through listserv, and will set up a Google doc with deadline to add input. Staff will report back in Jan/Feb and again in May 2020 with more finalized actions.

- Broadway Plan (retail) - item was tabled due to lack of time.

### 4. Adjourn Meeting

Moved by Jesse, seconded by Gurjot, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm