

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 10, 2020

6:00pm-8:30pm

Via WebEx



**Meeting Chair:** Martina Marsic and Marc Schutzbank,

**Council Members:** Jolene Andrew, Evan Bowness, Clare Cullen, Heather Escobar, Kaitlyn Fung, Tamer Mohamed Hussein, Joey Liu, Sarah Siska, Andrew Stephens-Rennie, Kelsey Timler, Jesse Veenstra

**City appointed liaisons:** Caitlin Dorward (Social Policy, CoV), Trustee Gonzalez (VSB), Councillor Wiebe (City Council)

**Regrets:** Emily Voong, Councillor Bligh (City Council), Rachel Telling (Sustainability)

**Absent:** Darlene Seto, Delphina Kejo, Commissioner Dumont (Park Board)

**Minutes**

1. Welcome/Call to order

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded homelands of the *wm̓əθkʷəy̓'əḿ* (Musqueam), *sḵwx̱ wú7mesh* (Squamish), and *sel̓ilwitulh* (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

1.2 Meeting guidelines

Staff explained the guidelines for the online format (no chat, verbal vote required, audience muted)

1.3 Quorum

There is quorum at the meeting.

1.4 Roundtable introductions

Members, liaisons, and invited guests introduced themselves. Three guests attended the meeting.

2. Consent agenda matters

2.1 Previous Minutes

Approve June 2020 minutes.

Moved by Andrew, seconded by Clare, carried unanimously.

The date for July 2020 minutes will be corrected and guest last name will be added. Motion to approve revised July 2020 minutes.

Moved by Clare, seconded by Tamer, carried unanimously.

2.2 Liaison Reports

- Councillor Wiebe
  - Council will consider food assets in the budget season. The goal is to provide food to as many people as possible, recognizing impact of the pandemic on the homeless and charity sector.
  - Work is being done to address the food desert in South Vancouver. Advisory groups will help support the recovery.
  - The COVID recovery council group has 41 recommendations with some food components (e.g. green economy, circularity/composting)
- Councillor Bligh - No update available
- Commissioner Dumont- No update available
- Trustee Gonzalez - VSB is focused on getting students back in schools and re-determining priorities in this extraordinary year. The food work may be delayed.

- Katelyn Ling / Rebecca Till (PB staff)
  - Katelyn has left her position. Rebecca Till will act as liaison until a new liaison has been identified.
  - Community centres are reopening with priority programming for children, youth, seniors, and food programming. Each centre is its own not for profit. Specific information is expected in the coming weeks.
  - LFAP update. The consultant team is being hired and work will begin soon. Engagement will begin in November/December. A presentation is tentatively scheduled for November and will be confirmed by email. VFPC feedback on the engagement process is welcome.
  - New community garden in Brewers Park, collaborating with the Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House and Resurfacing History project.
  - The Working group on Indigenous Food systems is installing food landscapes, supported by Neighbourhood Matching Funds. It was noted that 6000 indigenous food plants have been planted in Parks in 2020.
  - Food was grown at Sunset nursery and provided to not for profits and the golf course for meals for the emergency response.

#### Discussion

Sunset Nursery is doing a re-visioning, and welcomes VPFC feedback on using the nursery to grow food for the long-term. More information to come.

VFPC had discussed the idea of growing food at the nursery for the emergency but it did not seem to be a priority at the time. How was this decision made? What is process of evaluation?

ACTION: Staff will investigate these questions, and will flag this as part of the LFAP. Other spaces were also explored including Van Dusen and golf courses however, there was limited capacity. It was noted that the idea from Victoria was about growing seedlings for distribution rather than food.

- Rachel Telling (Sustainability Staff) - No update available
- Caitlin Dorward/Sarah Carten (SP staff)
  - The focus on COVID recovery has affected work; the work is linked with other recovery streams to elevate food elements. First report will go to Council in October and will highlight ongoing work, with no new initiatives.
  - [Food-friendly neighbourhoods motion](#) passed in June, with the report back led by Planning. The motion includes retail, and builds on VFPC/LFS 350 work. More info will be provided at the next meeting.
  - [Free and low cost food map](#) will continue to be updated about every 2 weeks.
  - EOC response wound down over summer, main activities now are maintaining the map and connections to community organizations.
  - South Van NH has called on the City to provide more support to resolve issues related to food access. The City has worked with SVNH for access to space to run programs.
  - City reach is operating a food bank with city-provided space, and is looking for an indoor solution.
  - Staff continue to work with EOC around longer-term ongoing COVID response until end of 2021. Related food response update will be presented next month.

#### 2.3 Working Group Updates

- Food Cultivation & UbAg
  - Would like to invite the lead for the initiative by the City of Victoria to grow seedlings for residents, to share their evaluation of the project. This ties in with the Park Board initiative, and was led by the Victoria Urban Food Table. ACTION: Clare to follow up with leadership and Caitlin.
  - The group will meet to reprioritize activities in the next four months.
  - Class 8 conversions - would like to know if feedback can still be provided. Staff explained the response is led by Finance, and is now on hold. Due to the financial implications, an in camera meeting may be held. The province has not yet made amendments to the Assessment Act. ACTION: Caitlin will request an update from Finance.

- The VUFS is in dialogue with PHABC about the importance of access to urban foodlands, and how policies can provide support and remove barriers.
- Our Place food strategy - working to develop a food hub in DTES and Hastings sunrise. Several community groups have collaborated to apply for funding for space including a storefront, refrigerated storage space and food prep space. The lead may want to engage with the VFPC at an upcoming meeting and make a case for formal support or endorsement. City staff have also been in touch with the group.
- Development/Retail - No update available.
- Food Waste  
Have met to gather feedback on motion passed in July. Once finalized, this will be passed on to City Council. There has been an increase in takeout food and the WG is considering a motion on reusable takeout food, similar to Portland and UBC. The single use bylaw changes are not being enforced.
- Children & Youth  
Will reexamine group's structure and activities in light of good working relationship between VSB and CoV. The plan to feed students will continue and the numbers will be monitored. An update is expected in October.
- Leadership Team - Jesse has stepped down from the leadership team, help is needed for the next term and would be good to have integrated soon. Email leadership team if interested.
- Community Food Prog. - will reconsider next options, including food hub.

### 3. Matters requiring discussion

#### 3.1 Participation Requests

##### 3.1.1 [Earthsavve Canada](#) - GoodFood City Declaration inquiry

Earthsavve has requested VFPC support to encourage CoV to sign the declaration that comes from the C40 network and calls on cities to commit to food waste reduction targets and to take actions to encourage residents to switch to a plant-based diet.

City staff explained they did not sign it due to 1) equity considerations and sensitivity about directing residents on how they should eat (e.g. could promote 'white' food culture); 2) concept of choice - not everyone has a choice. There are links to procurement, however the City does not procure a significant amount (park concessions, golf courses, community centres), and the Park Board has done a lot of work already. Community centres provide low cost meals to food insecure. There are concerns of equity and there is discomfort around not engaging users before taking action. ) Waste target - CoV has done a lot of work and is still asked to commit to an aggressive target, which would be difficult to achieve. It was noted this would be difficult to track and with limited staff time, would detract from other issues.

Earthsavve feels this is crucial if Vancouver aims to become the Greenest City. The nutrition aspect is advocated, it would add to environmental literacy, and is an opportunity to be a leader with procurement emissions.

#### Discussion

- Advocacy or monitoring support are not provided by Earthsavve, however they are in touch with organizations that do.
- There are likely no strict penalties for not meeting the targets, although would weaken the impact.
- Regarding how this intersects with the six big moves and the emergency response, where food is not prioritized, Earthsavve has reviewed the strategy and topics, and are outlined the connections in their paper. For example, the Saanich climate policy includes this advocacy. Present evidence based research on why it should be priority. It is unclear whether this was due to a lack of understanding or to resource concerns.

ACTION: Martina to share email from Earthsavve and info from Saanich, along with Caitlin's points, which will

be discussed by email.

### 3.1.2 Evergreen Canada - "Future Cities Canada - Unexpected Solutions"

- [Here is a short video](#) Oct/Nov 2020. One panelist is being sought; if interested, email Martina.

The solidarity statement for Wet'suwet'sen is on the FPC drive. There is no motion yet. VFPC may want to consider timing of release. The focus is on land use; agricultural groups stand with Wet'suwet'sen.

- COV 2021 Budget Survey - Talk Vancouver Survey - Sep 20th deadline  
All members are encouraged to do the survey.

### 3.1.4 Vancouver Plan Feedback - tabled

- Marc meeting update, Post-event online survey

### 3.2 Film Screening update: "First We Eat" -

The status is unsure; no response from Beaumont. ACTION: Jessie will look into it.

### 3.3 Anti-Racism and Tangible, Transformative Actions for the VFPC- Draft letters and Equity statement

The VFPC has agreed to work on definitions for three overarching concepts that guide VFPC work. The statements on 'food justice' and 'climate change' have been finalized; the one for 'reconciliation' has not. ACTION: Jolene will help to finalize this, which may be combined with a statement on equity. The document will become part of the Terms of Reference for the VFPC.

Staff have been developing an equity framework for the City, and has released guides for staff that include foundational guiding principles. ACTION: CAITLIN will share and verify if the VFPC is bound by these already, otherwise explicit support could be provided.

The LFAP update will examine opportunities for equity in the food system, including reallocating resources to equity seeking areas and those that have been underserved. Other ideas can be brought to the consultant team.

### 3.4 Ministry of Agriculture open letter endorsement

An [open letter](#) from the food movement is calling on the BC government to recognize the impacts on the food system, and to use this moment to change food system. The letter requests a resilient, food sovereign system, that is climate friendly and is in support of UNDRIP. The letter is well crafted, and has recommendations. It is recommended that the VFPC endorse the letter and encourage the government to adopt. The letter has been sent so cannot be co-signed, however it is important that VFPC offers support.

#### **MOTION IN SUPPORT OF BC AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY'S OPEN LETTER**

THAT the VFPC endorses the Open Letter sent on July 9, 2020 that encourages the provincial government's adoption of the recommendations as outlined in the letter.

Moved by Clare, Andrew seconded, carried unanimously.

Staff noted that the urban farming guideline review continues, and is looking for ways to address policy barriers. It is expected to go to Council by Q1 2021. ACTION: Caitlin will check to see if the VUFS report has been finalized.

### 4. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn. Moved by Martina, seconded by Joey, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm