



VANCOUVER FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JANUARY 7, 2021

A meeting of the Vancouver Food Policy Council was held on Thursday, January 07, 2021, at 6:08 pm, by electronic means.

PRESENT: Evan Bowness
Clare Cullen
Joey Liu
Tamer Mohamed Hussein
Marc Schutzbank
Jesse Veenstra
Emily Voong

ABSENT: Jolene Andrew
Heather Escobar
Martina Marsic
Sarah Siska

ALSO PRESENT: Caitlin Dorward, Social Planner, Social Policy and Projects, Staff Liaison
Trustee Estrellita Gonzales, Vancouver School Board
Rachel Telling, Sustainability Specialist, Sustainability Group, Staff Liaison
Rebecca Till, Environmental Stewardship Coordinator, Vancouver Park Board

RECORDER: Vicky Baker

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged that we are meeting on the unceded homelands of the ʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and sel̓íl̓wítulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Marc Schutzbank
SECONDED by Emily Voong

THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council approve the Minutes from the meeting of November, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Revision to March 2020 Minutes

MOVED by Marc Schtuzbank
SECONDED by Jesse Veenstra

THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council rescind the resolution relating to “Consent agenda matters – Previous Minutes – Approve March 2020 minutes”, adopted on June 4, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Marc Schtuzbank
SECONDED by Joey Liu

THAT the Vancouver Food Policy Council adopt the Minutes from the meeting on March 12, 2020, with the proviso that the section entitled “GV Food Banks”, on page 4 of the minutes, be amended by striking the sentence, “The Food Bank is funded by the Vancouver Foundation, the City of Vancouver, and private donors”, and replacing it with the sentence “The City of Vancouver does not provide funding to the Greater Vancouver Food Bank”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Liaison updates

- Councillor Bligh – no update available
- Councillor Wiebe – no update available
- Commissioner Dumont – no update available
- Trustee Gonzales
 - Staff resources have been dedicated to COVID and the Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) that will be presented to the Board at the end of the month, and includes outdoor educations on grounds.
 - School Liaison Officer review is in motion; a firm has been hired. A report to the Board is expected in March /April.
 - Work on a strategic plan will begin later this term.
 - Discussion
 - Food policy in the LRFP – gardens will be promoted.
 - Ad hoc food committee – no date set yet to reconvene.
 - School food programs are included in mandate letters to BC Ministers of Ag and Education.
 - Conversations around access to food - Trustees cannot do school visits as much as they could before. Administration has the autonomy to identify those in need, some PACs also raise funds. VSB is currently feeding 3000+ kids, 2 cafeterias are open.
 - There are no resources at VSB to connect to neighbourhood houses.
- Rebecca Till (Park Board staff)
 - Eleven projects funded through fall 2020 Neighbourhood Matching Fund.
 - Food production/meal program for emergency response is ongoing with CoV and BC Housing.
 - Working with community to establish a food forest in east Van.
 - Staffing – Katelyn Ling has returned 2 days/week
 - LFAP – engagement survey open to Jan 28. First draft expected in mid-Feb.
- Rachel Telling (Sustainability Staff)
 - Greenest City Grant applications are being evaluated, and include many food projects
- Caitlin Dorward (Social Policy staff)
 - Vancouver has become a pre-signatory to the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, which is a commitment by subnational governments to tackle the

climate emergency through integrated food policies and a call on national governments to act. It was drafted by the Secretariat to the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (of which Vancouver is a member city) along with other partners. More info at: <https://www.glasgowdeclaration.org/> ACTION: Caitlin to circulate draft. 'Equity' is now included as a component, based on Vancouver's feedback.

- EOC – Food programs map is updated every 2 weeks. No budget for translation currently. Online version of map will be coming soon.
- Urban Ag infrastructure grant – funding was provided in 2020 for gardens and farms to upgrade or replace food growing infrastructure, staff are administering reimbursement now.
- Food Waste – the implementation timeline of the Single Use Items Reduction Strategy has been adjusted due to COVID. Staff working on the implementation strategy have been engaging with meal providers to share information about the implementation plan and reduce any unintended disproportionate impacts of the ban on equity-denied residents.
- Review of developments triggering the Rezoning Policy for Sustainable Large Sites – Heather Lands (rezoning), Safeway site at Commercial-Broadway (rezoning), Jericho lands (policy statement).
- Vancouver Plan – food policy staff are providing input into the development of policy “big moves” which will be shared with the public through engagement opportunities in fall 2021.
- End of term for VFPC end of April. Next term will be short and will end when the election is called Dec 2021.
- Urban Farming Review is back on the work plan.

2. Working group updates

- Leadership Team
 - February = No Meeting
 - March = informal meeting on LFAP (open to the public, no minutes, no quorum needed)
 - Agenda: LFAP engagement
 - April = Formal Meeting: April 1st

Marc will reach out for agenda items. Members encouraged to think of targeted recruitment.

- Food Waste - Tabled
- Food Cultivation & Urban Agriculture - Tabled
- Children & Youth - Tabled
- Development/Retail - Tabled
- Community Food Programming - Tabled

3. Letter of support for the DTES Food Hub

There are currently barriers to establishing a traditional food processing facility in the DTES. A request came from Jill and Sam from the DTES Indigenized Food Sovereignty Co-op who came to speak to the VFPC in Fall 2020. The DTES Indigenized Food Sovereignty Co-op is working together to develop a food hub in the DTES to “build a shared food storage and processing facility to ensure a secure stream of healthy, culturally-appropriate food for a coalition of DTES frontline agencies”

Discussion

This supports indigenous food sovereignty at the municipal level, and is a step in the right direction. Evan is helping to coordinate with UBC students, for research into the bylaw policy

landscape; contact Evan to get involved. The Park Board is also interested in learning about policy barriers that are identified. Policies exist to restrict selling of wild harvested food that is not part of the agricultural supply, and what it permitted or not in a particular zoning. Caitlin is in discussion with the group as to what license would apply to allow these activities.

MOVED by Evan Bowness
SECONDED by Clare Cullen

THAT the VFPC sign the letter as drafted in support of the DTES Indigenized Food Sovereignty Co-op and send to the Co-op and other funders and parties as requested.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Vancouver Food Policy Council - Report of Activities 2019-2020

This is a requirement of the City. Members reviewed the draft and made amendments.

MOVED Marc Schutzbank
SECONDED Jesse Veenstra

THAT the VFPC approve the VFPC report of activities to submit to City Clerk.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Vancouver Social Infrastructure Presentation (Joming Lau and Ada Chan Russel, Planners in Social Policy)

***What is social infrastructure?** It refers to facilities and services that are usually run by nonprofits that help individuals, families, and community groups meet their social needs, and enhance community well-being. Examples include: neighbourhood houses, family places, youth centres, seniors' centres, informal gathering spaces, indigenous healing and wellness centres, and diverse social and community serving spaces for drop-ins, resources or referrals. As part the strategy's work to date, the City have engaged with various stakeholders, including social nonprofits, places of worship, and City Advisory Committees.*

Staff presented the context of their work in social infrastructure as well as their work to date. The work is important to achieve complete communities, increase access to affordable services spaces and programs, and to be adaptive to meet changing community needs. There are growing social challenges (e.g. isolation, population growth) as well as sectoral challenges with space and capacity, to be addressed in the recovery phase from COVID-19.

The strategy will provide priorities for investment, policy suggestions for the protection of, and advocacy to support, social infrastructure. Staff have done project scoping, data collection and consultation. The draft plan is now under review and is expected to go to council in early 2021. Staff presented maps of City-owned and non-City-owned sites in Vancouver.

Principles guiding the work: Equity, Social Impact, Resilience and Adaptability, and Co-creation and Stewardship. Staff presented the draft framework that includes six directions::

1. Ensure right types and supply of social infrastructure that meet equity goals - considers social return on investment. City will collect data and set targets.
2. Increase prioritization of reconciliation, equity, and accessibility in approach to social infrastructure - includes dedicated indigenous spaces, equitable process and outcomes, spaces that allow for cultural process.
3. Protect existing and enable new social infrastructure - address policy barriers, new funding tools, partnerships.

4. Continue and increase commitment to capacity support and partnership - capacity building, as it can be challenging to navigate in city systems and processes
5. Increase efficiency of social facilities and investments – to address a lack of space and resources.
6. Foster resilient, adaptable, and sustainable social infrastructure - also includes risk of loss and low community ownership.

Discussion

- Role of green grocers, farmers markets (commercial spaces that provide community services) – these spaces are recognized and may be considered for the next iteration, but are beyond the scope of this report, as it is focussed on non-profit providers. Instead, policies related to these food assets may be brought forward through the Vancouver Plan or revisions that can be made to existing policies.
- Noting the uneven distribution of social infrastructure between the north and south of the city, what is the approach to equity, when considering the demographics? It is known that demographics are changing and there is a lack of development that is not along arterials or downtown. A full service Neighbourhood House is envisioned for each neighbourhood to service all groups. The City will be building data around those spaces. It was noted that the Community Amenity Contributions policy has recently been amended to allow for a more geographically equitable approach to allocating CACs (refer to: <https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/cac-guidelines.aspx>).
- Method for needs assessment for communities – in assessing need, the goal is to identify gaps and assess needs of different populations. The City relies on quantitative statistical data and qualitative input from NPOs and community organizations.
- Will the VISIS deliver more funding for social infrastructure? Funding is limited so VSIS focuses less on creating new spaces, and more on optimizing existing spaces (co-location, etc.). The City is looking at how to support NPOs as a facilitator to ensure spaces are well used and serving target communities. Funding for SI is through the capital budget, development contributions, and other levels of government. The strategy is a framework to be used when assessing new development, and has power with Council. The City has a lot of priorities, and this helps council and the staff to ensure those elements are addressed. It was acknowledged that each strategy could use more funding.

6. Close/Bread Basket

A tentative informal meeting is scheduled for February 11 to consider the transition to a new membership. ACTION: Leadership team will circulate email to confirm.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Emily
SECONDED by Marc

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Formal Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, April 01, 2021
TIME: 6:00 – 8:30 pm
PLACE: WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 8:47pm.

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