



VANCOUVER FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 8, 2021

A special meeting of the Vancouver Food Policy Council was held on Monday, November 08, 2021, at 6:03pm, by electronic means. The meeting was open to members of the public.

PRESENT:

Evan Bowness
Miluska Bravo
Alice Briggs
Emily Burkholder
Sarah Common
Clare Cullen
Jyotika Dangwal
Sharon Dong
Khalid Jamal
Ben Liegey
Rasoul Narimani
Michelle Reining
Marc Schutzbank
Anthony Sullivan
Kae Yee Tsai
Carol White

ABSENT:

Leona Brown
Katherine Cooper
Ivy Leong
Joey Liu
Taelyr Keeley
Trustee Estrellita Gonzales, Vancouver School Board

ALSO PRESENT:

Caitlin Dorward, Social Planner, Social Policy and
Projects, Staff Liaison
Caitlyn Harrison, Planner, Vancouver Park Board
Rebecca Till, Environmental Stewardship Coordinator
Vancouver Park Board, Staff Liaison
Councillor Michael Wiebe, City of Vancouver

RECORDER:

Vicky Baker

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged that we are meeting on the stolen and ancestral homelands of the ʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and sel̓ílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and that it is part of reality and of the conversation during this meeting.

1. Online meeting reminders

Staff provided overview of the etiquette and procedures for online meetings. This is the first meeting held only to consider a specific motion; meeting times did not align with required actions. No members of the public attended the meeting.

2. Overview of Draft Local Food System Action Plan

The intention of the plan is to align with the Park Board's broader direction in planning and aspects around equity and service delivery in the city, especially commitments to reconciliation and decolonization. Changes in the local food system over past years are related to food security, indigenous food sovereignty, and climate change. The plan reflects emerging themes, informed by research, engagement, on multiple drafts and final plan. The plan has 38 actions and four main goals:

- 1) Centre indigenous voices, recognizing that food is medicine – improved access to land by indigenous people for food and medicinal practices, more funding
- 2) Improve equity in services and programs – decreased barriers for food growing initiatives, increased funding for equity-denied groups
- 3) Strengthen food partnerships to support just food – more funding for staff, including opportunities to access to infrastructure
- 4) Build long term resilience, sustainability, increase biodiversity – increase food and garden educational opportunities

The plan aims for broader impact, not solely aiming to increase assets but also to increase equity and access to existing assets. The work is dependent on bringing in expertise.

3. Motion of Support Park Board Draft Local Food System Action Plan

Introduction of Motion

- Park Board staff were thanked for their work to assemble the research and implementation strategies. It was recommended that the VPFC review the plan's wording and consider adopting similar language. The plan focuses on equitable access and deepen what exists already, reconciliation, and food resiliency as part of climate change.
- The role of the VFPC is to represent the CoV and is distinct from Park Board and staff. The draft motion demonstrates how the plan aligns with the VPFC strategic planning, goals, and values. There is an opportunity to support the plan, and also update areas of commitment around food sovereignty for future VFPC documents.
- Members read the draft motion aloud before discussing.

Discussion

- The plan uses a definition of local food that recognizes the whole food system and notes the definition is different than that used by the CoV. Social Policy are unable to locate the CoV definition referred to in the plan, and wonder if it could be removed. REBECCA will confirm the source of the wording that references the CoV definition, and may be able to recommend its removal.

- CoV local procurement policy is based on geography (this allows Coke to be included).
- It was noted that the plan is tied to reconciliation, and what it means, however the lack of inclusion in broader work was questioned.
- The plan calls for community gardens to transition from individual plots to shared gardens, however most gardens do not have infrastructure. Staff are cautioned that help will be needed for the transition, and that the framing to individuals whose plots will be removed must be carefully thought out.
- It was noted there is no new land added or reallocated as part of the plan. It was recommended that one member speak to the motion on behalf of the VFPC, and that other members may also speak to other aspects on their own behalf.
- Any requested amendments should be sent to commissioners first.
- The plan has a focus on bringing equity to the DTES, Strathcona, as well as South Van. The challenge is that Mount Pleasant and Strathcona have the least park space per capita. This plan will add more focus on existing parks, and increase density. The organizations that are there (that have time & expertise in community development) have not been able to build equity in food programs. Assets are not analysed to see if they are adequate for those who are serving. Staffing is critical with respect to community engagement, and proper training needs to be provided.
- The community leadership that exists needs to be included in the implementation.
- The Park Board has jurisdiction over buildings and infrastructure, however community associations independently decide programming and policies.
- The plan calls for resources to train Community Centre Associations on community engagement and development.
- The contradiction that the plan aims to be decolonizing, however the land is still held by the state, was recognized.
- The amount requested in the budget will be included in the 2022-26 capital budget.
- It was noted the previous plan had been under-resourced which led to many uncompleted actions.
- A commitment to measure waste should be included, even if not targets are not.

The revisions to the motion were read aloud.

Designate VFPC representative(s) for Park Board meeting

- To be determined by email.

MOTION - Support for the Vancouver Parks Board Local Food System Action Plan 2021

MOVED by Clare Cullen

SECONDED by Sarah Common

WHEREAS *“The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board) approved the five-year Local Food Action Plan in 2013 (2013 LFAP) to strengthen the local food system in Vancouver. Now that the five-year period has elapsed, an update is necessary to align with current policy directions and the Park Board’s commitment to Reconciliation and equity, as well as reflect current local food system priorities and evolving needs and opportunities. This update to the 2013 LFAP – now called the Local Food System Action Plan (2021 LFSAP) – will guide the Park Board food system work over the next five years (to 2026).”* and *“The plan was developed based on broader policy directives, research asset assessment, public engagement, and spatial analysis. It outlines the current state of Park Board food assets and services and proposes a five-year implementation plan.”*

And WHEREAS the vision of the 2021 LFSAP is to *“move towards a sustainable, just and decolonized local food system by making space for Indigenous food sovereignty, increasing equitable access to food assets and services, and working towards food system resiliency as part of climate action”*.

And WHEREAS the LFSAP 2021 aligns with and activates food-related strategies and action plans of the City of Vancouver, such as:

- City of Vancouver - Poverty Reduction Plan, What We Heard: Phase 1(2019);
- City of Vancouver - Zero Waste 2040 long-term strategic plan (2018)
- City of Vancouver - Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy (2018);
- City of Vancouver - Vancouver Food Strategy Update (2017);
- Milan Municipality - Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (2016);
- City of Vancouver - Opportunities for Community Kitchen Facilities in City Affiliated Organizations (2016);
- City of Vancouver - Greenest City Action Plan (2015), Local Food goal area;
- City of Vancouver - Healthy City Strategy (2014);

And WHEREAS the LFSAP 2021 aligns with and activates formally endorsed food-related goals and areas of focus of the Vancouver Food Policy Council, such as:

- Indigenous food sovereignty
- Equitable food access
- Food system resiliency as part of climate action
- Preservation and support of food assets
- Increasing staff resourcing of Vancouver Park Board food policy initiatives and the 2013 LFAP

And WHEREAS the LFSAP 2021 has been built through asset mapping confirming deep inequity across the food system under Parks Board jurisdiction (for example, 17% of Parks Board land is dedicated to Golf Clubs, 0.4% to Food and Culture Gardens, and 0.002% to Indigenous-led gardens;)

And WHEREAS the LFSAP 2021 has been drafted through consultation including with Vancouver Food Policy Council and a Community Advisory Committee to understand priorities, challenges and opportunities including and supporting the voices of equity denied groups;

And WHEREAS through the Vancouver Food Strategy the City of Vancouver has a goal to advance just and sustainable food systems with partners and at all levels of government;

And WHEREAS the Vancouver Food Policy Council acknowledges the deep impact of colonization and the present need to centre access and equity, through specific, implementation oriented, decolonizing practices, and believes that implementing the actions outlined in the LFSAP 2021 will help the Vancouver Park Board move forward on addressing these issues;

And WHEREAS the VFPC recognizes that decolonization efforts are limited by existing property relations and ownership;

And WHEREAS the LFSAP 2021 identifies the need for City of Vancouver departmental and staff support for full implementation, including training for staff and Community Association members;

And WHEREAS the LFAP 2013 may not have been as well-resourced financially as anticipated which resulted in action items not being completed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends that the Vancouver Parks Board Commissioners adopt the LFSAP 2021 as presented by the Vancouver Parks Board staff, with suggested amendments (see addendum A):

And BE IT RESOLVED that the Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends the Parks Board staff be provided with the requested level of support and funding to adopt, activate and achieve all 4 goals and 38 actions outlined in the LFSAP 2021;

And BE IT RESOLVED that the Vancouver Food Policy Council calls on the City of Vancouver to continue to work with the Park Board to explore novel ways of stewarding assets to increase restoration of Indigenous traditional food ways, including day-lighting all salmon bearing streams and supporting salmon spawning grounds;

And BE IT RESOLVED that the Vancouver Food Policy Council calls on the City of Vancouver to resource and direct City staff in appropriate departments to work with Parks Board staff to support the implementation of the LFSAP 2021 as needed;

And BE IT RESOLVED that the Vancouver Food Policy Council recommends that the Park Board engage deeply with communities, especially those that have been identified as having overlapping and/ or intersectional needs, working deeply with existing community food security and Indigenous food sovereignty organizations and leaders;

And BE IT RESOLVED that the Vancouver Food Policy Council believes that this plan is a tremendous step in the right direction, however, the amount of land designated to do this work is insufficient to address the goals of increasing Indigenous food sovereignty, equitable food access, food system resiliency as part of climate action, and the preservation and support of food assets; which is why we advocate for the increasing of new land assets to be designated towards the goals espoused in this plan.

Addendum A:

Page 11: removal of second paragraph regarding definition of “local food” until such time the VFPC has an opportunity to review this definition with City of Vancouver staff;

Page 13: clarification on the term “industrial food system”, to be consistent with other definitions provided throughout.

Page 93: add 2 specific KPI’s linked to food waste reduction as described in the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact which address and measure:

- (1) reduction of total annual volume of food losses & waste
- (2) specific number of annual events and campaigns aimed at decreasing food loss and waste

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, November 18, 2021
TIME: 6:00 – 8:30 pm
PLACE: WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:13pm.

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