



VANCOUVER FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

MINUTES of INFORMAL MEETING OCTOBER 14, 2021

An informal meeting of the Vancouver Food Policy Council was held on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 6:04pm, by electronic means.

PRESENT: Evan Bowness*
Miluska Bravo
Leona Brown
Alice Briggs
Emily Burkholder
Sarah Common
Katherine Cooper*
Clare Cullen
Jyotika Dangwal
Sharon Dong
Khalid Jamal
Ivy Leong
Ben Liegey
Joey Liu
Rasoul Narimani
Michelle Reining
Marc Schutzbank
Kae Yee Tsai
Carol White

ABSENT: Taelyr Keeley
Anthony Sullivan
Trustee Estrellita Gonzales, Vancouver School Board
Councillor Michael Wiebe, City of Vancouver

ALSO PRESENT: Caitlin Dorward, Social Planner, Social Policy and Projects, Staff Liaison
Jason Hsieh, Social Planner, Social Policy and Projects, Staff Liaison
Erin Nichols, Senior Project Manager - Zero Waste, Engineering Services
Caityn Harrison, Planner, Park Board
Rebecca Till, Environmental Stewardship Coordinator
Vancouver Park Board, Staff Liaison

RECORDER: Vicky Baker

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged that we are meeting on the stolen and ancestral homelands of the ʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish), and sel̓il̓w̓it̓ulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations who are committed to this land. Past members have gathered resources and recommended reading material, including about the importance of listening to plants and the land.

1. Online meeting reminders: Staff explained the WebEx format and noted that no motions can be passed today. It was explained that the current meeting is informal because it had already been scheduled before the CoV changed the policy around how quorum is counted when online. All committees have been writing a letter to request more flexibility. While formal votes are not possible, members can still gather and discuss issues.
2. Liaison Updates
 - Councillor Wiebe – no report available
 - Social Policy - Caitlin Dorward and introducing Jason Hsieh
 - Jason recently joined the food team, and brings previous experience with the local food system at the Park Board and community organizations. Jason will share the staff liaison role with Caitlin going forward.
 - Updates – 1) The November VFPC meeting will focus on draft food policy directions in the Broadway and Vancouver plans 2) On Tuesday October 19th, City council will consider recommendation for advisory committees to continue to meet online on an on-going basis, or have a hybrid option in which members calling into an in-person meeting will still count toward quorum. 3) Nov 2 council meeting will receive report about the 2022 operating budget and GCAP, which has indirect links to food. 4) Nov 16 – A report on the accessibility strategy will go to council. Members are reminded they can sign up for email alerts to be notified when council agendas are released.
 - Park Board - Rebecca Till -See LSFAP update below.
 - Trustee Gonzalez - VSB is putting together a 10-year food vision. Trustee Gonzales asked that this be shared with others who may help steward that vision.
<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/District/Board-of-Education/food-framework/Pages/Default.aspx>
3. Admin Team updates - Workplan, Common Definitions & Community Agreements, team update and gratitude
 - Workplan - Each working group is asked to complete the workplan in time for the November meeting. using the template found in the Drive. This workplan is sent to Council so they are aware of priorities. The document does not need to be complex, and priorities may change over the year. Members who have not yet joined a working group are asked to contact Caitlin. The workplan will be passed at the Nov meeting; working groups are asked to complete the plan by Nov 10 to allow time for review.
 - Community agreements and common definitions – past members have drafted common definitions for ‘Food Justice’ and ‘Social Justice’ and begun two others. Members are encouraged to review and read previous comments to continue the conversation. Community agreements have been added here, with three main points: 1) Be Respectful; 2) Be Present; 3) Assume Positive intent and Call in Respectful action.
4. Park Board Local Food System Action Plan Update - Sneak peak of LFSAP and invitation for VFPC members to attend Park Board meeting Nov.15th

- The Park Board recognizes the ongoing colonialism and negative impact on indigenous food systems. Vancouver faces many challenges that impact vulnerable community members, and can learn from indigenous leadership about how to foster sovereignty. This plan is a step in that direction. The final version is co-managed and co-authored by Engineering, Sustainability, and the Decolonizing Arts and Culture team. A review of the timeline was presented. This update will align with other major plans such as Van Play, with an emphasis on equity, a commitment to reconciliation, and better reflect current food system demands. For example, when speaking about assets, this plan shifts targets from quantitative targets and aims to improve access. This plan will guide implementation of food assets over the next 5 years.
- Staff gave an overview of the vision and objectives, and process to develop the plan. Research insights showed that equity is a problem with park-based program access. A summary of engagement identified the gaps, needs, opportunities, opportunities and barriers. During the second engagement phase, the findings were shared, and feedback was requested on the draft goals.
- An implementation plan includes 4 main goals and 38 actions, developed by reflecting on the feedback from engagement and assessment.
- Members are encouraged to sign up to speak at the board meeting to support the plan - <https://vancouver.ca/your-government/speak-at-a-meeting.aspx>

Discussion

- The plan is in the final stages. The previous VFPC had provided input, and now the final draft is being revised by Senior Staff. It is up to the elected Park Board whether to approve the plan and allocate the funding requested.
 - Mental health of indigenous people has suffered throughout the pandemic, and healing comes through the land. The plan needs to include indigenous food sovereignty.
 - Supports were offered to those with multidimensional barriers, including no in person meetings, honorariums, and options for how to participate (group vs one-on-one).
 - The plan targets resources to previously underserved areas. For example, there is a direct action to increase funding for indigenous land-based projects, where negligible funds are spent relative to golf courses and dog parks. Work is being done with MST urban indigenous practitioners to reduce barriers.
 - If the plan is approved, the Board will need to endorse the funding request next year, which could triple the funding for local food systems work. The Board will not review individual actions; the plan would be approved as a package.
 - REBECCA will share the report with VFPC members, but cannot be posted yet.
5. Erin Nichols, Senior Project Manager – Zero Waste, with Engineering Services, presented food waste reduction initiatives that are underway as part of the Zero Waste 2040 strategy.
- The strategy was approved in 2018 with an aspirational goal of zero waste to landfill or incinerators by 2040, and one priority area is food. In Nov 2020 there was a motion by the VFPC to City Council that recommends making commitments, including tracking data. Staff have not yet received direction, but there is a strong alignment between this and the activities that are underway now or soon.

- Previously no good data existed to support measurement and reporting of food waste; it is complicated to gather and comes from different sources. Data suggests that there was a 26% decline in food waste from residential and ICI (industrial, commercial and institutional) sources from 2016-19. A UBC Sustainability Scholar report outlined protocols for businesses reporting, and the need to balance voluntary reporting and a policy that requires collection and reporting of food waste data.
- Staff worked both internally and with external partner Love food Hate Waste - Canada to raise awareness with residents.
- [Circular Economy of Food study](#) – joint project with the Vancouver Economic Commission. Study ends Dec 2021. Circular food innovation project Feb 2022 – Mar 2023.

Discussion

- The 50% reduction target applies to both the food waste generated and the amount that is diverted. The amount generated is more important; prevention is harder to measure. Data will be improved if businesses report directly (at the moment compiled waste composition studies only give a snapshot of the ICI as a whole. The City does not have data on individual sectors, for example: restaurants or grocery retail.
 - Food insecurity is rampant, food rescue is not the long-term solution, advocacy for income supports is needed. There is a need to support farmers markets, allocate land to grow food, share food that is still good but past the best before date, support access to park land and other lands for growing food to teach the importance of food to neighbours. Hereditary chiefs can influence and talk about their ways, indigenous views and impacts must be included. How can they help to represent that in the reporting, and promote through an indigenous lens? Staff agree there is a need to include indigenous businesses and community members and other communities, and the beauty of sharing and generosity.
6. Bread basket (outstanding items)
- A formal, special meeting to vote on a motion of support for the LFSAP can likely be held after Council votes to allow online meetings. MARC will send doodle to convene extraordinary meeting on Nov 8 or 9 to pass a formal motion. CLARE will draft a motion in support of the LFSAP update. Eleven members are needed for quorum. This would be in addition to the regular Nov 18 meeting.
 - World Soils day in Dec – A proclamation was made by the City in 2020, and will be requested again.
 - It was clarified that hybrid meetings may also be an option for the Nov meeting.
 - Google group – if anyone is not receiving Google Group messages let Caitlin know.

7. Next Meeting:

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

The Committee adjourned at 8:35pm.

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