



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: May 6, 2008  
Author: Food Policy Council  
c/o Samara Brock  
Phone No.: 604.871.6036  
RTS No.: 07215  
VanRIMS No.: 11-2000-14  
Meeting Date: May 22, 2008

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment  
FROM: The Vancouver Food Policy Council  
SUBJECT: Third Annual Food Policy Council Progress Report

#### RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive the following for information:

The Vancouver Food Policy Council's

- 2007 Annual Report as attached in APPENDIX A;
- 2008 Directions for Food Policy in Vancouver as attached in APPENDIX B; and
- 2007 Expenditures and Proposed 2008 Budget as attached in APPENDIX C.

#### CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The approved Terms of Reference require the Vancouver Food Policy Council report annually to Council.

#### COUNCIL POLICY

##### Food Policy

On July 8, 2003, Council approved a motion supporting the development of a just and sustainable food system for the City of Vancouver.

On December 11, 2003, Council approved the proposed Action Plan for Creating a Just and Sustainable Food System for the City of Vancouver (Food Action Plan). A copy of the proposed Food Action Plan can be found at: <http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20031209/rr1.htm>

On March 11, 2004, Council approved the formation of a multi-stakeholder Food Policy Council.

On February 15, 2007, Council adopted the Vancouver Food Charter. The Charter sets out the City's commitment to the development of a coordinated municipal food policy. The Charter is an ambitious, forward-thinking document that promotes education, celebration and real projects for a healthy economy, a healthy ecology, and a healthy society.

On November 15, 2007, Council adopted the Vancouver Food Policy Council Terms of Reference, which clarified the mandate of the VFPC and recognized the VFPC as being an advisory body to Council. The Terms of Reference require:

- an annual work plan and budget with specific objectives each year, in consultation with its Council and Staff Liaison, for distribution to Council and CoV Departments, Boards and Commissions for information; and
- an annual report, including expenditures, to Council describing its accomplishments for the past year, including reference to each objective set out in the work plan and any arising issues to which the Committee has responded.

On April 23, 2002, the City adopted a formal position, definition and principles on sustainability to guide the City's work considering social, economic and social impacts.

On May 24, 2005, Council further approved a definition of Social Sustainability to be used for developing the social component of the City's sustainability objectives.

## PURPOSE

This report, as required in the approved Terms of Reference, informs Council on the work of the Vancouver Food Policy Council (VFPC) including:

- Annual Report 2007 (Appendix A),
- Directions for 2008 (Appendix B); and
- 2007 Expenditures and 2008 Budget (Appendix C)

## BACKGROUND

Since the approval of the Food Action Plan in December 2003, progress has been made on a number of fronts that have resulted in benefits to our citizens. These include improvements in the areas of social, environmental and economic sustainability, community development and environmental health. The City of Vancouver is emerging as a national leader in municipal food system planning as a key component of the City's commitment to sustainability.

On October 20, 2005, City Council received the first report from Social Planning and the VFPC. A copy of the 2005 report can be found at:

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20051020/documents/pe1.pdf>

On February 15, 2007, City Council received the second report from Social Planning and the VFPC. A copy of the 2007 can be found at:

<http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20020215/documents/pe2.pdf>

Key accomplishments for 2007 include the passing of the Vancouver Food Charter, a Vancouver Food Charter workshop series delivered in five Vancouver neighbourhoods, the "Toasting Our Successes" public forum which was attended by 200 people, the approval of the VFPC Terms of Reference, and consultation with City staff on a number of key policies including EcoDensity, Urban Agriculture Guidelines and the Social Development Plan.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications. Expenditures for the Vancouver Food Policy Council for 2007 were within the Council approved budget. Expenditures were slightly low due to the labour interruption. Expenditures for 2008, within the approved Council budget of \$15,000, are outlined in Appendix C.

### **CONCLUSION**

The City of Vancouver's leadership in Food Policy reflects a growing trend towards recognizing Food Policy and Food Policy Councils as among the more dynamic areas of innovation by city governments across North America.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Vancouver Food Policy Council 2007 Annual Report

## Accomplishments for 2007

### Introduction

Vancouver has long been at the forefront of urban sustainability initiatives and is ranked as one of the most liveable cities in the world. Food Security is emerging as an issue of great importance across North America. British Columbia has been a leader in the food security movement and Vancouver is poised to play a major role in urban food security policy and planning in the coming years. The Vancouver Food Policy Council (VFPC) has played a key role over the past year in providing leadership and guidance in this vital area.

### Food Production

- 2010 Gardens Initiative and Urban Agriculture:  
The VFPC initiated planning for a meeting with the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Parks Board, and Vancouver School Board regarding strategies for community gardens and urban agriculture.

### Partnerships and Collaboration

- Invitation to participate on GVRD Agriculture Advisory Committee.
- Request for comment on regional growth strategy and remaining agricultural land.
- Request to partner with BC Ministry of Agriculture resulted in a Regional Agrologist joining the VFPC.
- Membership on Vancouver Coastal Health's Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI) Grant Selection Committee (CFAI provides funding and support for community-based food security initiatives).
- Membership on school food policy group resulted in a new school garden at Windermere Secondary School.
- Participation on UBC Farm Symposium planning committee.
- Participation in the development of a BC Intergovernmental Liaison Committee on food.
- Representation on BC Food Systems Network board and participation in "Reflections on BC's Food Policy Councils" workshop at the Network's 2007 annual meeting.
- Organizational membership in Food Secure Canada (a national Canadian food security organization).
- Ongoing liaison with Community Food Security Coalition (a national USA food security organization).

### Policy Development

- Food Charter passed by Council on February 15, 2007:  
The Vancouver Food Charter facilitates the City's commitment to food system integration and promotes community action on principles toward a just and sustainable food system.  
<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/commsvcs/socialplanning/initiatives/foodpolicy/policy/charter.htm>

- Participation in formulation of EcoDensity draft charter and actions:  
The EcoDensity program can help integrate the principles of Vancouver's Food Charter with the sustainability goals of the City's different departments, and establish a strong interdepartmental focus on Vancouver's food system. <http://www.vancouver-ecodensity.ca/>
- Feedback on Urban Agriculture Guidelines:  
Guidelines for urban agriculture in the private realm will be used to guide the provision of garden space and edible landscaping in new developments.
- Consultation on the City's Social Development Plan:  
The VFPC consulted with Social Planning staff and offered recommendations and suggestions for strengthening the draft Plan.

### Education, Outreach and Civic Engagement

- The VFPC hosted the "Toasting Our Successes" public forum, June 18, 2007.  
Attended by 200 people, "Toasting Our Successes" showcased VFPC accomplishments, presented 2007 objectives and action plan, and received input and feedback from participants on VFPC objectives and current city projects.
- Food Charter Workshops:  
The VFPC delivered a "Using the Vancouver Food Charter in Your Neighbourhood" workshop series in November 2007 and continuing into January 2008 due to a delayed start from the municipal strike. The workshop series goal was to introduce the Vancouver Food Charter and the VFPC to community and agency members. The workshops created a space for people to share visions and ideas about food security and food system issues, facilitated connections between individuals/organizations/communities, and identified concrete community actions (next steps). Workshops were held at five neighbourhood houses (Little Mountain, Gordon, Cedar Cottage, Mount Pleasant, and Kitsilano), and 88 participants created 15 recommendations for their neighbourhoods.
- Eat Local Proclamation:  
The VFPC facilitated and supported the City of Vancouver's first ever Eat Local Proclamation.
- "Plenty" public event:  
In conjunction with Plenty, a Fall Fair at Van Dusen Gardens, the VFPC planned a food themed area to include food, farmyard, and an eat/buy/grow local information. However, the event was not able to proceed due to the closure of the facility during the civic labour interruption.

### Committee Administration

- VFPC Terms of Reference:  
VFPC terms of reference were approved by Council as a City advisory committee. Member appointments were approved.  
<http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/socialplanning/initiatives/foodpolicy/policy/councilmember.htm>
- Strategic plan:  
The VFPC continued to follow their strategic plan to meet their mandate of creating a just and sustainable food system in Vancouver.

- Communications and Protocols Plan:  
The VFPC produced a communications report, designed a communications plan, produced associated materials and develop protocol for submitting letters to Council and other agencies.

## 2007 Presentations

The VFPC received seven presentations at regular meetings during 2007:

- January: Green Table Network, Andre LaRiviere.
- February: Humane Treatment of Food Animals, Bruce Passmore (Vancouver Humane Society) and Geoff Urton and Alyssa Stoneman (BC SPCA).
- March: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Kim Sutherland (Regional Agrologist)
- April: Social Planning Dept "Social Development Plan" - Mario Lee/Mary Clare Zak (COV).
- May: EcoDensity Plan - Samara Brock (COV) and Alan Duncan (VPB).
- July: Urban Agriculture Guidelines, Christine Tapp and Vickie Morris, Mary Beth Rondeau (COV).
- October: Local Food First! Project, Paul Cabaj and Jason Boyce.

## 2007 Correspondence

The VFPC submitted six letters and/or formal statements in 2007:

- Formal statement to Agriculture and Agri-Food consultations.
- Letter of support for the Centre of Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm.
- Letter of support in principle of Human Society's request that COV institutions serve cage-free chicken products.
- Letter of support to Heart and Stroke Foundation for Centre for Sustainable Community Development SFU on "Investigating the Nutritional and Health Effects of Community Gardens in Vancouver, BC."
- Letter to BC Premier and Cabinet asking for a review of the implementation of new Meat Regulations.

# Vancouver Food Policy Council 2007 Annual Report

## Directions for Food Policy in Vancouver in 2008

### Introduction

A number of key directions were decided upon in a strategic planning session in December 2007 which will build upon and expand the successes of the Vancouver Food Policy Council's work to date.

### Food Production

- **2010 Gardens and Urban Agriculture:**  
The VFPC will chair meetings with the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver School Board regarding strategies for community gardens and urban agriculture.
- **Draft Community Garden Guidelines:**  
The VFPC will continue to consult with City Food Policy staff on the draft Community Garden Guidelines.

### Partnerships and Collaboration

- Continued liaison with staff in City departments on food policy issues.
- Continued involvement on Vancouver Coastal Health's Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI) Grant Selection Committee.

### Policy Development

- **Security for Vancouver's farmers markets:**  
The VFPC will create policy recommendations to Council for securing farmers markets in the city of Vancouver.
- **Food security in Vancouver:**  
The VFPC will map out a process for producing a report for Council and staff's information on "How Food Secure is Vancouver?" by 2010.
- **Feedback on Urban Agriculture Guidelines:**  
The VFPC will consult with City staff on draft guidelines for urban agriculture in the public sector.
- **Continue to inform City food policies as required/requested:**  
The VFPC will respond to opportunities (such as EcoDensity, Dumpster-Free alleys, and vending carts) to provide input and expertise on Vancouver's food system to Council and city staff.

### Education, Outreach and Civic Engagement

- **Forum:**  
The VFPC will host at least one large community gathering to inform citizens about food security and sustainable food systems, gather input on a focused topic, and link people and organizations together.

- **Dialogue Sessions:**  
The VFPC will hold at least two smaller group discussions with an identified community around key food security issues.
- **Communications Plan:**  
The VFPC will implement our communications plan and enhance engagement of Vancouver citizens through such activities as creating materials for public outreach, setting up a blog, and disseminating information at booths and presentations.
- **Eat Local Proclamation:**  
The VFPC will support Vancouver's annual Eat Local Proclamation.

### **Food Access**

- **Fresh Food Drive:**  
The VFPC will partner with a local fall fair event (i.e. Plenty festival, Harvest Fair, Farmer's Market) to promote the VFPC, food and eat/ buy/ grow local themes. A fresh food drive where donations of local fresh food will be delivered to local charities may be part of this event.

### **Committee Administration**

- **Strategic plan:**  
The VFPC will continue to set out and follow a strategic plan for our efforts to create a sustainable food system in Vancouver.
- **Communications Plan:**  
The VFPC will implement our communications plan.
- **Volunteer recruitment:**  
The VFPC will continue to reach out to the community to encourage volunteers to participate with the VFPC and support efforts to build a just and sustainable food system in the City of Vancouver.



## Vancouver Food Policy Council 2007 Annual Report

### Vancouver Food Policy Council 2007 Expenditures

Item	Amount
Communications Plan - Consultant Services	1,179.24
Printing Services - Food Charter and FORC Report	5,842.95
Meeting Expenses	1,527.79
Office Supplies and Services	1,821.57
Photocopy Supplies and Services	1,346.00
Travel and Training (Food Policy Coordinator)	808.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,526.45</b>

## Vancouver Food Policy Council 2007 Annual Report

### Vancouver Food Policy Council Budget 2008

Strategic Plan Action Item	Budget
<b>Objective #1: Roles and Responsibilities</b>	
1. Update member orientation manual	
<b>Objective 2: Coordination of VFPC work with Social Planning, OSD, and other departments</b>	
2. Form an Objective 2 subcommittee to determine strategies for working with the food charter and city departments	
3. Follow-up work with the IFPP document	
4. Provide input/advocacy with EcoDensity initiative where opportunities arise	
5. Advocate for securing Farmers' Markets in Vancouver through policy recommendations to Council	500
6. Produce a study on "how food secure is Vancouver?"	2,000
<b>Objective 3: VFPC as a bridge between community and COV</b>	
7. Form a community bridge committee to develop an internal process for sharing community perspectives and determining how to address this input	
8. VFPC members to actively disseminate information on the VFPC (e.g. presentations, booths)	
9. Hold at least 1 <i>forum</i> , a large community gathering on a focused topic (e.g. climate change).	2,500
10. Hold at least 2 <i>dialogue sessions</i> , smaller group discussions with an identified community, around key food security issues	300
11. Fresh food drive and promotion of the VFPC (at Plenty, Farmers' Market, or Stone Soup)	800
12. Implement communications plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Re-establish the communications team.</li> <li>b. Develop a strong identity for the VFPC and produce associated materials (e.g. local food map, web site, printed material, ppt presentation)</li> <li>c. Set-up a VFPC blog</li> </ul>	3,000
<b>Objective 4: 2010 Gardens</b>	
13. Form a subcommittee to review Objective 4 strategies (see below) from the 2006 strategic plan and determine which to bring forward.	3,000 (for #13,14 & 16)
14. Continue to explore opportunities for UA with the Vancouver School Board (e.g. agriculture in the classroom) and determine next steps	
15. Hold meeting with VSB, Parks, and COV to address UA in the city	
16. Discussions and presentation around UA with Park Board trustees and staff	
<b>Ongoing/ Other Activities</b>	
17. Membership & volunteer recruitment committee	
18. VFPC Participation on CFAI committee	

19. Follow up Food Waste Recovery	
20. Eat Local 2008	1,000
21. Strategic Planning Session	800
Meeting Expenses	1,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,000</b>