

DELEGATION REQUEST

Submitted on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 - 15:45

Name of person speaking: Maurita Prato

Organization you are representing: LUSH Valley Food Action Society

Primary purpose of the organization: To achieve regional food security, through healthy food access, food literacy and building the local food economy.

Number of members: 230

Mailing address:

PO Box 20008
Courtenay, BC V9N 0A7

Contact name: Maurita Prato

Subject matter:

Interested in speaking more generally about our organization and the services we offer, and more specifically about a request to start a regional Food Policy Council.

Specific request of the regional district, if any (i.e. letter of support, funding):

A request for CVRD board representation on a proposed regional Food Policy Council. A request to explore options for structure and funding of a regional Food Policy Council.

Requested meeting date: March 12, 2019

Audio-visual equipment needed: LCD Slide Projector

March 12, 2019- Draft CV- Food Policy Council Background

Date: Tuesday, March 12th, 2019 @ 4:00 PM

For: CVRD BOD

Presented by LUSH Valley ED: Maurita Prato

What is Food Policy?

A food policy is any decision, program or project that is endorsed by a government agency, business, or organization which affects how food is produced, processed, distributed, purchased, protected and disposed of. Food policy operates at the global, national, provincial, regional, local and institutional levels. World Trade Organization regulations, welfare policies, farm subsidies and labelling standards are some examples of higher level policies that influence the food system.

At the local and municipal level, examples of food policies include:

- The regulatory requirements placed on someone planning to open a food-based business;
- Food purchasing decisions of institutional buyers and how they relate to the use of locally produced items;
- Amending bylaws to support urban agriculture (i.e. greenhouses and farm stands)

What is a Food Policy Council?

Food Policy Councils (FPCs) are comprised of individuals from all aspects of a local food system. A Food Policy Council is an innovative collaboration between citizens and government officials. The goal is to provide a forum for advocacy and policy development that works towards the creation of a food system that is ecologically sustainable, economically viable and socially just. The primary goal of many Food Policy Councils is to examine the operation of a local food system and provide ideas and policy recommendations for how it can be improved.

What is the Format of the Food Policy Council?

The Comox Valley Regional Food Policy Council (CVFPC) is a Hybrid Model with Indirect Links to Government (Category 3 in Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs by MacRae and Donahue, 2013, pg. 10

http://www.ensser.org/fileadmin/files/2013_MacRae%26Donahue.pdf).

These food policy initiatives are a hybrid of civil society organizations and government (not an official committee of Comox Valley Regional District) with significant linkages to local government via departments and government staff, with financial support from a mix of sources.

This format allows us the benefit of blending municipal and civil society organization resources (i.e. funding, additional regional and national support) and expertise, and allows for a more flexible agenda.

Examples of communities that use this model are Kamloops, BC and Hamilton, ON and Squamish BC <http://www.squamishfoodpolicycouncil.com/>. And Kamloops website here: <http://kamloopsfoodpolicycouncil.com/>

***Please see CVFPC Draft TOR for more details**

What does the relationship between the Food Policy Council and the CVRD look like?

- The Food Policy Council is its own entity (not a committee of council)
- The Food Policy Council provides input to all 4 municipal/regional governments and staff about issues of concern
- The Food Policy Council considers any matters which may be referred to the Policy Council by Councils or staff
- The Food Policy Council may take positions on policy initiatives from other levels of government within the mandate of the Policy Council

The development and goals of the CVFPC are to help the CVRD meet their goals, and are aligned with: Priority Chart for 2019/2022, the Regional Growth Strategy and the CVSS

CVFPC Priorities:

2019:

1. Commitment of at least 10 and no more than 17 Food Policy Council members that represent diversity across the food system, and local government representatives, each to a 2 year term on the Council.

- CVRD Director (1 position)
- City of Courtenay (1 position)
- Town of Comox (1 Position)
- Village of Cumberland (1 position)
- Island Health (1 position)
- Lush Valley (1 position)
- Mid Island Farmers Institute (1 position)
- Comox Valley Farmers Institute (1 position)
- Community (up to 5 positions- this can include more youth)
- Seniors Organization (1 position)
- Youth (1 positions)
- Food Charity (1 positions)
- Local food businesses (1 position)
- Komoks First Nation (1 position)

2. Launching the CVFPC- public announcement and first meeting
3. Completion of the official Terms of Reference and Priorities of the first year of the CVFPC
4. Provide feedback and reporting to support the development of a score card for the Food System section of the CVSS.
5. Provide input and guidance on the agriculture and food strategy
6. Annual reporting to local government and publicly on the accomplishments of the CVFPC

2020:

1. Review and create a resource report on the best policies and practices that other communities have implemented to increase local food production.
2. Undertake a comprehensive food system assessment to identify assets, ways to increase production capacity and overall food security issues
3. Within the RGS planning process and as part of OCP reviews, develop parallel policies to manage growth and preserve farmland for farming with a focus on food production farming.
4. Explore funding strategies (e.g. collaborating with other organizations and levels of government) to increase staff capacity for food system planning and coordination at the local government level.

What the Current RGS states about food systems:

Overall Objective: To support and enhance the agricultural and aquaculture sectors and increase local food security.

1. Objective 6-A: Protect land for existing and future agriculture and associated activities and allow for the growth and expansion of such activities.
2. Objective 6-B: Protect shoreline areas for existing and future aquaculture and associated activities
3. Objective 6-C: Improve and expand agricultural irrigation practices and infrastructure
4. Objective 6-D: Increase farming activity in the Comox Valley
5. Objective 6-E: Raise awareness of the regional importance of the local food system

CVSS local food production targets:

Objective 6.1.1: Increase the personal and commercial production of local food for local consumption.

TARGET: % of fresh produce consumed in the Comox Valley that is produced in the region: 2020 ~ 25%

2030 ~ 40% 2040 ~ 55% 2050 ~ 60%

TARGET: % of dairy consumed in the Comox Valley that is produced in the region: 2020 ~ 100%

TARGET: % of protein (beef, pork, venison, poultry, bison, seafood, eggs, dairy, nuts and vegetable based protein) consumed in the Comox Valley that is produced in the region¹⁵:

2020 ~ 25% 2030 ~ 33% 2040 ~ 40% 2050 ~ 45%

CVSS and the formation of a CVFPC:

The formation of a Food Policy Council is the first action listed in the CVSS with the agency listed as in the best position to implement this is the CVRD and Local Municipal Governments:

a. In partnership with local community organizations, the CVEDS, establish a Comox Valley Food Policy Council (CVFPC) to lead the work on a sustainable food system in a multi-stakeholder manner. The CVFPC would be the central coordinating agency across governments, other agencies and community groups to lead the development of food strategies, research on food issues, connecting food stakeholders and other roles. Local governments need to allocate basic initial funding until the CVFPC can establish its own sources of funding.

Thanks for your consideration, please don't hesitate should you require further information or resources,

Maurita

Draft Terms of Reference for the Comox Valley Regional Food Policy Council- March 7th, 2019

Our Vision:

By 2040, across the Comox Valley Regional District our food system will be economically viable and ecologically sustainable; our community will grow, harvest, process, preserve, and distribute the majority of food for its members while eliminating waste. All members of the Comox Valley will have the knowledge to access, and prepare healthy local foods and have access to enough nutritious, safe, ecologically sustainable, and culturally appropriate food at all times.

Objectives:

- Provides input to the CVRD and staff about issues of concern
- Considers any matters which may be referred to the Policy Council by the CVRD or staff
- May take positions on policy initiatives from other levels of government within the mandate of the Policy Council
- Advises Council and staff on a Comox Valley Food Strategy as it is developed, implemented and updated
- Refer to the Food Security Section of the regional Sustainability Strategy.

Scope:

The FPC will mainly focus on issues of regional scope, however they are not limited to and may also choose from time to time to advocate for

Planning and reporting:

The Policy Council:

- Produces an annual work plan with specific objectives by no later than April of each year, in consultation with CVRD and staff liaisons, for distribution to the CVRD Board and civic departments for information
- Submits an annual report to the CVRD describing its accomplishments for the year, including reference to each

- objective set out in the work plan and any arising issues to which the Policy Council has responded
- Works co-operatively with other agencies whose activities affect constituent communities, including initiating and developing relevant projects
 - Acts as a resource for staff doing public involvement processes and civic events

Awareness and outreach:

The Policy Council:

- Exchanges information with the constituent communities and the general public about relevant programs and issues of interest
- Engages in outreach to disseminate information and encourage participation from constituent communities
- Supports groups developing projects to enhance the food system

Membership:

- Members must endorse the Vision, Objectives, Goals, and Values of the Council and have skills, knowledge, experience or a genuine interest in at least one area of food system. Areas of focus include but are not limited to: Food Security, Local Food Economy, Food Literacy and Food Systems Education.

Membership Structure:

will include the following:

LUSH Valley will have one staff position to help coordinate and administer the Council.

- CVRD Director (1 position)
- City of Courtenay (1 position)
- Town of Comox (1 Position)
- Village of Cumberland (1 position)
- Island Health (1 position)
- Lush Valley (1 position)
- Mid Island Farmers Institute (1 position)
- Comox Valley Farmers Institute (1 position)
- Community (up to 5 positions- this can include more youth)

- Seniors Organization (1 position)
- Youth (1 positions)
- Food Charity (1 positions)
- Local food businesses (1 position)
- Komoks First Nation (1 position)

The Council’s membership should reflect the Comox Valley’s diverse population, including, but not limited to, ethno-racial, faith, gender, mental ability, physical ability, literacy/educational level, age, sexual orientation, rural/urban residency and socioeconomic circumstances.

Membership Described below

Budget and Financial Support:

The budget for the CVFPC is \$30, 000 annually. \$20, 000 is supported through the CVRD and municipalities, another \$10, 000 is leveraged through additional grants or donations.

Awareness and outreach

The Policy Council:

- Exchanges information with the constituent communities and the general public about relevant programs and issues of interest
- Engages in outreach to disseminate information and encourage participation from constituent communities
- Supports groups developing projects to enhance the food system

Meeting frequency:

The Policy Council meets at _____ , but not more than 10 times a year.

Currently, the Policy Council meets on _____ of each month at _____pm in the _____ Room,

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings.

Time commitment

Outside of meetings, members should expect to spend at least 2 hours on email and other correspondence, report writing, and inspection rides. Preparation time for all meetings is required.

Attendance requirement

Members may miss no more than four consecutive meetings without obtaining leave of absence from the Policy Council. Membership will be terminated following the fourth such absence.

DRAFT