Squamish FPC Meeting January 25, 2017

At the Health Unit

In attendance: Melanie, Karen, Stephan, Stephanie, Shannon, Christine, Margot, Hayley, Kav, Gerry, Sarah, Krystle

**6:30-7:00 Review and discuss highlights from council presentation**

* We presented to Squamish Council yesterday, updating about the FPC, and some recommendations
* Council was very supportive! We are waiting for the budget to be approved, then we can go ahead with Ag Land Use Inventory (ALUI). Mayor and Councilor Race will reach out to SLRD to collaborate on it, we are waiting to hear back about the conversation. If all goes well, ALUI could start late spring/early summer.
* Slideshow is ATTACHE to this email.

**7:00-7:15 Next steps and OCP update from Sarah**

* Sarah has been busy drafting OCP policy from the Food Charter. Still more work to be done.
* Soon to be brought to our FPC for reviewing!
* A big opportunity for food is the flood hazard areas. We want to direct development away from highest hazard areas, leaving those areas open to food production potentially!
* Sarah will be roaming around the community with the plan (exec summary) to gather community feedback.
* This is a great opportunity to get creative with forward-thinking ideas for our community.

**7:15-7:30 Kwantlen Update**

* Kwantlen has a 9 month farming program in Tsawassen. We want to go on a field trip there this year
* Krystle went to Kwantlen Polytechnic presentation in Whistler yesterday. Their research on our regional food system was $1.2 million.
* They made some projections on different activity options for the future, and looked at the outcomes. Eg. if we want to increase the food production, what does that look like for wildlife habitat, GHG emissions, economics, etc.
* **Summary**: For us to become self-sustaining by 2050 in our food system to support our growing population but mitigate impacts on environment, we must significantly reduce our beef consumption, or increase food production by 1/3 on existing and some new farm land.
* They will come present in Squamish to FPC/Squamish Council soon
* They are presenting to all their funders/municipalities, then supporting us to use their research as best they can. Their report will be online in a few weeks. We will send around the link and post on our new website (coming soon).

**7:30-7:45 ToR update, Membership Update**

* We are still working on Terms of Reference, have been reviewed by Brent from BCFSN, will continue refining then send out for comments.
* Working with Vancouver FPC to develop our membership application

**7:45-8:15 Break out groups**

We are forming a few working groups/committees as needed to delve deeper into different topics. So far, they are **Food Recovery/Waste, Health, and Food Production.** Groups can meet outside FPC meetings, but we will probably allow some time for groups to form during our meetings or at least have updates. We will refine how these groups function as we go…

**What was discussed in the groups/focus areas moving forward:**

* We’ve formed a **Food Recovery/Food Waste** group, met twice. Working on recovering edible food waste. DOS is instituting a ban in the landfill on organics, so this will help get stores onboard with donating their edible food.
* Onsite composting, challenges that kitchens face, reconciling compost and food recovery, discount areas in all grocery stores.
* **Health**: can’t do much to ameliorate individual food insecurity, but we can help with community food security. Other projects, such as community gardens, help mental health etc. Food Asset Mapping. Ag connection to health, indigenous health,
* **Food Production**:ALUI, Ag Plan,supporting workshops, land access and leasing, tax incentives/land designations, zoning and bylaw stuff, fisheries/food lands
* We should invite someone from the SLRD area B to present to us on the process, outcomes, lessons of doing an Ag Plan, and working with FN.
* We should check in with Richmond to see how they manage their farming in residential areas
* Is there a way to incentivize landowners leasing some of their land to farmers in Squamish? We should learn about tax breaks for land that is farmed.

**8:15 Wrap up and close**