



Hamilton

**Minutes
FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

September 10, 2019

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

City Hall, Rooms 192-193, 1st Floor
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Elly Bowen (Co-chair), Krista D'aoust, Vicky Hachey, Laurie Nielsen, Barbara Stares, Frank Stinellis, Kyle Swain, Maria Biasutti, Jordan Geertsma, Drew Johnston, Biniam Mehretab, Mary Ellen Scanlon, Jennifer Silversmith, Andrew Sweetnam, Edward Whittall, Brian Tammi (Secretary), Vivien Underdown (Chair), Sandy Skrzypczyk (Staff Liaison)

Absent with Regrets: Councillor Merulla

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Addition to the agenda: Updates from the Legislative Office on procedures for Advisory Committees.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Whittall/Stares)

That the minutes of the July 9, 2019 meeting of the Food Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION

None

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Updates on Procedures for Advisory Committees

S. Skrzypczyk updated the members on how all advisory committees will have to create their agendas on eSCRIBE software used by the City, which posts agendas on the City's website to be available to the general public. Staff liaisons for the advisory committees have received training for this task, and eventually committee minutes will

also be available through this process. In addition, the procedure now for anyone wishing to address the advisory committees is that they need to apply using the delegation request online form, which is passed to the staff liaison to put on an agenda for consideration by the committee. A vote is taken to accept or refuse the delegation and the delegate is informed when they will be on a future agenda to address the committee.

5.2 Food Literacy Month Event Workgroup Update and Discussion

The working group informed the members that they met in person over the summer once and continued with planning via email. The topic the Committee will focus on at the Oct. 5 event is reducing food waste. The expected audience is ~200 people. We will offer a quiz on food waste and people who answer 3 of 4 questions correctly will receive a reusable cotton tote bag. Children who attend will be offered an ugly/unloved vegetable, so they can learn that less desirable produce is still perfectly usable. After the quiz participants will be asked if they have learned anything that will affect the way they view food waste and perhaps alter some of their choices that lead to waste. Working budget to date is ~\$400:

- graphics – complementary by Public Health Services
- 200 reusable tote bags - \$250-\$300
- ugly/unloved produce - \$100
- contribution to draw at event – TBD

Discussion of this event was brief and contained to event details. The working group invited members to help staff the display table at the event and several members expressed interest.

5.3 Food Strategy Forum Workgroup Update and Discussion

The working group informed members about planning underway for the Nov 6 Food Strategy Forum (“FSF”). The event takes place from 8am – 3pm at Waterfront Banquet Centre/Royal Hamilton Yacht Club and seeks to connect individuals already engaged in food related work in Hamilton with the goal of increased collaboration and effectiveness. The keynote speaker is Debbie Field, former Executive Director of Foodshare Toronto. The FSF features lightning talks with panellists focusing on four main themes, two of which were recommended by the working group (last two themes listed below):

- Growing food in Hamilton (rural and urban)
- Food Literacy
- Indigenous Food
- Climate Change and Food

The event is being planned by the Food Strategy team at Public Health and further details will be delivered to the Committee as they are available. We are contributing to the event to allow our budget expenditures to have more impact per dollar by piggybacking on a larger event. The FSF is open to anyone; however, the goal is to engage with stakeholders who are enacting food actions versus an event to educate the general public about food issues. An event agenda will be sent to FAC when it is available. Working Budget estimated at \$840

- Panellist Honorarium - \$300

- Sponsored Tickets (n=10) - \$200
- Tickets FAC members (n=17) \$340

Discussion of the Forum centred on the many unanswered questions of members. There was some confusion about the event's purpose and goal; however, S. Skrzypczyk was able to address most the issues. The idea of sponsoring 1 or 2 panellists was brought up and 2 local farmers, Russ Ohrt and Chris Krucker, were suggested as potential panellists for the Forum organizers. Thus far one panellist, Brian Morris, is confirmed and discussions are in the works with other potential panelists.

Concerns were brought up about approaching the Indigenous component of the Forum properly, about how to measure the effectiveness of our participation in the FSF and the importance of thinking about smaller individual actions as part of a larger system of actions. S. Skrzypczyk informed the members that her team has been collaborating with the project manager attached to the City's Urban Indigenous Strategy to ensure this theme is culturally appropriate and that the Indigenous community is encouraged to attend the Forum.

Members were asked to submit suggestions for panelists to Sandy and Vivien by the end of the week of September 10, 2019. They will then collate the suggestions, send the suggested panelists to the Forum organizers for consideration, and report back at the October meeting V. Underdown asked for a show of hands to indicate who wished to attend the Forum and all members (n=17) raised their hands.

5.4 Work Plan – Short Term Priorities and Next Steps

V. Underdown informed members of the executive's plan to have presenters address the Committee to bring members "up to speed" on the measures and actions currently underway pertinent to the Hamilton Food Strategy ("FS"). The FAC executive wishes for the members to be fully informed about the implementation of the FS and will schedule presenters currently involved in FS actions. The FAC executive wishes to have these presentations at the remaining meetings for 2019.

FAC members responded positively to this approach and commented that the Committee can be more effective if all members are well informed. Members agreed that commencing long-term planning in Jan 2020 after these presentations would work well.

The Committee budget has ~ \$1000 unallocated; it was previously decided to try to spend all funds because concern that this will affect future budget requests. There was open discussion centered around small, easily executed actions that we can spend the remaining budget on. V. Underdown asked the group for suggestions for events we can attend this autumn. B. Mehretab suggested tabling at a fall festival and setting up similar quiz to the Oct 5 event as it is already planned and could be repeated. K. Swain suggested buying more cotton bags for use at more events next year. These suggestions were met with a positive response from members, especially buying bags for future use. S. Skrzypczyk brought up that the previous FAC use some of their budget to bring in someone from the Toronto Food Policy Council to facilitate a planning workshop, which was catered, for the members; however, this idea was met with a negative response.

V. Underdown called a vote on whether the Committee agrees to sponsor a Food Strategy Forum panellist and it passed. She then called a vote on whether the Committee approves to give away 10 free tickets to the Forum and it passed. In addition, the Chair called a vote on approving \$600 for a future autumn event and it passed.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

None

7. GENERAL INFORMATION & OTHER BUSINESS

V. Underdown asked the group to suggest presenters who can inform the Committee regarding food actions taking place in Hamilton presently. Several names were added to a list and we agreed to contact them. V. Underdown read off our short-term goals generated at a previous meeting and asked members to keep a look out for articles and actions of significance to bring to future meetings.

8. ADJOURNMENT

(Biasutti/Nielsen)

That there be no further business, the Food Advisory Committee be adjourned at 9:00 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

V. Underdown, Chair
Food Advisory Committee

Sandy Skrzypczyk
Staff Liaison
Public Health Services