


Nanaimo Food Policy Council

Presentation to Council
2020-DEC-21



Purpose of Report

To provide Council with options and to seek direction for how the City of Nanaimo can support the creation of an independent Nanaimo Food Policy Council for the purpose of further enhancing local food security.

Council Motions (2020-OCT-19):

1. *Endorse the Emergency Food and Nutrition Strategy as formal stakeholder input into the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process; and*
2. *Support the creation of a Nanaimo Food Policy Council as an independent, arms-length body that would continue collaborative work to strengthen the local food system and request that Staff bring forward a report on how the City can facilitate this work.*

Emergency Food Security Strategy
City of Nanaimo Health and Housing Task Force
01-OCT-2020



What is a Food Policy Council (FPC)?

- FPCs are relatively commonplace throughout much of the province and across the country.
- FPCs provide a forum for community and food system stakeholders to work collaboratively to examine the operation of the local food system and provide ideas and policy recommendations for how it can be improved.
- FPCs can be arms-length and independent of government.
- A local FPC has the potential to provide significant value and synergies with local government initiatives.

Food Policy Councils Help with...

- Addressing the need for greater coordination and information sharing, both during normal and COVID-19 times.
- Developing relationships and trust that create ability to pivot and innovate during a crisis.
- Providing a sounding board and advocacy for greater food security and resilience
- Can be tasked with taking on some of the potential policy actions identified in the Emergency Food Strategy, including an emergency food working group.

Example: Comox Valley Food Policy Council

- The Food Policy Council is its own entity (not a committee of a municipal or regional government).
- The Food Policy Council provides input to all four municipal/regional governments and staff about issues of concern (and to K'òmoks First Nation, if requested).
- The Food Policy Council considers any matters which may be referred to the Policy Council by local, regional, or K'òmoks First Nation and may take positions on policy initiatives from other levels of government within the mandate of the Policy Council.

Recommendations:

That Council:

- 1) Support City of Nanaimo Staff participation in the Nanaimo Food Policy Council as non-voting members;
- 2) Send a letter to the Regional District of Nanaimo Board of Directors requesting that a staff liaison be appointed to the Nanaimo Food Policy Council to represent regional interests; and
- 3) Provide a letter of support to Nanaimo Foodshare requesting the Nanaimo Region Medical Health Officer provide Nanaimo Foodshare with an additional \$5,000 annually to the health authority's locally-designated food hub, to contribute to the administrative costs of coordinating the Nanaimo Food Policy Council.