EDMONTON FOOD COUNCIL

Minutes – Meeting Three

November 5, 2013 – Sixth Floor, World Trade Center Edmonton, 9990 Jasper Avenue

Present

M. Bailey, S. Cullum, B. Swallow, C. Sikora, D. Bajer, J. Herbert, J. Fisk, K. Kossowan, K. Franke, M. LaRue, M. Woodman, M. Dear, H. Dinner

Absent

M. Male, M. Bencz

Also in attendance

H. Quan, Principal Planner, Urban Planning and Environment Branch
B. Sanders, Principal, POPULUS Community Planning Inc.
Members of the public

Catering provided courtesy of Elm Catering.

1. Welcome, opening remarks and Co-Chair decision

M. Bailey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. M. Bailey and S. Cullum provided a report on their discussions since the last meeting regarding a replacement Co-Chair for S. Cullum. M. Bailey made a motion to have J. Fisk replace S. Cullum as the new Co-Chair. S. Cullum seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

2. Opening check-in

Led by B. Sanders, Edmonton Food Council members engaged in a check-in round of comments.

3. Decision making processes

B. Sanders offered an opportunity for Food Council members to discuss the process that was just used to arrive at the Co-Chair decision. All were in agreement that the process worked fine for that decision. Then B. Sanders led Food Council members through another process known as Integrated Decision Making. This process was practiced on the decision about the vacant 15th spot created by S. Cullum's resignation. A thorough discussion ensued, resulting in a motion by J. Fisk to leave the position vacant and to commit to developing a good process by the end of the Food Council's first year that deals with membership changes and turnover, such as nominations and new members,

resignations, terms and so forth. M. Woodman seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Break

4. Governance: Terms of Reference and Work Plan/Mandate document

A rich discussion was had about the two documents provided for review by H. Quan and B. Sanders. The discussion was focused on a synthesis of the work and thoughts produced to date, with an aim to clarifying the appropriate roles and actions that should be undertaken by the Food Council. It was agreed that the two documents were useful and should remain "less than draft" in order to ensure flexibility as the Food Council continues to work towards solidifying their guiding principles and role. It was also agreed that in order to understand the best possible role that the Food Council could play, it would invaluable to start with some basic research and assessment of the current opportunities. To this aim, the Food Council requested that H. Quan bring in a team of City staff to explain what work and activities are currently being done that have relevance to food and urban agriculture. H. Quan committed to bringing in as many available staff as possible for the next meeting.

5. Correspondence

M. Bailey read aloud a letter that was received from the North East Edmonton Agricultural Producers. The letter was addressed to the Edmonton Food Council and sent to the Co-Chairs and H. Quan. A discussion was had about how to handle correspondences to the Food Council. It was agreed that correspondence should always be shared with all Food Council members. It was also agreed that the Co-Chairs will be responsible for responding to correspondences on behalf of the Food Council.

Another discussion emerged about how to handle conflicts of interest. A number of questions were raised as Food Council members worked through some of the issues and challenges presented by potential conflicts of interest. It was agreed that the existing Terms of Reference could be more clear and robust in this regard. J. Fisk and H. Quan agreed to bring back some text and language to improve clarity and understanding of conflicts of interest.

6. Next steps and closing check-out

Food Council members were reminded about upcoming meetings and the media training opportunity on November 26, 2013. B. Sanders led members through a round of closing remarks. The meeting ended at 8:00 PM.