Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – June 14, 2017

REPORTS

Item No. 4 Formation of Winnipeg Food Council – Membership Recommendations

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:

1) That the following citizens be appointed to the Winnipeg Food Council:

   A. For an initial term to expire December 31, 2018:
      a. Lavonne Harms, representative nominated by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
      b. Jasmine Tara, citizen-at-large member
      c. Joyce Slater, representative from the research sector
      d. Rob Moquin, representative from a community group or network
      e. Phaedra Miller, representative nominated by the Province of Manitoba

   B. For an initial term to expire December 31, 2019:
      a. Andi Sharma, citizen-at-large member
      b. Mandela Madit Kuet, citizen-at-large member
      c. James Battershill, representative involved with food production
      d. Bruce Berry, representative involved with food production
      e. Kelly Janz, representative involved with food business

2) That the Terms of Reference for the Winnipeg Food Council (Attachment A), be amended as follows:

   A. Delete Section 6(1).

   B. Change Section (2)(d), pertaining to the appointee from the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, to read as follows (text addition underlined):
      6(2)(d) one member from health sector ~~front lines~~ (dietit~~e~~ian~~s~~, ~~chronic health organizations~~, community health worker~~s~~, <u>public health professional</u>, etc.) nominated by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

   C. Pluralize "Representative involved with Food Production" in Section 7(3)(b).

   D. Change section 1(1), pertaining to the nomination of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, to read as follows:
      1(1) The Winnipeg Food Council shall submit its nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to Council for consideration.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COUNCIL DECISION:

On February 22, 2017, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the creation and operationalizing of the proposed Winnipeg Food Council be authorized by approving the attached Terms of Reference document (Attachment A of this report).

2. That a budget increase of $69,000 for the creation and operation of a Winnipeg Food Council be referred for consideration in the 2018 budget review process.

3. That the Public Service be directed to report back to Council within 120 days, with membership recommendations for Council approval.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 8, 2017, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to Council.

Further on February 8, 2017, the Executive Policy Committee received submissions in support of the matter from the following:

- Hannah Moffatt, Health Equity Initiatives Leader, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA), submitted a communication dated February 8, 2017 from Dr. Lisa Richards, Medical Officer of Health, WRHA, and Lavonne Harms, Public Health Dietitian, WRHA Downtown Community Area, Co-Chairs WRHA Food Security Working Group
- Laryssa Sawchuk, Public Programs and Services Coordinator, Community Engagement, Canadian Diabetes Association, submitted a communication dated November 14, 2016.
- Kirsten Bernas, Research & Policy Manager, The Canadian Community Economic Development (CED) Network – Manitoba, submitted a communication dated February 7, 2017 from Sarah Lesson-Klym, Manitoba Regional Director, The Canadian Community Economic Development (CED) Network
- Rob Moquin, Policy Manager, Food Matters Manitoba, submitted a communication dated February 7, 2017.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Winnipeg Food Council – Citizen Appointments

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
B. Smith	J. Kiernan	N/A	D. McNeil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On February 22, 2017, Council unanimously approved the formation of the Winnipeg Food Council, and directed the Public Service to report back with membership recommendations.

The Public Service issued a call for membership and received 51 applications from highly skilled and passionate individuals.

This report recommends citizen appointments to the Winnipeg Food Council and proposes amendments to the Council approved Winnipeg Food Council Terms of Reference.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) That the following citizens be appointed to the Winnipeg Food Council:

   A. For an initial term to expire December 31, 2018:
      a. Lavonne Harms, representative nominated by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
      b. Jasmine Tara, citizen-at-large member
      c. Joyce Slater, representative from the research sector
      d. Rob Moquin, representative from a community group or network
      e. Phaedra Miller, representative nominated by the Province of Manitoba

   B. For an initial term to expire December 31, 2019:
      a. Andi Sharma, citizen-at-large member
      b. Mandela Madit Kuet, citizen-at-large member
      c. James Battershill, representative involved with food production
      d. Bruce Berry, representative involved with food production
      e. Kelly Janz, representative involved with food business

2) That the Terms of Reference for the Winnipeg Food Council (Attachment A), be amended as follows:

   A. Delete Section 6(1).

   B. Change Section (2)(d), pertaining to the appointee from the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, to read as follows (text addition underlined):

   6(2)(d) one member from health sector ~~front lines~~ (dietitcian~~s~~, ~~chronic health organizations~~, community health worker~~s~~, <u>public health professional</u>, etc.) nominated by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

   C. Pluralize "Representative involved with Food Production" in Section 7(3)(b).

   D. Change section 1(1), pertaining to the nomination of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, to read as follows:

   1(1) The Winnipeg Food Council shall submit its nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to Council for consideration.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On February 22, 2017, Council directed the Public Service to report back to Council within 120 days, with membership recommendations for Council approval.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

When membership is confirmed, the Winnipeg Food Council will be able to meet informally, explore additional funding opportunities, and create an operating budget and work plan with proposed committee activities and action items.

It is expected that the Food Council will be ready to officially meet beginning January 2018, pending budget approval.
The proposed changes to the Terms of Reference:

- Reduce confusion by removing Section 6(1), which states "The Mayor is appointed by virtue of office". This section is redundant; the Mayor's position on the Food Council is already defined in Section 6(2);
- Reflect feedback received from the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, and ensure correct terminology and grammar; and
- Ensure correct grammar when referring to the two producer representatives.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

On February 22, 2017, Council concurred in the recommendations of the Executive Policy Committee and authorized the creation and operationalizing of the proposed Winnipeg Food Council. The Terms of Reference (Attachment A) outline the Food Council's function, which is to advise the Mayor and Council on food system related issues support ongoing community work by fostering coordination and networking and supporting engagement, and initiating the development of a City of Winnipeg Agricultural and Food Strategy.

Section 6 of the Terms of Reference state that the Food Council must reflect Winnipeg's diverse population, and will consist of representatives from numerous parts of the food system, as well as Members-at-Large who have specific skills, experience and interests to increase diversity and add value to particular initiatives.

On March 28, 2017, the Public Service sent an email announcing that the membership application process for the Food Council was open. This email was sent to stakeholders who were invited to the May 30 and June 2, 2016 conversations, as well as other interested individuals. Recipients were encouraged to share the announcement widely among their networks. This open call for membership was also posted on the front page of the City of Winnipeg's website, and the City issued a news release.

The deadline for applications was April 21, 2017; a total of 51 applications were received reflecting the diverse skills, experiences, and food-related expertise of many passionate and dedicated individuals.

A team from the Urban Planning Division within the Planning, Property and Development Department evaluated all applications and made the recommendations based on:

- how applicants' experience and involvements matched criteria outlined in section 6 ("Committee Composition") of the Terms of Reference (Attachment A);
- applicants' ability to bring perspectives from specific sectors outlined in the Terms of Reference (e.g. Producer, food business, research sector, member at large, etc.);
- applicants' knowledge and experience initiating similar committees and projects, and translating ideas into action;
- complementary skills amongst applicants; and
- peer recommendations from other applicants (included as an optional question in the application form).

A list of recommended Winnipeg Food Council members, along with a short description of their skills and achievements, can be found in Attachment B.

The proposed changes to the Terms of Reference reflect feedback received from the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, and involves corrections to terminology and grammar.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: May 15, 2017

Project Name:

Winnipeg Food Council – Citizens recommended for membership

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

"Original Signed By"
Mike McGinn, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with: Legal Services, City Clerks, Winnipeg Health Authority

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

The Winnipeg Food Council members will address the *OurWinnipeg* direction to "respond to food needs as identified by communities", and assist the City to move forward on the following *OurWinnipeg* enabling strategies:

- *Collaborate on local food opportunities that are part of community development initiatives;*
- *Include food in planning for neighbourhood revitalization strategies;*
- *Within the City's mandate, pursue opportunities to support local food production*
- *Develop planning tools to manage the sustainability of existing community gardens and to enable the creation of new permanent or temporary gardens; and*
- *Maintain an inventory of city properties suitable for food production* (*OurWinnipeg* p 82).

The Winnipeg Food Council aligns with *OurWinnipeg*, and would enable the City to take considerable steps to implement the above strategies, as well as other *OurWinnipeg* policy directions encouraging intergovernmental cooperation, collaboration with economic and community economic development agencies, and a commitment to sustainable long-term planning (*OurWinnipeg* pgs. 50-51).

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Planning Property and Development
Division: Urban Planning
Prepared by: Karin Kliewer
Date: May 15, 2017
File No: O:\Reports Directive\Planning and Land Use\Long Range Planning\2017\RIS - Food Council member recommendations 170508.docx

Attachments:

Attachment A – Winnipeg Food Council Terms of Reference
Attachment B – Recommended Food Council Members

Attachment A -
Winnipeg Food Council
Terms of Reference

INTERPRETATION

1. In this document:

"Board" means the Winnipeg Food Council;

"Citizen" means a person, other than a Councillor, who is an inhabitant of and is entitled to vote in the municipal elections of The City of Winnipeg;

"Citizen Member" means those members of the Board appointed under Section 7 hereof;

"Council" means the council of The City of Winnipeg;

"Councillor Member" means a member of the Board appointed under Section 7 (5) hereof;

"Organizational Meeting of Council" means that meeting of Council held in November each year as set out by Procedure By-law No. 50/2007.

AUTHORITY

1. The Winnipeg Food Council shall be a Citizen Advisory Committee, established by Winnipeg City Council and reporting to the Executive Policy Committee (EPC).

FUNCTION

2. The Food Council's Function is to:

(1) Advise the Mayor and Council on food system related issues;

(2) Support the work of the community on food issues, enhance public health and local food security, and increase food literacy and access to food by encouraging multi-sector and strategic approaches, fostering coordination and networking, and supporting ongoing consultation; and

(3) Initiate the development of and support the implementation, maintenance and evaluation of a City of Winnipeg Agricultural and Food Strategy to address municipal food security and food system issues. The City of Winnipeg Agricultural and Food Strategy will:

(a) include policy directions identified through community engagement , focused research, innovative initiatives, and other actions to identify proven practices;

(b) include evaluation and implementation components; and

(c) be operationalized in partnership with the Winnipeg Public Service, the local food movement, businesses, community agencies, stakeholder groups, and private citizens.

(4) Like other citizen committees working with cross-departmental issues impacting all citizens (namely the Access Advisory Committee, the Citizen Equity Committee, and the Winnipeg Committee for Safety), the Winnipeg Food Council will be required to submit for Executive Policy Committee's approval:

(a) An annual report, which includes a review of work done over the previous year by the Food Council and updates on the progress of City departments in implementing Winnipeg Food Council recommendations;

(b) An annual workplan, which includes proposed committee activities and action items; and

(c) An operating budget detailing projected expenditures and revenue sources for the upcoming calendar year, to be endorsed by the Food Council and approved by the Executive Policy Committee.

ACTIVITIES

3. Food Council activities will be determined in two ways:

(1) Through Council/Committee of Council directive; and

(2) Through the creation of an annual workplan, which will include proposed committee activities, and should detail how activities align with committee or Food Strategy objectives and indicators.

RESPONSIBILITIES

4. Food Council Responsibilities are as follows:

Responsibilities Related to City Council

(1) Review and offer advisory input into process, policy and programs regarding food issues.

(2) Receive referrals from Council or its Committees for review and recommendation.

(3) Recommend through Executive Policy Committee areas of research or work to be undertaken by the Winnipeg Public Service.

Responsibilities Related to City Departments

(4) Support the creation, implementation and evaluation of an Agricultural and Food Strategy.

(5) Foster connections within and between City departments, identifying potential efficiencies and opportunities for improved service.

(6) Assist the City of Winnipeg to respond to food-related issues within its jurisdiction by using a food systems approach.

(7) Monitor progress of City departments in implementing Winnipeg Food Council recommendations.

Responsibilities Related to the Public

(8) Promote communication and involvement between the City and the community.

(9) Enhance and connect food-related initiatives from various sectors.

(10) Engage citizens, industry, other levels of government, and community groups on food issues as required.

Responsibilities Related to Winnipeg Food Council Members

(11) Winnipeg Food Council members shall keep informed about:

(a) other cities' food policy initiatives;

(b) current best practices in multi-sectoral approaches to issues; and

(c) individuals and organizations who deal with food policy and programming.

(12) Members are expected to attend meetings regularly, be punctual, prepared, respectful, engaged, open to others' opinions, and willing to work together.

(13) Members will also be expected to participate in working groups if applicable, and commit approximately 5-6 hours/month to regular and working group meetings, material preparation, and other tasks if applicable.

CHAIRPERSON

5. The Winnipeg Food Council will be led by a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, both to be appointed by Council.

(1) The Winnipeg Food Council shall submit its nomination for Vice-Chairperson to Council for consideration.

(2) The role of the Chairperson is:

(a) to approve agenda items for meetings;

(b) to call meetings to order;

(c) to maintain order;
(d) to state all motions, to put them to a vote and announce the results of voting;
(e) to represent the Food Council at public functions when necessary.

(3) The role of the Vice-Chairperson is to fill in for the Chairperson when required.

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

6. (1) The Mayor is appointed by virtue of office.

(2) The Winnipeg Food Council membership shall not exceed 12 Members (11 voting members and one non-voting member), and will include the following:

(a) the Mayor of Winnipeg or designate;
(b) one **City Councillor** (can also serve as the Mayor's designate);
(c) one representative nominated by the Province of Manitoba (non-voting);
(d) one member from health sector front-lines (dieticians, chronic health organizations, community health workers, etc.) nominated by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority;
(f) Two members involved with food production (efforts should be made to represent a diversity of producers; e.g. rural, urban, small scale, large-scale);
(g) one member from food businesses (retailers, farmers' markets, food entrepreneurs, wholesalers, etc.);
(h) one member from research sector (Universities, research alliances, etc.);
(i) one member from community groups or networks connected to food issues (e.g. food access, food skills, resource networks, etc.); and
(j) up to three citizen members at large with specific skills, experience and interests to increase diversity and add value to particular initiatives. Members at large will be selected based on their ability to add expertise and perspectives related to specific food sectors, initiatives, geographies (e.g. inner city, links to rural Manitoba) or demographics (e.g. industry, food bank, businesses, education, Social enterprise, associations, food waste management, etc.).

(3) The Winnipeg Food Council's membership must reflect Winnipeg's diverse population and should include (but not be limited to) representation from:

(a) Indigenous communities;
(b) newcomers and refugees;
(c) people with disabilities;
(d) youth (aged 18-30);
(e) elders and seniors; and
(f) those with lived experience of food insecurity.

(4) Membership should consist of individuals with the following qualifications:

(a) Professional or community work that reflects their interest in municipal food issues;

(b) Skills and experience in specific areas (such as community food security, project evaluation and strategic planning) that allow them to contribute to policy development and influence change;

(c) Ability to help the Winnipeg Food Council establish and build relationships and partnerships with specific sectors, networks, and demographics;

(d) Ability to work effectively within a diverse group to collaboratively address a common goal, understand the complexity involved with inter-sectoral work, are able to use their unique skills and expertise to adapt to evolving priorities and group dynamics, and are willing to work within City of Winnipeg systems and protocols to address municipal issues; and

(e) ability to attend monthly meetings on a regular basis, and participate in working group meetings as needed.

APPOINTMENTS

7. (1) Committee appointments will be made in accordance with the City's policy on citizen appointments to Boards and Commissions. Nominations shall be solicited from the Winnipeg Food Council.

(2) The initial terms of office for the following members shall expire December 31, 2018:
- (a) One citizen-at-large member
- (b) Representative appointed by the Province of Manitoba
- (c) Representative from the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
- (d) Representative from the research sector
- (e) Representative from a community group or network

(3) The initial terms of office for the remaining members shall expire December 31, 2019:
- (a) Two citizen-at-large members
- (b) Representative involved with food production
- (c) Representative involved with food business

(4) Following the initial terms of office, as the terms for positions expire, Council shall appoint members in alternate years for two-year terms.

(5) The Councillor member shall be appointed annually at the Organizational Meeting of Council.

(6) No member shall serve more than three consecutive terms.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – RESIGNATIONS, REPLACEMENTS, VACANCIES

8. (1) Members may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Chair of the Food Council and the City Clerk's Department.

(2) Missing three meetings a year without prior discussion and approval from the Chairperson is deemed equivalent to a resignation.

(3) Recommendations from the Winnipeg Food Council to fill mid-term vacancies shall be submitted to Council through Executive Policy Committee for appointment for the remaining portion of any term of office.

(4) Vacancies shall be filled using resumés on file from the annual Boards and Commissions recruitment process.

SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

9. (1) The Winnipeg Food Council may form sub-committees, working groups and/or advisory committees as it deems necessary, to undertake tasks requiring in-depth work on behalf of the Winnipeg Food Council or to inform, provide advice, and bring additional perspectives to the group (e.g. traditional knowledge, people with lived experience of food insecurity).

(2) Sub-committees, working groups and advisory committees should include participants who are not Winnipeg Food Council members. Each sub-committee or working group shall have at least one Winnipeg Food Council member, responsible for bringing forward issues and requests from the sub-committee or working group and providing regular progress updates to the Winnipeg Food Council.

(3) If requested, the Administration may provide Public Service participation/support/expertise to the sub-committees, working groups, or advisory committees.

MEETINGS

10. (1) All Winnipeg Food Council meetings are open to the public, and are governed by Council's Procedure By-law No. 50/2007.

(2) It is expected that the Winnipeg Food Council will meet monthly from September to July. In a year where a General Municipal Election occurs, there will be no meeting in October.

(3) Special meetings may be called by the Chair or Vice-Chairperson, or at the request of any three Winnipeg Food Council members.

(4) Meetings are only to be held at locations accessible to members and guests with disabilities.

VOTING

11. (1) Voting is by majority rule.

(2) A tie vote means that a motion or decision is defeated.

(3) A member who may be in a conflict of interest situation is required to declare the conflict and refrain from voting and participating in the discussion with respect to that particular issue.

SUPPORT

12. (1) The Winnipeg Food Council's budget will support an independently contracted Winnipeg Food Council Coordinator, who will support the Winnipeg Food Council and liaise with the Public Service as needed.

(2) A staff member of the City Clerk's Department is assigned to clerk the Winnipeg Food Council meetings.

(3) Staffing support from Winnipeg's Urban Planning Division will be assigned as needed to support the Winnipeg Food Council.

BUDGET

13. (1) The Winnipeg Food Council will operate with a budget equal to that of other citizen committees working with cross-departmental issues impacting all citizens (namely the Access Advisory Committee, the Citizen Equity Committee, and the Winnipeg Committee for Safety). Pending approval, this amount would be included in the 2018 operating budget, and be reviewed annually thereafter.

(2) The draft budget shall be prepared by the Winnipeg Food Council Coordinator for consideration by the Winnipeg Food Council, who shall make a recommendation and submit (along with an annual report) to Executive Policy Committee for approval. Expenses to be covered by the budget include (but are not limited) those related to:

(a) public consultations;
(b) strategy development;
(c) production, printing and distribution of materials;
(d) website development and maintenance;
(e) attending conferences and workshops as approved by the committee; and
(f) membership in relevant organizations.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

14. All official correspondence and media communication from the Winnipeg Food Council shall be communicated by the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.

AMENDMENTS

15. The Winnipeg Food Council may submit suggested amendments or updates to the Terms of Reference to Council for approval.

Attachment B – Recommended Food Council Members

(Provincial nominee to be confirmed at a later date)

James Battershill (producer perspective). Born and raised in Winnipeg, James has spent the last nine years working with farmers at Keystone Agricultural Producers, Manitoba's general farm policy organization. During his time at KAP, James has worked on most of the major issues facing Manitoba farmers, including rail transportation, business risk management, environmental issues, drainage, safety concerns, and flooding. James was also involved in helping farmers set up the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association to lead research and market development for these crops in the province. One of James' current initiatives is to position KAP and the industry to adapt to a rapidly changing agricultural landscape. Climate change, farm consolidation, land prices, shifting consumer preferences, changing demographics, and land ownership are some of the issues he is working to address. James holds a global political economy degree from the University of Manitoba.

Bruce Berry (producer perspective). Bruce Berry and his family run a market garden called Almost Urban Vegetables located in St. Norbert. Now in its ninth growing season, Almost Urban sells produce through their CSA program and at the St. Norbert Farmers Market. They try to live on current sunshine while producing local food, for themselves and others, following organic standards. Bruce serves on the board of Direct Farm Manitoba and The St. Norbert Foundation, and in the past ran Red Wriggler Haven vermicomposting business.

Lavonne Harms (Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Appointee). Lavonne is passionate about good food, healthy food systems, and health for all. As a public health dietitian with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Lavonne supports staff and collaborates with community organizations. Lavonne currently co-chairs the WRHA Food Security Working Group and is involved in numerous initiatives to strategically support improved food literacy, food access, and healthy built environments. Lavonne believes in the strength of community development and multi-sector partnerships that empower communities and neighbourhoods to take action related to community food security and enhanced public health. Lavonne is excited to participate in the Winnipeg Food Council and work collaboratively with various sectors towards a common goal.

Kelly Janz (food business perspective). Kelly Janz has been active in food policy, food security, and food sovereignty work for over ten years. She spent five years at Food Matters Manitoba as the office manager and finance officer and more recently works at the University of Manitoba as a research associate and coordinator of the Manitoba Alternative Food Research Alliance and the Wa Ni Ska Tan Hydro Alliance. Kelly has a MSc in Planning from the University of Guelph and is passionate about permaculture. Through her work with Transition Winnipeg, she has been part of a team that founded the Farm Fresh Food Hub, a community service co-op that aims to connect local farmers with individuals and businesses interested in buying sustainably produced food.

Mandela Madit Kuet (member at large). Mandela Madit Kuet is an active community engagement leader who connects and collaborates from a multi-strength based approach. His experience includes community outreach engagement, facilitation, chairing, committee work, executive functions. As well experience in cross cultural engagement, newcomer settlement service, Indigenous community engagement, policy development, project planning evaluation, management, coordination, and strategic planning. His passionate about supporting community members directly affected by food insecurity, and has addressed these challenges through direct grass root community engagement and advocacy.

Mandela hopes to help contribute to building stronger and healthier communication bridges, and seeks to engage both Food insecure affected communities and the city of Winnipeg. By committing to working with other leaders Mandela hopes to help foster positive food security policy changes.

Phaedra Miller (representative nominated by the Province of Manitoba). Phaedra Miller is a Policy Analyst at Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living in the Active Living, Population and Public Health Branch where she works on a number of food and nutrition related initiatives. The goals of the branch's food and nutrition initiatives are to improve access to nutritious foods in multiple settings and among vulnerable populations; and to encourage healthy eating by supporting knowledge and skill development. Phaedra has worked for the provincial government for over 10 years and is looking forward to this new opportunity.

Rob Moquin (community groups and networks perspective). Rob is passionate about all things food. After several years of culinary experimentation in his youth, he moved on to earn an honours diploma in Culinary Arts from Red River College, and after much negotiation, was finally entrusted with his mémère's elusive tourtière recipe. For his master's thesis, Rob facilitated participatory research on community-building through gardening, and engaged local governments, institutions, and service organization in food systems analysis. Currently employed as policy manager with Food Matters Manitoba, Rob is dedicated to making Winnipeg a model of progressive municipal food policy.

Andi Sharma (member at large). Andi Sharma holds and Undergraduate Degree in Commerce and a Masters' Degree in Public Administration. She is a published social researcher specializing in food security and social enterprise – most recently delivering a TEDx Talk on Collective Impact Systems to address food insecurity in the north. Andi works for the Government of Manitoba's Northern Healthy Foods Initiative, the primary focus of which is to develop localized, healthy food systems that are culturally relevant. She is currently earning her pilot's license with the hope of one day flying food to the north.

Joyce Slater (research perspective). Joyce Slater is an Associate Professor of Community Nutrition in the Department of Human Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, at the University of Manitoba where she teaches nutrition education and public health nutrition. Joyce's research interests include the role of food literacy in well-being; food and identity; nutrition and food security; and nutrition surveillance. Using mixed method approaches, Joyce conducts applied research in partnership with several community-based organizations. Joyce is also a Registered Dietitian who worked in various public health organizations for 18 years before obtaining her PhD and joining the University of Manitoba.

Jasmine Tara (member at large). Jasmine graduated from Creative Communications at Red River College in June, 2011. She majored in Public Relations and knew she wanted to work in food communications because of her passion for healthy and accessible food for all people. In Summer 2016, she completed Indigenous Women in Community Leadership course at the COADY Institute at StFX University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. She worked as the North End Food Security Network coordinator at the North End Community Renewal Corp. for over five years and is now at the North End Women's Centre as the Director of Operations.