

City of Maple Ridge
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, held in the Blaney Room,
at Maple Ridge Municipal Hall on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 7:05 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Craig Speirs	City of Maple Ridge
Margaret Daskis, Chair	Member at Large
Stephanie James, Vice-Chair	Agricultural Sector
Bill Hardy	Member at Large
Candace Gordon	Haney Farmers Market Society
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture & Lands
David Kaplan	Member at Large
Ian Brooks	Member at Large
Ryan Murphy	Agricultural Sector

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Grochowich	Staff Liaison / Planning Department
Amanda Allen	Committee Clerk

REGRETS

Al Kozak	Agricultural Sector
Kamelli Mark	Agricultural Land Commission
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

R/2018-005

It was moved and seconded

That the March 1, 2018 Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

R/2018-006

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting dated January 25, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

4.1 **Metro Vancouver AAC Update**

The Chair will provide an update from the February 16, 2018 Metro Vancouver AAC meeting at the following meeting.

4.2 **Ministry of Agriculture AAC Workshop Update**

Chris Zabek reported on the Workshop and advised that Councillor Speirs participated on a Panel at the event. Bill Hardy reported on the variation in the roles and purposes of the different AAC's in the lower mainland and recommends a review of the Maple Ridge AAC Terms of Reference. The Staff Liaison confirmed that the Workshop notes and presentations will be circulated to AAC members once they are available.

The Staff Liaison advised that the Workshop highlighted the importance of reporting AAC accomplishments, plans and progress regularly to Council. The Staff Liaison requests a representative from the AAC provide a presentation to Council later in the year.

The Staff Liaison shared that the Minister of Agriculture formed an independent committee to lead a public engagement process and provide recommendations to the provincial government around revitalizing the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). At the Workshop, ALC Staff solicited feedback and encouraged everyone to submit feedback on the ALC and ALR by April 30, 2018 at 4:00pm. The online survey is available here: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/agriculturallandreserve/>

Note: Item 4.4 was dealt with following item 4.2

4.4 **Subcommittee Membership**

The Chair provided an overview of existing subcommittees, a summary of the proposed new subcommittees, and a brief review of the role and membership of a subcommittee.

R/2018-007

It was moved and seconded

That a subcommittee be formed consisting of Stephanie James and David Kaplan to participate in the development of a Backyard Chicken program for the 2018 term

CARRIED

R/2018-008

It was moved and seconded

That a subcommittee be formed consisting of Chris Zabek to organize educational events on food and agriculture.

CARRIED

R/2018-009

It was moved and seconded

That a subcommittee be formed consisting of Candace Gordon, Ian Brooks, Ryan Murphy Stephanie James and Margaret Daskis to pursue the development of key components of a local food distribution system for the 2018 term; and,

That an interim subcommittee be formed consisting of Bill Hardy and Stephanie James to investigate the potential development of the True North Fraser brand.

CARRIED

R/2018-010

It was moved and seconded

That a subcommittee be formed consisting of Ryan Murphy and Stephanie James to organize and support the 2018 Food Garden Contest.

CARRIED

R/2018-011

It was moved and seconded

A subcommittee be formed consisting of Candace Gordon and Margaret Daskis to organize and support the 2018 Golden Harvest.

CARRIED

4.3 **Backyard Chickens**

The Staff Liaison outlined a general regulatory starting point for developing a program to permit backyard chickens in residential areas of Maple Ridge. Building on the July 2017 Council Report, the Staff Liaison and Subcommittee will work to develop a regulatory framework and public consultation program. The Staff Liaison outlined the timeline to develop a framework for public consultation for Summer 2018. The Staff Liaison advised that the Planning Department will host an Open House and survey for the backyard chicken program but the Subcommittee may propose and organize additional events to inform residents of the program and solicit community feedback.

5. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

5.1 **Education Subcommittee**

The Staff Liaison reported that the Young Agrarians are scheduled to present at the May 17, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Hardy suggested a Farm tour be organized for 2018. A Farm Tour item will be included on the next AAC agenda for discussion.

5.2 **Food Distribution Subcommittee**

The Staff Liaison reported that the process of developing a draft implementation plan for the Food Hub is underway. April 21, 2018 has been tentatively identified as the date for the Open House. Community feedback will be solicited and reported out to the AAC in May.

5.2.1 **Food Hub Feasibility Study**

No update

6. **CORRESPONDENCE - Nil**

6.1 **Upcoming Events**

Date: April 4, 2018

Time: 7:30am – 3:30pm

Innovations in Emerging Cities Forum

The ACT

Organizer: City of Maple Ridge – Economic Development

7. **ROUNDTABLE**

Stephanie James recently returned from a month travelling through Africa and shared some highlights.

Candace Gordon reported that the Haney Farmers Market held their AGM in February with Lynn Easton as speaker and that she attended the Golden Eagle Farm Group public forum on February 3, 2018.

Bill Hardy reported that he is heading to Australia for a green cities conference.

Councillor Speirs attended the Golden Eagle Farm Group public forum on February 3, 2018.

Ryan Murphy recently travelled to the Philippines. Currently he is working on the drainage and irrigation of his Harrison Bay and Harris Road farms as the weather is holding activity at bay.

Margaret Daskis reported on her upcoming trip to San Francisco to attend the future agri-food conferences. She has also recently attended meetings with industry food processors and professors relating to innovations in food preservation.

Amanda Grochowich anticipates a presentation of the Agricultural DP at the April 5, 2018 AAC meeting. The agricultural setback conversation is forthcoming in a report to Council at a later date. The Home Occupation bylaw was adopted by Council on February 27, 2018. The revised regulations provide increased opportunities for properties over one acre.

8. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Andrew Poznar enquired how AAC has addressed the three recommendations from his April 27, 2017 presentation to the Committee. The Staff Liaison advised the proposed Agricultural Development Permit incorporates best practice edge planning guidelines and if approved and adopted by Council, amendments to the Official Community Plan would be required. The Staff Liaison advised that a presentation on the proposed Agricultural Development Permit guidelines is anticipated at the next AAC meeting. Mr. Poznar further requested input on his third recommendation and the Ministry of Agriculture representative indicated that he is unaware of any current provincial guidelines that provide support to disabled farmers.

9. **ADJOURNMENT** – 8:59 pm



M. Daskis, Chair

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