

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, May 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Al Kozak	Agricultural Sector
Bill Hardy	Member at Large
Candace Gordon	Haney Farmers Market Society
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture & Lands
Councillor Duncan	Council Liaison – Alternate
Ian Brooks	Member at Large
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board
Margaret Daskis, Chair	Member at Large
Stephanie James, Vice-Chair	Equestrian Agricultural Sector

GUESTS/DELEGATIONS

Otter 4H Llama & Poultry Club	Backyard Chickens Presentation
-------------------------------	--------------------------------

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Siobhan Murphy	Staff Liaison / Planning Department
Sunny Schiller	Committee Clerk

REGRETS/ABSENTS

Braden Hansen	Member at Large
Councillor Speirs	City of Maple Ridge
Kamelli Mark	Agricultural Land Commission

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. AGENDA ADOPTION

R17-010

It was moved and seconded

That the Agenda dated May 25, 2017 be amended to add Item 6.6 Intersections Event and Item 7.1 Letter from Mayor Read re: 2016 Citizens Report and to move Item 6.3 True North Fraser Subcommittee as the first item under Subcommittee Reports and be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. MINUTES APPROVAL

R17-011

It was moved and seconded

That the Minutes dated April 27, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Otter 4H Llama & Poultry Club - Backyard Chickens Presentation

Local 4H Club members Janelle, Charlotte, Blythe and Amanda made a presentation on the benefits of allowing backyard chickens. The group asked that the AAC forward a recommendation to Council supporting backyard chickens. The group is planning a free "Backyard Chickens Clinic" to provide education to the public.

5. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.2 Backyard Chickens

The Staff Liaison provided background on the preparation of a report to Council on Backyard Chickens. Details will be shared once the report is confirmed on a Council agenda.

5.1 Review of Edge Planning Presentation

The Staff Liaison reviewed the recommendations made by the delegation at the April 27, 2017 AAC meeting. Information was provided on work currently being done by the Planning Department on setbacks, agricultural land uses and related topics.

5.3 Metro Vancouver AAC Update

The Chair provided information on invasive species of flora and fauna. A task force has been struck to address related issues. An update on Agricultural Awareness grants was provided.

6. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.3 True North Fraser Subcommittee

Stephanie James provided an update the project, including communications with Economic Development. A draft plan of next steps was shared.

6.1 Golden Harvest Subcommittee

The Staff Liaison reported a coordinator has been confirmed for the 2017 Golden Harvest event. The subcommittee will meet with the coordinator soon to discuss plans.

6.2 Education Subcommittee

6.2.1 Bee and Pollinator Seminar

Al Kozak reported the "Bees! Bees! Bees!" educational event will be held at 7:00 pm on June 12 in Council Chambers. Presenters include a representative from the BC Ministry of Agriculture and the North Fraser Bee Club. Ways to promote the event were discussed.

6.2.2 Grow and Gather Farm Expo

Bill Hardy provided an update on the Farm Expo. Organizers hope the event can be rescheduled to next spring.

6.4 Food Distribution Subcommittee

The Staff Liaison provided an update on the Request for Proposals for consultants to work on the Food Distribution project.

6.5 Food Garden Contest

The Staff Liaison shared plans for the 2017 Food Garden Contest. Promotions for the event were discussed.

6.6 Intersections Event

The Chair shared that an Intersections event for Advisory Committees will be held in the fall. The event will allow the different committees to identify common goals and areas of interest. Stephanie James volunteered to help with planning.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 2016 Citizens Reports

Copies of the Citizens Report were provided.

8. ROUNDTABLE

Lorraine Bates shared plans for the 2017 Country Fest fair. The RCMP Musical Ride will be held on August 21.

Candace Gordon shared details of the Nutritional Food Coupon program – participants receive coupons each week that can be used at the Farmers Market. 82 spaces are available in the program this year. Additional details were distributed to the Committee. This provincial government program benefits those who receive the coupons, as well as the markets where the coupons are used.

Al Kozak reported on a flurry of farming work happening now that that warmer weather has arrived. Mr. Kozak reported a bumper crop of garlic this year.

Chris Zabek shared details of changes City of Richmond recently announced regarding house size restrictions.

Siobhan Murphy shared that a recent presentation of the Young Agrarians was well received. A grant application by the Young Agrarians was discussed by the group.

Margaret Daskis did share she is currently hiring and outlined some of the benefits offered.

Councillor Duncan provided an update on the resolution around food labelling brought forward at LGLMA by Councillor Speirs.

Stephanie James reported on planting progress on her property this spring.

Bill Hardy suggested having the AAC do another farm tour. Mr. Hardy shared details of the impacts the weather this year has had on the nursery.


Note: Stephanie James left at 8:40 pm.

9. QUESTION PERIOD

Andrew Pozsar shared information on edge planning.

Christian Crowley shared details of a recent visit to a food co-op in the Cowichan Valley.

10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:54 pm



Chair

/ss