

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 October 25, 2018, 2018 at 7:03 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Margaret Daskis, Chair	Member at Large
Al Kozak	Agricultural Sector
Bill Hardy	Member at Large
Candace Gordon	Haney Farmers Market Society
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture
Ian Brooks	Member at Large
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board
Ryan Murphy	Agricultural Sector
Stephanie James, Vice-Chair	Agricultural Sector

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Grochowich	Staff Liaison / Planning Department
Amanda Allen	Committee Clerk

ABSENT

Councillor Craig Speirs	City of Maple Ridge
Caitlin Dorward	Acting Regional Planner, Agricultural Land Commission
David Kaplan	Member at Large
Josef Hans Lara	Economic Development Committee Representative

Note: Councillor Speirs was not in attendance.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

R/2018-033

It was moved and seconded

That the October 25, 2018 Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

R/2018-034

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting dated September 27, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

Note: Ian Brooks joined the meeting at 7:05 pm.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

- 4.1. An Overview of Municipal Intersections for Agriculture and Environment
- Rod Stott, Environmental Planner, City of Maple Ridge

Rod Stott presented on the City of Maple Ridge's environmental framework and outlined the environmental programs and policies that influence agricultural development in the City. Mr. Stott outlined the development review process and identified short and long term priority action items from the Environmental Management Strategy. Mr. Stott answered questions from the committee.

5. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Andrew Poszar spoke to a documentary on Ontario Farmers Markets and the monitoring and enforcement processes utilized by California for their Farmers Markets. Candace Gordon provided information on the administration of the Haney Farmers Market.

6. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6.1. **Food Hub Final Report**

There was discussion on the economic focus of the report, on food security and on traceability software for food safety. A pilot project involving local farmers to provide proof of concept was briefly discussed as the next step of the project.

R/2018-035

It was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee support the Food Hub Final Report and recommends that Council endorse the report.

CARRIED

6.2. **True North Fraser Program**

The staff liaison advised that with the conclusion of the Maple Ridge Food Hub Study, the True North Fraser subcommittee can be reinstituted. An invitation was extended to all AAC members to attend the next subcommittee meeting scheduled for 2:00 pm, November 6, 2018 at City Hall.

6.3. **Golden Harvest 2019**

The Chair and Candace Gordon provided a summary of the successful 2018 Golden Harvest event and acknowledged appreciation for the 2018 Golden Harvest Coordinator, Tara Malanik. The staff liaison enquired as to the interest of hosting the event in 2019 and on submitting an incremental package with the 2019 Business Plan.

R/2018-036

It was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee support the submission of an Incremental Package for Golden Harvest 2019 as part of the 2019 Business Plan.

CARRIED

6.4. **Introduction of Agricultural Plan – Recommended Action Plan Items**

The staff liaison provided copies of a 2016 report to Council that identified a prioritized set of action items from the City of Maple Ridge's Agricultural Plan. The staff liaison advised that the November meeting will include a workshop session to prioritize action items for 2019 and requested members review the material in advance of the next meeting.

6.5. **2019 Meeting Schedule**

There was discussion on the 2019 meeting schedule.

R/2018-037

It was moved and seconded

That the 2019 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting schedule attached to the October 25, 2018 Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

6.6. **Workshop and Event Updates**

6.6.1. **Metro Vancouver AAC**

The Chair provided an update from the October 12, 2018 Metro Vancouver AAC meeting. Discussions focused on the recent legalization of cannabis and the initial impacts on the farming industry, including labour challenges and the conversion of greenhouses from food production to cannabis. In response to a query, Chris Zabek provided clarity on the Ministry of Agriculture's regulation on legal cannabis production in the Agricultural Land Reserve. Stephanie James spoke to contaminated soil and possible environmental impacts of cannabis production.

7. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

7.1. **Education**

Al Kozak provided an update on the October 25, 2018 Education Subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee is developing a list of ideas on community outreach for further review and will report back at a later date.

7.2. Food Distribution

Al Kozak reported on efforts to identify a number of farms to spearhead the next phase of the Food Hub project.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1. Upcoming Events

November 6, 2018	Council Inauguration
7:00 pm	Maple Ridge City Hall, Council Chambers
	Organizer: City of Maple Ridge

9. ROUNDTABLE

Candace Gordon reported wrapping up another successful year of the Seniors Nutrition coupon program and shared gratitude for program funding. Ms. Gordon shared thanks to Councillor Speirs for his years of dedication to the Committee and agriculture in Maple Ridge.

Chris Zabek advised that the BC Young Farmer's Annual Educational and Social event is scheduled for 11:00 am, November 10, 2018 at the Langley campus of Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Mr. Zabek reminded members of the crop planning session 'Every Chef Needs a Farmer, Every Farmer Needs a Chef' happening November 13, 2018 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver.

Al Kozak advised that it has been a very good year for wild mushrooms.

Ian Brooks provided updates from the Thornhill Aquifer Protection Society and shared concerns about the lack of public reporting on the conditional water licence issued to Tantalus Labs.

Lorraine Bates noted that Maple Ridge will be hosting the 2020 Summer Games which is scheduled for the same weekend as Country Fest and shared concerns around parking.

Bill Hardy advised of his upcoming trip to Taiwan to jury a World Expo. Mr. Hardy shared, with regrets, that due to prior commitments he was unable to get the 2018 Farm Tour off the ground.


Stephanie James reported on her latest farming activities and fruit crops.

Ryan Murphy shared information from a recently attended workshop hosted by the BC Hazelnut Association.

Margaret Daskis reported on recent activities at Fresh Solutions.

Amanda Grochowich shared Councillor Speirs' acknowledgement and appreciation for the dedication and passion of the Agricultural Advisory Committee members.

10. ADJOURNMENT – 9:30 pm.



M. Daskis, Chair
/aa