

District 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 the Maple Ridge Municipal Hall, 11995 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, British Columbia, on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Candace Gordon, Chair	Community at Large
Councillor Cheryl Ashlie	Council Liaison, Maple Ridge
Matt Buchanan	Haney Farmer's Market
Christian Cowley, Co-Chair	Community at Large
Margaret Daskis	Maple Ridge Rep to the Metro Vancouver AAC
Kerry Davison	Non-Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Councillor Linda King	Council Liaison, Maple Ridge
Heather Laity	Non-Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Steve Pelton	Economic Advisory Commission
Steve Wynnyk	Food Producing Agricultural Sector

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGRETS

Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board
Kevin Davison	Maple Ridge Rep to the Metro Vancouver AAC
Matthew Laity	Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Tony Pellett	Agricultural Land Commission
Jo Anne ten Brink	Community at Large
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Diana Hall	Staff Liaison, Planning Department
Lynn Marchand	Committee Clerk
Christine Carter	Manager of Community Planning

GUESTS

Mike McPhee	Quadra Planning
Darrell Zbeetnoff	Agro-Environmental

Note: Steve Wynnyk was not present at the commencement of the meeting.

1. Call to Order & Introductions

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

R09-012 Motion was moved and seconded

That the Agenda dated April 23, 2009 be adopted with the following change:

Move 5.2 Ag Plan Update to 4.1

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

R09-013 Motion was moved and seconded

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee of March 26, 2009 be amended as follows:

On Page 5, Section 9, Roundtable, under Christian Cowley, remove the word "farming" and replace with the word "farms"; and

On Page 5, Section 9, Roundtable, under Councillor Cheryl Ashlie, remove the word "student";

And that the Minutes as amended be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Delegations & Presentations

4.1 Agricultural (AG) Plan Update

Darrell Zbeetnoff provided a PowerPoint update on the Agricultural Plan. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was circulated for perusal. The presentation covered the following:

- Key SWOT Analysis Findings
- The Vision (Year 2030)
- The Vision

Discussion took place and Mr. Zbeetnoff advised that the suggested changes will be noted in the next draft of the Agricultural Plan.

Mr. Zbeetnoff pointed out that strategies of how to achieve the Vision are different than the actual Vision. He provided an overview of the April 7th workshop and advised that there was nothing to report at this time.

Comments included:

- Some individuals attending the workshop did not have complaints about the crops being grown but were wanting to sell the land for development;
- Land that is or is not suitable for farming; one of the aspects to look at when the Agricultural Plan is done;
- Development of the issues and options report in May;
- Possibility of the Committee looking at the boundaries; to advise or recommend to Council;
- Removal of land in the ALR that cannot be farmed;
- After completion of the Plan, to consider meeting with Council once a year;

Steve Wynnyk arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Darrell Zbetnoff and Mike McPhee left the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

5. Current and Unfinished Business

5.1 Agricultural Advisory Committee Business Plan 2009 – 2011

- **Banner Sub-Committee Update**

Diana Hall advised that she has been in contact with the graphic artist for the banner. A draft will be circulated to the Committee for perusal once the photographs have been selected.

ACTION ITEM: Each Banner Sub-Committee member is to provide Diana Hall with five photograph choices which will be forwarded to the graphic artist for use on the banner.

- **Education Sub-Committee Update**

Diana Hall circulated the AAC Educational Program Framework prepared by Christian Cowley and discussion took place which included suggestions for:

- educational column in the local newspaper;
- hands-on experiences for children;
- off-school site for the ability to visit a farm;

- benefits of focusing on K-7 groups as opposed to high school aged groups; high schools could use the committee as a source of information;

Discussion took place regarding the schools gardens and Heather Laity offered flats of vegetables for the schools at a nominal charge.

It was suggested that the current schools with gardens host an Agricultural Day and extend an invite to others. It was recognized that there are numerous schools waiting to get into the program but are unable to due to limited resources. It was further discussed that agriculture education should be within the school curriculum as there is not enough time to implement a new program.

- **Taste of Maple Ridge Sub-Committee Update**

Diana Hall advised that The ACT is booked for Friday, September 25th for the Taste of Maple Ridge and that the sub-committee will be meeting soon to discuss further details.

5.4 Committee Bylaw

Diana Hall provided an update on the process of the proposed Committee Bylaw amendment.

6. New Business

7. Committee Reports

8. Correspondence

9. Roundtable

Candace Gordon

Ms. Gordon gave an overview of the “Agriculture in the City” event she recently attended in Burnaby.

Matt Buchanan

Mr. Buchanan provided an update on the agreement to manage the Port Coquitlam Farmer’s Market and advised that it will be held on Thursday evenings. He noted the website for the Haney Farmer’s Market is www.haneyfarmersmarket.org.

Christian Cowley

Mr. Cowley provided an overview of the Earth Day events and advised that food security tables are being formed and strengthened. Mr. Cowley further advised that Burnaby, New Westminster and Maple Ridge have received funding and that Maple Ridge is in the process of hiring a coordinator.

Mr. Cowley advised that the CEED Centre is seeking donations of bricks to build garden boxes.

Steve Pelton

Mr. Pelton advised of the recent success of the female cattle genome sequencing and provided an overview and indicated that this will transform agriculture.

Councillor Cheryl Ashlie

Councillor Ashlie advised that Tiffany Parton of the Friends in Need Food Bank recently held a Volunteer Fair at Maple Ridge Senior Secondary and advised of the connections other communities have with their local farmers' markets. She suggested Ms. Parton be put in contact with the Committee and the local farmers.

Steve Wynnyk

Mr. Wynnyk gave an update on his cultivating and cattle prices.

Margaret Daskis

Ms. Daskis advised of a notice from the Metro Vancouver AAC and of an upcoming meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 30th.

Heather Laity

Ms. Laity referred to newspaper articles; "Nothing Compares to Homegrown Vegetables" and "Save the UBC Farm" and the efforts of UBC. Ms. Laity provided an update on her plant and vegetable sales.

Candace Gordon

Ms. Gordon advised of her new bumper sticker; "If You Eat, You Are Involved in Agriculture".

10. Public Questions & Answers

- 11. Next Meeting -** Thursday, May 28, 2009
7:00 p.m. Blaney Room, Maple Ridge Municipal Hall
Agenda Deadline - Wednesday, May 15, 2009

- 12. Adjournment - 8:40 p.m.**

Chair
/lm