

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, March 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Candace Gordon, Chair	Community at Large
Christian Cowley, Co Vice-Chair	Community at Large
Paula Panek, Co Vice-Chair	Haney Farmer's Market
Councillor Linda King	Council Liaison, Maple Ridge
Matthew Laity	Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Kerry Davison	Non-Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture & Lands
Steve Pelton	Economic Advisory Commission
Steve Wynnyk	Food Producing Agricultural Sector

GUESTS

Ashley Singh	Volunteer Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows
Robert Butler	Delta Farmer's Institute

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Diana Hall	Staff Liaison, Planning Department
Tracy Camire	Committee Clerk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGRETS

Councillor Cheryl Ashlie	Council Liaison, Maple Ridge
Tony Pellett	Agricultural Land Commission
Margaret Daskis	Maple Ridge Rep to the Metro Vancouver AAC
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board
Jo Anne ten Brink	Community at Large
Kevin Davison	Maple Ridge Rep to the Metro Vancouver AAC
Heather Laity	Non-Food Producing Agricultural Sector

1. *Call to Order & Introductions*

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

R10-009 Motion was moved and seconded

That the Agenda dated March 25, 2010 be adopted with the following amendments;

- **Item 4.3 be deferred to a future agenda and Item 6.2 and 6.3 be deferred to the April 2010 agenda and set as priorities for that meeting.**

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

R10-010 Motion was moved and seconded

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee of February 25, 2010 adopted as amended;

- **Under Item 6.1 should read “that the bee droppings can damage”**

CARRIED

4. Delegations & Presentations

4.1 Volunteer Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows - Ashley Singh

Ashley Singh reviewed the Volunteer Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows program with the Committee and noted that the volunteer program plays a leadership role in volunteerism and also advocates for volunteerism through training programs and community networking.

ACTION ITEM: The Committee is to determine if volunteers are going to be needed for the 2010 Golden Harvest event and if so, contact Ashley Singh to verify that the Volunteer Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows program is able to provide volunteers for this event.

4.2 Delta Farmer’s Institute Representative

Robert Butler from the Delta Farmer’s Institute gave a presentation on the benefits of a Farmer’s Institute along with the process and government requirements for creating one.

Mr. Butler advised the Committee that he is responsible for the administration for the Delta Farmer’s Institute; preparing agendas, recording minutes, creating reports and flagging issues that arise at Council pertaining to agriculture.

Robert Butler noted that the Delta Farmer’s Institute is predominately commercial farmers and reviewed the relationship between the Delta Farmer’s Institute and the Delta Agricultural Committee.

Robert reviewed the water issue in Delta with the Committee. A discussion took place with regards to water rates and water meters.

Robert Butler provided examples of the issues that the Delta Farmer's Institute has advocated for.

4.3 *Pitt Meadows Farmer's Institute Representative - deferred to a future agenda*

5. Current and Unfinished Business

5.1 *Agricultural Plan - Recommended Action Plan & Prioritization*

Candace Gordon reviewed the *proposed budget and introduced the proposal from Eileen & Paul Dwillies with the Committee. Paula Panek noted that the proposal relies on volunteer participation and does not identify an estimated cost for expenses. Ms. Panek asked that the Committee request a revised proposal identifying the volunteer effort required and the estimated value of expenses.*

Kerry Davison questioned whether Maple Ridge is ready to create a Farmer's Institute which is defined in Goal 2 under the Top Priorities for 2010.

Diana Hall advised the Committee that Maple Ridge has very diverse farming and we don't have the meeting ground to discuss and resolve issues that a farmer's institute would provided.

Matthew Laity noted that we need to push to form a local farmer's institute and we're going to have to change the definition of farming as there are more backyard farmers and other forms of agriculture here.

Steve Pelton noted that the Agricultural Advisory Committee doesn't have enough time or the right forum here to talk about the issues surrounding farming however a farmer's institute would provide some clarity at another level.

Paula Panek reviewed the mandate of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

A sub-committee was formed to review and complete the Who, When and Resources Required for the prioritized Agricultural Plan which consists of; Kerry Davison, Matthew Laity, Councillor King, Diana Hall, Chris Zabek, and Candace Gordon.

5.2 *Golden Harvest Event*

5.2.1 *Final Report - review*

Candace Gordon reviewed the proposed budget with the Committee.

Paula Panek asked if there is a breakdown for the proposed expenses and the volunteer component.

Candace Gordon reviewed the letter from Eileen and Paul Dwillies and noted that all Farmer's in this area should be contacted to participate in this event

and not just those associated with the Farmer's Market. Ms. Gordon also noted that she would like Diana Hall to negotiate a contract with solid deliverables for this event and have clearly defined volunteer expectations.

Proposal from Mr. & Mrs. Dwillies – review and adoption

5.2.2

R10-011 Motion was moved and seconded

That the letter dated march 8, 2010 from Eileen and Paul Dwillies to coordinate the Golden Harvest Feast be accepted with the provision that a written contract is provided detailing deliverables.

CARRIED

R10-012 Motion was moved and seconded

That the budget of \$5,000 for the 2010 Golden Harvest event be approved.

CARRIED

R10-013 Motion was moved and seconded

That a partnership be formed with the Haney Farmer's Market and Maple Ridge Country Fest (who in the future may split the proceeds) be considered for this event.

CARRIED

5.3 *Metro Vancouver – Educational Grants*

Christian Cowley reviewed the Metro Vancouver *Agricultural Awareness Grant* application that has been applied for in partnership between the CEED Centre Society, Haney Farmer's Market Society, Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee, Society of Organic Urban Land Care (SOUL), School Neighborhood Gardens Steering Committee, Golden Ears Feast Sub-Committee, and the 4H Club and noted that this will support the Aldridge Acres Connex Project to provide educational activities aimed at K-12 students and their families along with public education series at the farmers markets in Port Coquitlam and Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows.

Please noted that Paula Panek and Christian Cowley excused themselves from the room.

R10-013 Motion was moved and seconded

That the use of the Agricultural Advisory Committee's name on the Metro Vancouver Agricultural Awareness Grant application that will be submitted by the CEED Centre Society in collaboration with the Haney Farmer's Market Society, Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee, Society of Organic Urban Land Care (SOUL), School

Neighborhood Gardens Steering Committee, and the Golden Ears Feast Sub-Committee be endorsed.

CARRIED

Please note that Christian Cowley and Paula Panek joined the meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Beekeeping Bylaw – Letter from Patrick Walen (recommendation from Council)

Diana Hall provided an update on the proposed beekeeping bylaw and noted that the next steps would be to host a public open house to see what the willingness is to have this in an urban area.

Councillor King reviewed the process of an open house and noted that the next steps would then be to create a recommendation to Council, based on the feedback provided from the public, on the beekeeping bylaw change.

Councillor King confirmed Kerry Davison's question that the Committee can send a recommendation to Council requesting that they make the change to the bylaw.

Please note that Christian Cowley excused himself from the room.

R10-013 Motion was moved and seconded

That a recommendation be forwarded to Council to accept bee hives in urban areas.

CARRIED

Please note that Chrisitan Cowley joined the meeting.

Please note that Items 6.2 and 6.3 will be deferred to the April meeting and will be the first two items on the agenda after the approval of the agenda and minutes.

6.2 Farmland Protection Development Permit Area: Impact Assessment report

6.3 The Policy for Considering Land Use Applications within the Agricultural Land Reserve

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Agricultural Plan - implementation Subcommittee – update

7.2 Golden Harvest Event

8. Correspondence

9. Roundtable

Steve Pelton

Steve provided an update on the auction that PRT held on March 13th and noted that PRT will be off the Pelton's property by the end of April. Steve also noted that last Friday, his family applied to the ALR for an exclusion of 66 hectares from the ALR and would like to make a presentation to the committee to review the benefits that are being proposed.

Diana Hall

Diana distributed a Practical Took Kit for Community Gardens (that was provided by Christine DiGiamberardine) to the Committee.

Candace Gordon

Candace noted that the "Farmer's Feed You" buttons have been ordered along with more neon t-shirts to promote the Farmer's Market.

Steve Wynnyk

Steve noted that his contract for vegetables has been cancelled and he will have to look for a separate entity for that crop; as our Canadian dollar goes up the US can buy their vegetables cheaper elsewhere. Steve also noted that it's about 120 acres worth of freezing peas.

Matthew Laity

Matthew noted that it's getting busy on the farm; baby goats, sheep, and has an incubator on the farm.

Christian Cowley

Christian noted that he was happy the committee passed the recommendation on the bee keeping bylaw. Christian also noted that there is going to be a community garden in Port Haney.

10. Public Questions and Answers

11. Next Meeting - Thursday, May 27, 2010
7:00 p.m. Blaney Room, Maple Ridge Municipal Hall

Agenda Deadline - Wednesday, May 12, 2010

12. Adjournment - 9:07 pm

Chair

/tc