

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 23, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Hardy	Member at Large
Braden Hansen	Member at Large
Candace Gordon	Haney Farmers Market Society
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture & Lands
Councillor Speirs	City of Maple Ridge
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

Theresa Duynstee, P.Ag.	Regional Planner, Metro Vancouver
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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Siobhan Murphy	Staff Liaison / Planning Department
Sunny Schiller	Committee Clerk

REGRETS/ABSENTS

Al Kozak	Agricultural Sector
Tony Pellet	Agricultural Land Commission

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

4. DELEGATIONS

- 4.1 Farm Property Tax Reform in Metro Vancouver – Theresa Duynstee, Metro Vancouver**
Ms. Duynstee shared findings from a recent investigation of farm property tax policies. The report “Encouraging Agricultural Production through Farm Property Tax Reform in Metro Vancouver” is available at:
<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/AgricultureProductionTaxReformMV-2016.pdf>

Note: Candace Gordon and Ian Brooks entered the meeting at 7:06 pm. Quorum was achieved at this time. Lorraine Bates entered at 7:09 pm.

2. AGENDA ADOPTION

R17-005

It was moved and seconded

That the Agenda dated March 23, 2017 be amended to add Item 5.5 Fruit and Vegetable Labels and be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. MINUTES APPROVAL

R17-006

It was moved and seconded

That the Minutes dated February 23, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

5. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Backyard Chickens

A report on the topic of backyard chickens has been prepared for Council. Bill Hardy shared some of the feedback he has received from the public about backyard chickens since Grow and Gather Nursery started selling farm feed this year. Any correspondence regarding backyard chickens should be forwarded to the Staff Liaison (smurphy@mapleridge.ca).

5.2 Metro Vancouver AAC Update

The next Metro AAC meeting will be held in April.

5.3 Agricultural Development Permit Guidelines Update

The Staff Liaison reported on the Agricultural Development Permit Guidelines project. A discussion paper is being prepared and will be shared with the Committee.

5.4 Membership Update

The Chair reported that Braden Hansen has been appointed as a member at large. Committee vacancies were reviewed.

5.5 Fruit and Vegetable Labels

Councillor Speirs has drafted a resolution for LMLGA that would advocate to senior levels of government to change both domestic and import regulations to require compostable stickers and food safe stamping on all fruits and vegetables.

6. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Golden Harvest Review

The Staff Liaison provided a budget update. The Committee discussed Golden Harvest. Questions regarding future events will be sent to the Committee by the Staff Liaison. A decision about a 2017 event will be made at the April meeting.

6.2 Education Subcommittee

Candace Gordon suggested holding an educational event on the topic of bees.

6.3 True North Fraser Subcommittee

Next steps for the True North Fraser branding program were discussed. Braden Hansen and Margaret Daskis offered to help Stephanie James on the project.

6.4 Food Distribution Subcommittee

The Staff Liaison provided a status report on the Food Distribution project.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. ROUNDTABLE

Stephanie James reported her farm is still working on coming out of winter.

Councillor Speirs provided an update including addressing the topic of parking at the Albion Fairgrounds.

Braden Hansen is looking forward to growing season.

Lorraine Bates shared her thoughts about the impact the Albion Fairgrounds parking issue could have on this year's Country Fest and the 4H Fair.

Bill Hardy reported the Grow and Gather Farm Expo will be held in Cloverdale June 10th and 11th. There are forty sessions planned over two days. Presenters include: Curtis Stone, the Young Agrarians, Tax Tips for Small Farms, Canning Sessions, Julia Smith (Slow Meat Movement). www.growandgatherfarmexpo.com

Ian Brooks noted the late start to the growing season.

9. QUESTION PERIOD

10. ADJOURNMENT – 9:01 pm

Chair

/ss