

City of Maple Ridge
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, held in the Blaney Room,
at Maple Ridge Municipal Hall on April 25, 2019 at 7:03 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Gordy Robson	City of Maple Ridge
Bill Hardy, Chair	Member at Large
Al Kozak, Vice Chair	Agricultural Sector
Andrew Pozsar	Member at Large
Candace Gordon	Haney Farmers Market Society
Carla Schiller	Agricultural Sector
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture
Ian Brooks	Member at Large
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board
Michelle Franklin	Member at Large
Ryan Murphy	Agricultural Sector

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Grochowich	Staff Liaison / Planning Department
Amanda Allen	Committee Clerk

ABSENT

Councillor Ryan Svendsen	City of Maple Ridge
Pascale Shaw	Agricultural Sector

Note: Councillor Svendsen was not in attendance.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

R/2019-017

It was moved and seconded

That the April 25, 2019 Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

R/2019-018

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting dated March 28, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. **DELEGATIONS**

4.1. **Let's Get Farming Maple Ridge**

- Andrew Poszar

Mr. Poszar gave a PowerPoint presentation sharing his experience while visiting a Fraser Valley poultry hatchery and the methods practiced at the hatchery. Mr. Poszar provided the following information:

- Methods practiced at the hatchery
- Study of nine cities of maximum allowable coverage on ALR land
- Purpose of study: which is most farm friendly in Lower Mainland
- Recommendations: education of City staff and public and changing bylaws to welcome farming
- Food Hub

There was discussion on the presentation and it was requested that an edited version of the presentation be shared with City of Maple Ridge staff.

R/2019-019

It was moved and seconded

That the April 25, 2019 Let's Get Farming Maple Ridge presentation be forwarded to City of Maple Ridge staff for comment on the history of low maximum lot coverage for properties located in the Agricultural Land Reserve.

CARRIED

5. **QUESTION PERIOD - Nil**

6. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6.1. **Bill 15 - 2019 Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act - discussion**

The Chair summarized some earlier apprehension about Bill 15 and provided an update on the latest commentary and discussion around the intention of Bill 15.

6.2. **Vancouver Farmers Markets Direct - follow up discussion**

Councillor Robson provided an update on the Friends in Need Food Bank perishable food recovery program. Al Kozak will follow up with the Friends in Need Food Bank Executive Director and the Vancouver Farmers Markets Direct Manager. There was interest in extending an invitation to the Food Bank and Vancouver Farmers Markets Direct to present their model at a future meeting. There was discussion on next steps and logistics of a Food Hub operation.

6.3. **Incorporation of agriculture on City of Maple Ridge website - follow up**

Al Kozak gave a PowerPoint presentation providing the following information:

- Purpose of website
- Farm directory
- Consolidate information resources
- Links to municipal/provincial websites

- Connecting farms to buyers and buyers to farms
- Costs to establish new website
- Review of CMR website
- recommendations

Mr. Kozak will bring back specific recommendations at a future meeting and will work with the municipal website developers to suggest improvements for the existing website.

6.4. **Prioritization of agricultural plan action items**

The Chair provided an update on the status of the Booth in a Box grant application through Metro Vancouver.

6.5. **Golden Harvest 2019**

The staff liaison summarized the Golden Harvest event. There was discussion on whether to hold the event in 2019 and potential sponsorship involvement with local organizations and agencies. The Golden Harvest subcommittee will schedule a meeting to discuss the event and report back at the next meeting.

6.6. **Workshop and Event Updates**

6.6.1. **Metro Vancouver AAC**

The Metro Vancouver AAC meeting minutes will be circulated as part of the next agenda.

6.6.2. **Agricultural Land Use Planning in the Lower Mainland Policy Forum**

Chris Zabek summarized the forum hosted by Metro Vancouver and UNBC.

7. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

7.1. **Backyard Chickens**

The staff liaison advised a best practices report is in development for Council review. There was discussion on how other municipalities are handling backyard chickens.

7.2. **Education**

7.2.1. **Let's Get Farming summary**

Al Kozak provided a summary and highlights of the Let's Get Farming event with speakers Dr. Wallapak Polasub, Kim Grout and Chris Zabek. There was discussion on agricultural millrates in Maple Ridge and neighbouring communities.

R/2019-020

It was moved and seconded

That the AAC direct the staff liaison to provide a community comparison on agricultural millrates and extend an invitation to the Finance Department to present at a future AAC meeting.

CARRIED

7.2.2. **Booth in a Box – update - Nil**

7.3. **Food Garden Contest**

The Staff liaison reported on the launch of the contest.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1. **Upcoming Events**

May 11, 2019 9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Haney Farmers Market – Opening Day Memorial Peace Park, (11900 224 Street) Organizer: Haney Farmers Market Society
May 11, 2019 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Design Workshop Sneak Peek Glenwood Elementary (21410 Glenwood Avenue) Organizer: City of Maple Ridge
May 16, 2019 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm	North East Albion Open House Samuel Robertson Technical (10445 245 Street) Organizer: City of Maple Ridge

9. **ROUNDTABLE**

Members received verbal reports on local agricultural topics and activities.

10. **ADJOURNMENT – 9:07 pm.**

“Original signed by Bill Hardy”
Bill Hardy, Chair

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