

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, April 27, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Al Kozak	Agricultural Sector
Bill Hardy	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
Margaret Daskis, Chair	Member at Large
Stephanie James, Vice-Chair	Equestrian Agricultural Sector

GUESTS/DELEGATIONS

Andrew Poszsar	Edge Planning Presentation
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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Siobhan Murphy	Staff Liaison / Planning Department
Sunny Schiller	Committee Clerk

REGRETS/ABSENTS

Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board
Tony Pellet	Agricultural Land Commission

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

2. AGENDA ADOPTION

R17-007

It was moved and seconded

That the Agenda dated April 27, 2017 be amended to add Item 5.4 Meeting Protocol and Item 6.5 Food Garden Contest and be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. MINUTES APPROVAL

R17-008

It was moved and seconded

That the Minutes dated March 23, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Andrew Pozsar – Edge Planning Presentation

Mr. Pozsar explained his background in chicken farming and his plans to potentially build a chicken farm at 12225 250th Street in Maple Ridge. Mr. Pozsar provided documentation and information on edge planning. Mr. Pozsar shared some of the challenges he has experienced around this proposal. Mr. Pozsar asked that AAC consider the following recommendations and consider forwarding them to Council:

- 1) The AAC should recommend to Mayor and Council to adopt and implement the BC Edge Planning guide.
- 2) The AAC should recommend to Mayor and Council to make changes to the Official Community Plan, as outlined in the Edge Planning guidelines.
- 3) The AAC should recommend to Mayor and Council to show compassion, help and support to disabled farmers, and bylaws should reflect these changes.

Mr. Pozsar extended an invitation to the AAC to visit his property to gain a better understanding of his proposal. The issue of conflicts between residential development and agricultural land use was discussed by the group.

5. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Albion Fairgrounds Parking

Councillor Speirs provided an update that parking at the Albion Fairgrounds is no longer a concern.

5.2 Backyard Chickens

The Staff Liaison reported that a presentation was recently made to Council on the topic of backyard chickens. That group will be invited as a delegation to a future AAC meeting.

5.3 Metro Vancouver AAC Update

The Chair provided an update from the recent Metro AAC meeting, which included a presentation on invasive species.

5.4 Meeting Protocol

The Chair reviewed the protocol around RSVPs for Advisory Committee meetings.

6. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Golden Harvest

The group brainstormed ideas around Golden Harvest 2017. Candace Gordon will raise the topic at the next meeting of the Farmer's Market board.

R17-009

It was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee commit to Golden Harvest for the fall, book a coordinator and a room.

CARRIED

6.2 Education Subcommittee

Al Kozak provided an education subcommittee update.

6.2.1 Bee and Pollinator Seminar

A potential public education session around bees and pollinators was discussed. The Staff Liaison will follow up with Mr. Kozak regarding suggested presenters and available dates.

6.2.2 Grow and Gather Farm Expo

Bill Hardy provided an update on plans for the upcoming Grow and Gather Farm Expo. More details available at: <http://growandgatherfarmexpo.com>

6.3 True North Fraser Subcommittee

Stephanie James provided an update on Phase 2 of the True North Fraser project. Ms. James will meet with the Chair and the Staff Liaison to determine additional resources required to move the project forward.

6.4 Food Distribution Subcommittee

The Staff Liaison reported the Request for Proposals for consultants to work on the Food Distribution project closes April 28, 2017 and outlined next steps.

6.5 Food Garden Contest

Potential plans for the 2017 Food Garden Contest were discussed.

7. CORRESPONDENCE - Nil

8. ROUNDTABLE

Al Kozak commented that farming is about a month behind schedule this year as a result of the weather.

Candace Gordon reported the Intergenerational Garden is holding a Blooming Ceremony celebration tomorrow. Planters will be available for sale.

9. QUESTION PERIOD

10. ADJOURNMENT – 9:19 pm



Chair

/ss