

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, June 23, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Zickerman	Agricultural Sector
Margaret Daskis, Chair	Member at Large
Bill Hardy	Member at Large
Candace Gordon	Haney Farmers Market Society
Ian Brooks	Member at Large
Stephanie James, Vice-Chair	Equestrian Agricultural Sector
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture & Lands

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Siobhan Murphy	Planner 2
Sunny Schiller	Committee Clerk
Lisa Grant	Staff Liaison / Planning Department

REGRETS/ABSENTS

Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board
Councillor Speirs	City of Maple Ridge
Tony Pellet	Agricultural Land Commission
Al Kozak	Agricultural Sector

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. As quorum was not reached it was decided to begin with the presentation.

Note: Candace Gordon and Ian Brooks entered at 7:03 pm.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Dave Speers, Recreation Coordinator – Community Gardens presentation

The Recreation Coordinator outlined the community gardens program managed by Parks and Leisure Services and provided updates on existing community gardens.

Note: Bill Hardy entered at 7:17 pm. Quorum was reached at this time.

2. AGENDA AND MINUTE ADOPTION

R16-016

It was moved and seconded

That the Agenda be amended to add Item 3 Dave Speers – Presentation on Community Gardens, add Item 4.1 ALR Exclusion Application, add Item 4.2 Community Gardens and be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

R16-017

It was moved and seconded

That the Minutes of May 26, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 ALR Exclusion Application

An application to exclude local land from the ALR was discussed.

4.2 Community Gardens

Ways for the Committee to support community gardens were discussed. This issue will be revisited at the September meeting.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Backyard Chickens

The Planner 2 provided an update on the report on backyard chickens.

5.2 Metro Vancouver AAC Update

The Chair provided information on an ecological initiative being undertaken by the Langley Agricultural Foundation. The Chair reported on discussions regarding port regulations. BC Agriculture Week will be celebrated in September.

5.3 Municipal Water Pricing

The Chair reported Metro Vancouver will be reviewing water availability and quality at the conference in November.

5.4 Food Garden Contest

The Planner 2 and Staff Liaison provided an update on the Food Garden Contest.

5.5 MR and PM AAC Joint meeting

An invitation has been extended to the Pitt Meadows Agricultural Advisory Committee. It was suggested that the AAC host a joint meeting with the Maple Ridge Environmental Advisory Committee when it is up and running.

5.6 Update on Ag Plan prioritization by Council

The Staff Liaison reported a Special Meeting of Council is scheduled for July 5th, 2016 to review the Agricultural Plan. Results from the meeting will be communicated to the AAC.

6. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Golden Harvest 2016 Subcommittee Update

Candace Gordon provided an update on plans for the 2016 event.

Item 6.3 was dealt with prior to Item 6.2.

6.2 Education Subcommittee

The Chair reported the June 9th Sustainable Agriculture event was very successful.

6.3 True North Fraser Subcommittee

Jennifer Zickerman reported on a recent meeting with Lino Siracusa, Manager of Economic Development. Documentation was provided regarding responsibilities and actions related to the brand.

R16-018

It was moved and seconded

That the True North Fraser subcommittee be authorized to work on Stage 1 action items over the summer and to bring drafts of deliverables to the September meeting for discussion.

CARRIED

It was suggested that a subcommittee be struck to work on a draft plan for an agricultural hub.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. ROUNDTABLE

Jennifer Zickerman reported on the food growers co-op.

Stephanie James reported on her crops.

Chris Zabek shared information on a Young Agrarian's initiative.

Bill Hardy reported he has recently begun working on a national landscape horticulture apprenticeship program.

Ian Brooks discussed water availability.

Candace Gordon reported on the food coupon program at the Farmers Market and the food asset inventory project.

Siobhan Murphy was thanked for her service to the Committee.

9. QUESTION PERIOD - Nil
10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:59 pm

Chair

/ss