

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, September 22, 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
Al Kozak	Agricultural Sector
Councillor Speirs	City of Maple Ridge
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture & Lands

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 7:01 pm.

2. AGENDA ADOPTION

R16-019

It was moved and seconded

That the Agenda be amended to add Item 4.2 Update on ALR Exclusion Applications and be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. MINUTE APPROVAL

R16-020

It was moved and seconded

That the Minutes of June 23, 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Business Planning

The Committee reviewed and provided input to the draft 2017 AAC Business Plan. Items discussed included the promotion of agri-tourism, food distribution, a grant program, Golden Harvest, the True North Fraser brand.

Candace Gordon raised a question regarding a previous budget allocation during 2014 for Golden Ears Feast for \$3,000. Payment issue and receipt need to be confirmed.

Al Kozak, Jennifer Zickerman, Stephanie James, Margaret Daskis, and Ian Brooks volunteered to form a food distribution subcommittee. A food distribution needs analysis will be conducted. It was suggested that an application for funding be made to the Investment Agricultural Fund.

4.2 Update on ALR Exclusion Applications

Stephanie James reported that an application to exclude two pieces of land from the Agricultural Land Reserve will soon be brought before Council at Committee of the Whole on October 3, 2016.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Backyard Chickens

The Staff Liaison reported a draft report on backyard chickens is in progress.

5.2 Metro Vancouver AAC Update

The Chair reported the next meeting of the Metro Vancouver AAC will be held in October. The Chair reviewed the agenda for the 2016 Agriculture Water Forum, coming up on November 3.

5.3 Municipal Water Pricing

No update.

5.4 Food Garden Contest

The Staff Liaison reported on entries received for the Food Garden contest. Participants will be recognized at an upcoming Council meeting.

5.5 MR and PM AAC Joint meeting

The Staff Liaison will invite the Pitt Meadows AAC to the October 27 meeting regular meeting.

5.6 Update on Ag Plan Prioritization by Council

Stephanie James reported on the prioritization of the Agricultural Plan by Council over the summer. The Staff Liaison shared results of the review.

6. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Golden Harvest 2016 Subcommittee Update

Candace Gordon provided an update on Golden Harvest. Posters and tickets are now available. The Staff Liaison will provide the digital version of the poster to members. Some new restaurants have been invited and four schools are participating. Committee members were asked to help out with ticket sales and event clean up. The Staff Liaison will send invitations to Council and the School Board.

It was decided to proceed with Item 6.3 prior to Item 6.2.

6.3 True North Fraser Subcommittee

Jennifer Zickerman reviewed the "True North Fraser Agricultural Branding Program Acceptance and Usage Criteria" report prepared by the subcommittee. AAC members provided input. It was suggested that Ms. Zickerman setup a dedicated meeting for the AAC to review True North Fraser.

6.2 Education Subcommittee

Al Kozak provided a review of the June educational event, which asked the question "How can we support the growth of agriculture in Maple Ridge?" Mr. Kozak outlined his vision for the work of the food distribution subcommittee.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Note: Chris Zabek left at 9:12 pm.

8. ROUNDTABLE

Councillor Speirs reported that DEMO International is underway.

9. QUESTION PERIOD - Nil

10. ADJOURNMENT – 9:15 pm

Chair

/ss