

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, February 23, 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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Siobhan Murphy	Staff Liaison / Planning Department
Sunny Schiller	Committee Clerk

REGRETS/ABSENTS

Jennifer Zickerman	Agricultural Sector
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. 2017 CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR ELECTIONS

R17-001

It was moved and seconded

That Margaret Daskis be elected Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2017.

CARRIED

R17-002

It was moved and seconded

That Stephanie James be elected Vice-Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2017.

CARRIED

3. AGENDA ADOPTION

R17-003

It was moved and seconded

That the Agenda dated February 23, 2017 be amended to add Item 6.5 Exclusion Application and be adopted.

CARRIED

4. MINUTE APPROVAL

R17-004

It was moved and seconded

That the Minutes of November 24, 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS – Nil

6. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Backyard Chickens

The Staff Liaison shared that a report on Backyard Chickens has been prepared and will go to Council at a future date.

6.2 Metro Vancouver AAC Update

The Chair reported on the recent Metro Vancouver AAC meeting.

6.3 Farm Home Plate Regulations

The Committee discussed Farm Home Plate regulations in neighboring communities. The Staff Liaison reported that Maple Ridge now has Farm Home Plate regulations in place and thanked the Committee for their work on this project. The need for regulations for non-ALR land was discussed.

6.4 Agricultural Development Permit Guidelines Update

The Staff Liaison reported that research to support the development of Agricultural Development Permit Guidelines is currently underway.

6.5 Exclusion Application

The Staff Liaison reported an application to exclude a number of lots from the Agricultural Land Reserve was recently received.

7. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Golden Harvest Review Subcommittee Formation

The Chair outlined the work to be done by the Golden Harvest Review Subcommittee. Candace Gordon, Margaret Daskis and the Staff Liaison offered to send out a survey to the Committee to gather feedback.

Note: Bill Hardy entered at 7:41 pm.

7.2 Education Subcommittee

Al Kozak reported on the work of the Education subcommittee. Ideas for an education session for the public were discussed.

7.3 True North Fraser Subcommittee

Stephanie James provided an update on the work of the True North Fraser subcommittee.

7.4 Food Distribution Subcommittee

The Staff Liaison reported on the status of the Request for Proposal and funding for the project.

8. CORRESPONDENCE - Nil

9. ROUNDTABLE

Chris Zabek suggested the Committee consider inviting a delegation to make a presentation on the Taxation Policy report.

Candace Gordon shared a report on agricultural activities she is working on for Golden Ears Feast. The Committee suggested updates to the list.

Al Kozak reported on a land trust initiative being developed in BC. More information is available at www.farmfolkcityfolk.ca/projects/foodlands-trust/ Mr. Kozak shared his thoughts on proposed community facilities. Mr. Kozak suggested using social media and the City website to recruit potential volunteers.

Bill Hardy shared information about the Agriculture Foundation. Mr. Hardy shared his experiences with snow this year. Mr. Hardy is working on a labour information project.

Ian Brooks reported many downed trees on his property this year.

Councillor Speirs provided a report on the recent provincial announcement around additional social services for Maple Ridge. There is a Seed Exchange coming up at the Intergenerational Garden.

Stephanie James shared information on the private purchase of farm land.

Margaret Daskis reported on foreign investment in Canadian land and shared details of some of her recent work.

The Staff Liaison recently attended a Taxation Policy meeting and will invite a delegation to an upcoming meeting.

10. QUESTION PERIOD

Christian Crowley reported on recent meetings between Maple Ridge and Mission food hub system stake holders.

11. ADJOURNMENT – 9:01 pm

Chair

/ss