

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, October 26, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Al Kozak	Agricultural Sector
Candace Gordon	Haney Farmers Market Society
Ian Brooks	Member at Large
Margaret Daskis, Chair	Member at Large
Stephanie James, Vice-Chair	Equestrian Agricultural Sector
Bill Hardy	Member at Large
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture & Lands
Councillor Speirs	City of Maple Ridge
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board

GUESTS/DELEGATIONS

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Grochowich	Staff Liaison / Planning Department
Renee Moffatt	Committee Clerk

REGRETS/ABSENTS

Kamelli Mark	Agricultural Land Commission
--------------	------------------------------

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. AGENDA ADOPTION

R17-014

It was moved and seconded

That the Agenda dated October 26, 2017 be adopted

CARRIED

3. MINUTES APPROVAL

R17-015

It was moved and seconded

That the Minutes dated September 28, 2017 be approved

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

5. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Metro Vancouver AAC Update

The Chair reported on the October 6, 2017 meeting. The Chair discussed the Abbotsfords AgRefresh program and having someone come in the new year to speak to the committee.

5.2 Business Planning

The Staff Liaison informed the committee that the final Business Plan was submitted October 14, 2017. The Staff Liaison discussed the funding available for 2018.

5.3 Agricultural Development Permit Area and Zoning Setbacks Update & Discussion

The Staff Liaison informed the committee of updates on the two presentations from last the meeting and that they are anticipated to go before Council in early 2018, Committee Members provided comments and questions on the two topics (presented at the September meeting).

5.4 Membership Recruitment

The Committee Clerk reminded the committee that the AAC is looking for new members for a 2018-2019 term.

5.5 Intersections Event Announcement

The Staff Liaison reminded the committee about the November 6, 2017 Intersections event and encouraged all committee members to attend. Councillor Speirs reported on the previous event's success.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Golden Harvest Subcommittee

The Staff Liaison reported on the Golden Harvest event on October 13, 2017. The event was a success with a huge turnout. Planning for next year will start in spring of 2018.

6.2 Education Subcommittee

Nothing to report at this time.

6.3 True North Fraser Subcommittee

Nothing to report at this time.

6.4 Food Distribution Subcommittee

Al Kozak provided an update on the status of the Food Hub project. Mr. Kozak discussed some of the challenges that the farmers and food hub may encounter moving forward..

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

8. ROUNDTABLE

Candace Gordon took facilitation training and will be qualified to offer food skills for low income families. Ms. Gordon discussed her trip to Ontario.

Al Kozak shared his concerns with realtors calling and wanting to buy farm land. Mr. Kozak discussed the issues with foreign investors buying land for developing purposes..

Chris Zabek commented on the City of Abbotsford's AgRefresh program.

Ian Brooks expressed his concerns with senior farmers and how they are unable to maintain them.

Lorraine Bates discussed how the Food Bank is looking for farmers to take their perishables as they are unable to use them.

Bill Hardy discussed his trips to Toronto and Taiwan where he toured horticulture producers. Mr. Hardy reported on the different gardens and flowers he saw on his trip.

Stephanie James expressed her concerns with realtors calling and wanting her to sell her farm and the ongoing challenges of maintain the farm and way of life.

Councillor Speirs reported on the resolution passed at UBCM eliminating elasticized stickers on fruits and vegetables.


Margaret Daskis informed the committee about the UBC Sociology Department program, which brings people daily from the downtown East Side to help garden at UBC farm.

9. QUESTION PERIOD

Andrew Pozsar commented on the presentations at the last AAC meeting. Mr. Pozsar brought material on the Sheep and Goat seminar for the committee. The resource was left with the Staff Liaison

Christian Cowley, CEED Centre commented on the development permit and the green houses and different setbacks. Mr. Cowley also discussed/mentioned potential speakers for future educational events.

10. ADJOURNMENT – 9:12pm



Chair

/rm