

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 June 28, 2018, 2018 at 7:05 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Craig Speirs	City of Maple Ridge
Stephanie James, Vice-Chair	Agricultural Sector
Al Kozak	Agricultural Sector
Bill Hardy	Member at Large
Candace Gordon	Haney Farmers Market Society
David Kaplan	Member at Large
Ian Brooks	Member at Large
Ryan Murphy	Agricultural Sector

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Amelia Bowden	Staff Liaison / Planning Department
Amanda Allen	Committee Clerk

REGRETS

Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board
Margaret Daskis, Chair	Member at Large
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture & Lands
Caitlin Dorward	Acting Regional Planner, Agricultural Land Commission
Josef Hans Lara	Economic Development Committee Representative

Note: Margaret Daskis was not in attendance. Stephanie James chaired the meeting as Vice Chair.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

R/2018-026

It was moved and seconded

That the June 28, 2018 Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

R/2018-027

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting dated May 17, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. **DELEGATIONS - Nil**

5. **QUESTION PERIOD - Nil**

6. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6.1. **Farm Tour 2018**

Bill Hardy provided a summary of tour ideas and possible themes. There was discussion on the farm tour sites. Ten sites were selected for consideration and members will be polled to identify the top six sites for the 2018 Farm Tour. Once the sites are selected, Mr. Hardy will work to contact them and design a travel plan.

R/2018-028

It was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee authorize spending up to a maximum of \$600 for the 2018 Farm Tour.

CARRIED

6.2. **Workshop and Event Updates**

6.2.1. **Metro Vancouver AAC Update**

The Vice-Chair advised that Metro Vancouver Agriculture awareness activities supported this year include two projects in Maple Ridge:

- July 28 and 29, 2018 , a Country Fest display and speakers on 'Backyard Farming' hosted by the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Agricultural Association. As well, Metro Vancouver AAC is supporting the Poultry in Motion Educational Mini Barn at Country Fest.
- August 11, 2018 at Brookfield Farm - "The Market goes to the Farm" hosted by the Haney Farmers Market Society.

The Staff liaison advised that the BC Association of Farmer's Markets and the Hua Foundation are presenting the mid-Autumn Harvest Festival at all 28 Farmer's Markets in Metro Vancouver.

The Staff liaison noted that the Metro Vancouver AAC appreciates receiving feedback on the events with which they provide support.

6.2.2. **Ministry of Agriculture AAC Workshop**

The Staff liaison reported that information from the organizers has not yet been received.

6.2.3. **Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation Invitation**

Al Kozak reported that he was unable to attend the June LSAF meeting and has been in contact with the coordinator. Mr. Kozak will make arrangements to attend a LSAF meeting next Spring.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. Backyard Chickens

The Vice-Chair advised that Council approval for a public engagement process remains outstanding. The subcommittee will have a booth at Country Fest in July and plan to attend the Haney Farmers Market in August. Subcommittee work is underway on booth displays, surveys and handouts.

7.2. Education

Al Kozak reported on the June 26, 2018 presentation to Council by the BC Micro License Association. Mr. Kozak suggested they be invited as a Delegation at a future meeting as they were knowledgeable about the legislation that could impact small farms. Mr. Kozak will follow up with the BC Micro License Association.

7.3. Food Distribution

The Staff liaison advised that the Food Hub is not anticipated to proceed to Country Fest in July and that efforts will be refocused on stakeholder engagement over the Summer and Fall in order to wrap-up the final report.

7.4. Food Garden

The Vice-Chair advised that six contest entries have been received to date. There was discussion on extending the application deadline date to July 15, 2018 while keeping the judging timelines and process the same. The Staff liaison encouraged members to continue promoting the Food Garden contest.

R/2018-029

It was moved and seconded

That the Food Garden application entry deadline date be extended to July 15, 2018.

CARRIED

7.5. Golden Harvest

The Vice Chair advised a coordinator has been selected for the Golden Harvest event. The Staff liaison advised that the venue has been secured and that the subcommittee will be meeting with the coordinator on July 9, 2018.

7.6. Terms of Reference

The Staff liaison advised that the Agricultural Advisory Committee's request has been submitted to the Planning Department and a response is expected to be on the agenda in the Fall.

8. CORRESPONDENCE – Nil

9. **ROUNDTABLE**

Ryan Murphy reported on irrigation activities at the Harris Road farm and that the Heritage raspberries are being harvested a week early. He reported that the farm is considering expanding their vegetable production in 2019 as the entire 2018 crop has sold out.

Bill Hardy reported on his work with the Green Infrastructure and Natural Asset Inventory and Evaluation subcommittee. Mr. Hardy advised of his presentation to the subcommittee on Green Cities and that he has been elected as Chair of the subcommittee.

Ian Brooks reported that his covered crops and beds are in rotation and that he has been finding a lot of bees and few slugs.

Note: Councillor Speirs joined the meeting at 8:07pm.

Al Kozak summarized the presentation delivered by the Golden Eagle Farm Group at the June 26, 2018 Council meeting.

Councillor Speirs provided a summary of the recent ALR exclusion applications before Council and results from the Detached Garden Suite pilot program.

Candace Gordon provided an update on the farmers and sales at the Haney Farmers Market and there was discussion on surveying Market attendees to determine the mode of transport used to attend. Ms. Gordon provided a report on the Nutrition Food Coupon program operating at the Haney Farmers Market.

Amelia Bowden advised that Council, at the June 12, 2018 meeting, defeated the zone amending bylaw which proposed changes to agricultural setbacks. Ms. Bowden noted an update to the Committee on the Agricultural Development Permit Guidelines is anticipated in the Fall.

Stephanie James provided an update on the development trend on ALR lands in her Ruskin neighbourhood over the past 18 months.

10. **QUESTION PERIOD** - Nil

11. **ADJOURNMENT** – 9:05 pm


S. James, Vice Chair

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