

Present:

Councillor Patton, Chair
M. Lamont
S. Rai
S. Van Keulen

Regrets:

Councillor Elford
Councillor Nagra
Shannon Lambie, Agriculture Land
Commission

Staff Present:

Y. Yohannes, Manager, Utilities
S. Johal, Planner
H. Janda, Contracts & Solid Waste Manager,
Engineering
C. Reyes Lao, Administrative Assistant

A. ADOPTIONS**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was Moved by S. Van Keulen
Seconded by S. Rai
That the Agriculture, Environment, and
Investment Advisory Committee meeting agenda held May 11, 2022, be adopted.
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes – April 13, 2022

It was Moved by M. Lamont
Seconded by S. Van Keulen
That the minutes of the Agriculture,
Environment, and Investment Advisory Committee meeting held April 13, 2022, be
adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Harry Janda, Contracts & Solid Waste Manager, Engineering
City of Surrey**

Harry Janda, Contracts & Solid Waste Manager, Engineering, provided a
PowerPoint presentation regarding an update of the Plastic Checkout Bags and
Single-Use Items Bylaw. The following information was highlighted:

- Plastic bags and single-use items (SUI) are products and packaging that are disposed of after one use. An estimated 3 million tonnes of plastic waste are generated in Canada with a 9% recycling rate. Previous efforts to reduce these wastes have not been successful and progressive actions are now being taken to regulate and limit its use.

- There is an estimated 76 million SUI sent to landfills from Surrey per year. Majority of Surrey residents favour the ban on SUI with 83% supporting a ban on plastic bags and 86% supporting a ban on foam containers.
- The City of Surrey recognized the importance of taking action against the use of SUI and was the first City to develop a strategy to focus on eliminating plastic shopping bags and foam takeout containers through the implementation of a new bylaw.
- A comprehensive education program was launched in 2021 that aimed to ensure affected businesses understand the new requirements, deliver resources, support businesses through a smooth transition, and ensure the community's understanding of the bylaw to support local businesses.
- The Plastic Checkout Bags and Single-Use Items Bylaw provisions and fees were presented.
 - Businesses are prohibited from distributing non-reusable bags. A minimum fee of \$0.25 per paper checkout bag and \$2.00 per reusable bag apply. The fees collected are retained by businesses and not payable to the municipality.
 - Businesses, with the exception of hospitals and facilities licensed under Community Care and Assisted Living, are prohibited from using and distributing foam containers, cups and bowls.
- Various outreach activities were undertaken to aid businesses with the transition to the new Bylaw requirements. The campaign yielded successful results with 92% of businesses having transitioned, and the remaining 8% are working to comply.
- Provincial and drafted Federal regulations that includes banning or prohibiting use of SUI are being worked on but will have no impact on Surrey's bylaw and will be aligned.
- Next steps of the project include:
 - Continue to work with businesses that are lagging with the transition process to ensure compliance with the bylaw
 - Data collection and analysis to determine effectiveness of the bylaw and its environmental impacts
 - Continue to work with the provincial and federal government in developing long term strategies

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Janda provided the following information:

- Businesses which are currently not in compliance with the bylaw are not specific to a certain category. The Solid Waste department is taking steps to support the transition of these businesses into compliance by providing brochures and till toppers for distribution.

- The province will be banning compostable plastics which are neither recyclable nor compostable. It will not include fibre-based compost items. Materials are geared for plastic-type but are not made of micro-plastic beads which take longer to break down.

In addition, Mr. Janda provided an update regarding the operation and success of Surrey's Biofuel Facility. The facility receives more than 100,000 metric tonnes of organic waste with a substantial amount coming from Surrey and is generating the required Renewable Natural Gas (RNG). It is currently operating at 85-95% capacity.

The Committee suggested that data regarding environmental impacts be provided once the transition is finalized and the bylaw has been in place for 8-12 months.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Development Application 7922-0114-00

Planner: Sharon Johal

Address: 5355 – 168 Street

Sharon Johal, Planner, summarized the report dated May 2, 2022, regarding Development Variance Permit 7922-0114-00 to relax the required south side yard setback from 15.0 metres to 4.8 metres, permitted under Section B.1 of the A-1 Zone (Agriculture & Horticulture) in order to construct a farm use structure. The following information was highlighted:

- The subject site is 1.93 hectares and designated Agricultural in the Official Community Plan (OCP), zoned General Agricultural Zone (A-1), and located within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).
- There is an existing house on the property and the site currently produces blueberries.
- The proposed farm building will be 4,281 square feet in floor area and function as storage for farm equipment and blueberries. The building would be connected to existing driveway access from Colebrook Road and the proposed residential farm homeplate by a 3 metre wide farm road.
- The site had a previously issued Development Variance Permit under Development Application 7916-0444-00 similar to the current proposal that has since expired.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Johal provided the following information:

- There have been no changes to the bylaw nor procedures currently in effect since the approval of a similar variance for the site in 2016.

- The proposal is exempt from Development Permits such as Hazard Lands and Sensitive Ecosystems.

It was

Moved by S. Van Keulen

Seconded by M. Lamont

That the Agriculture, Environment, and Investment Advisory Committee recommend that the General Manager of Planning and Development support Development Variance Permit 7922-0114-00.

Carried

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

This section had no items to consider.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

This section had no items to consider.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

This section had no items to consider.

G. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verbal Updates

- The Committee discussed concerns regarding recent risks of the avian flu and stated confidence in BC Chicken Marketing Board's management and prevention plan. Federal updates suggested that the current strain is more virulent than previous strains in BC, and indicated waterfowls and raptors to be at higher risks than songbirds. From an agricultural perspective, the Committee advised caution until the virus is well contained.

H. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Agriculture, Environment and Investment Advisory Committee will be held on June 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was
Investment Advisory Committee meeting adjourn.

Moved by S. Van Keulen
Seconded by M. Lamont
That the Agriculture, Environment, and

Carried

The Agriculture, Environment, and Investment Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Allison Patton, Chair