

Agriculture and Food Policy Advisory Committee Minutes

Present:

Councillor Hundial, Chair
M. Bose, Vice-Chair
B. Sandhu
D. Arnold
J. Gibeau
J. Werring
M. Hilmer
P. Harrison
R. Brar
S. Rai
S. VanKeulen

Agency Representative:

J. Lussier

Regrets:**Staff Present:**

C. Baron, Drainage Manager
C. Stewart, Senior Planner
J. Nguyen, Planning Technician
M. Jorgensen, Planner
P. Zevit, Biodiversity Conservation Planner
C. Eagles, Administrative Assistant

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of July 2, 2019.

It was

Moved by M. Bose

Seconded by P. Harrison

That the minutes of the Agriculture and Food Policy Advisory Committee meeting held July 2, 2019 be adopted as presented.

Carried

S. VanKeulen arrived to the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

B. STAFF PRESENTATION

1. **Biodiversity Strategy Implementation**
Pamela Zevit, Biodiversity Conservation Planner

Staff provided a presentation on the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) Implementation and highlighted the following information:

- The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy was developed over three years including extensive community consultation with residents, developers, consultants and the environmental community. In 2014, Council endorsed the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS). The goals of the BCS were to identify the Biodiversity that occurs within the City and develop a management strategy such that biodiversity is maintained through buildout of the City.

- The BCS can be managed by protecting the Green Infrastructure Network (GIN) which consists of hubs, sites and corridors. The GIN maps the City's known ecological areas and provides certainty to the public and development community, pre-determining where the City wants land preserved into the future. The total GIN area is approximately 9,074 acres of which approximately 3,042 acres are in private lands.

Key program initiatives include developing design guidelines for the City to meet biodiversity objectives. The focus will be on strong agricultural stewardship, prioritizing such projects as pollinator set aside areas, hedgerow management, shelter belts etc. It was noted that the Delta Farmland Trust conducts similar works and is funded through Environment Canada.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Development Application 7919-0031-00

Misty Jorgensen, Planner

File: 7919-0031-00

- The subject property is designated Mixed Employment in the Official Community Plan and Highway Commercial in the Cloverdale Town Centre Plan. The subject site is zoned Comprehensive Development Zone and located outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).
- The applicant is proposing to rezone the subject property from CD to CD in order to remove parking intensive land-uses currently allowed on the site. In addition, the applicant is proposing a Development Permit and Variance to allow for three business park buildings with small-bay warehouse units, second-floor mezzanine office space and a dock and grade loading. The applicant is proposing a 15.25 metre wide landscape buffer on-site, located along the east side of 172 Street, adjacent to the ALR.

It was noted that the watercourse will be relocated onsite and into the ALR buffer and a Restrictive Covenant will be registered to ensure it is maintained. In response to a question from the Committee, it was noted that the Environmental Planner will review the buffer distance to the watercourse to ensure adequate space in order to maintain the watercourse. Staff noted the neighbouring lands will have no flood impacts.

It was

Moved by M. Bose

Seconded by P. Harrison

That the Agriculture and Food Policy

Advisory Committee recommend to the General Manager of Planning and Development to support Development Application 7919-0031-00.

Carried

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Farm Tour Discussion

Staff noted the farm tour is expected to take place in 2020. The Committee preferred June and discussed putting information together on what is being produced on the farms.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) Update

At the July 31, 2019 ESAC meeting, there was discussion on single use plastics and an initiative to make Boundary Bay the Bird Capital of Canada. It was noted there are biodegradable bail wraps, however they are corn based and rodents would easily eat away at them.

H. INTEGRITY OF THE AGRICULTURE LAND

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Emergency Preparedness

Concerns were expressed on whether the City has a strategy in place in the event of a catastrophic earthquake and how the population would be fed. Concerns were expressed on how to secure food and what security measures are in place to secure main food resources and warehouses.

The Committee noted the benefit in having a strategy in place and what Surrey could achieve leading one.

The Committee expressed the idea to invite the appropriate staff to provide a presentation on current Emergency Preparedness strategies in place.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Agriculture and Food Policy Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in 2E Community Room B.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Bose
Seconded by P. Harrison
That the Agriculture and Food Policy

Advisory Committee meeting is adjourned.

Carried

The Agriculture and Food Security Policy Committee adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Jack Hundial, Chair