

Present:

Councillor Bose, Chair
Councillor Bains, Vice Chair
R. Brar
H. Dhillon
S. Keulen
S. Rai
M. Schutzbank
R. Tamis
R. Vanderende

Absent:

P. Harrison
R. Sihota

Staff Present:

D. Luymes, General Manager, Planning & Development
S. Meng, Administrative Assistant

H. Dhillon and R. Brar joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

A roundtable of introductions was held.

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

It was

Moved by Councillor Bains
Seconded by M. Schutzbank
That the agenda of the Agricultural and Food
Policy Committee meeting of March 7, 2023, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

This section had no items to consider.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

This section had no items to consider.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Committee Expectations**

A roundtable discussion of what is expected of Committee members was passed and the following information was highlighted:

- The Committee consists of farmers who represent the Agriculture and Food industry.
- The Committee will use their expertise to provide Council the best recommendation for Council to make informed decisions for the City.
- The Committee will use their independent skills and come together as a collective to create and work collaboratively to provide recommendations and motions in a respectful manner.
- The Committee will take in account of every member's opinion to make informed decisions.
- The Committee will preserve, grow, and promote agricultural in Surrey.
- The Committee will prioritize growing and building agriculture within Surrey.
- The Committee will look for ways to improve profitability, price of land, and have the City support overall profitability of farms across Surrey.
- The Committee will work with local leaders such as KPU and SFU in research, automation work, innovation technology, and geonomics.
- The Committee will provide advice to the City on policies and plans which effect agriculture and food.

2. Review of the Terms of Reference

The Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference and requested the following changes:

Section 3: Membership

- Replace the words 'The Committee membership may include two (2) non-voting members:' with 'The Committee membership may include one (1) of four (4) non-voting members:'

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

- Quorum for the Committee meeting is a majority of the voting membership of six.
- Any Committee members absent for three or more meetings per year without reason to the Committee Chair may be removed from the Committee by Council.
- If meetings are held offsite, staff would need to provide public notification two weeks in advance of the location and identify the location in the meeting minutes.
- All meetings are held public and attendees from the public are only allowed to listen and can not participate in the discussion unless invited by the Chair or the Committee.
- If Committee members have a conflict of interest, they are asked to excuse themselves from the discussion.
- Delegation requests are required to be approved from the Committee prior to presenting at the meeting.

It was

Moved by S. Rai

Seconded by H. Dhillon

That the Agricultural and Food Policy

Committee (AFPC) recommend to Council amend the AFPC Terms of Reference by replacing the words 'The Committee membership may include two (2) non-voting members:' with 'The Committee membership may include one (1) of four (4) non-voting members:' in section 3. Membership, subsection (e).

Carried

3. Annual Workplan

The Committee provided the following suggestions for the 2023 Committee Workplan:

- Hold a diking stakeholders meeting to allow farmers meet with staff regarding upgrades and actions around pump stations.
- Review lowland drainage profile and the serpentine nickelback plan which includes different approaches to upline drainage strategies, Integrated Stormwater Management Plan, infiltration rainwater, and urban areas.
- Coordinate an agricultural farm tour and farm summit for October and November.
- Review and monitor the C-DAM program.

- Review the Official Community Plan and farm plan with focus on agriculture buffer interface between urban development and farmland.
- Review farm labour transportation and farm access in the lowlands in relation to city's transportation projects, specifically the busy intersection on 168 Street north side and highway 10 poses challenges for farm workers.
- Review unpermitted use of truck parking and apply enforcement.
- Identifying a dedicated planner and/or building official to assist in the processes involved in the agriculture industry.
- Review the farm worker housing strategy.
- Review the water course and environment regulations regarding the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).
- Procurement of agriculture and food to the city.
- Find ways to promote agricultural investment and tourism.
- Review emergency preparedness strategies regarding food policy, food security, and hunger.
- Review impact of climate change towards agriculture.

The General Manager, Planning and Development, will draft a workplan based on the comments provided and bring it forward to the Committee for feedback.

It was

Moved by S. Van Keulen

Seconded by R. Brar

That the Agricultural and Food Policy

Committee recommend that Council direct the General Manager of Planning and the General Manager of Engineering work with TransLink to advocate for appropriate bus service along main farm routes specifically 184 Street and 168 Street to assist with farm worker transportation.

Carried

4. 2023 Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee reviewed the proposed 2023 meeting schedule. Meetings are proposed to be held in person, whenever possible, on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. No meetings are scheduled for August and December. Staff were requested to investigate the logistics related to holding meetings at the Works Yard.

It was

Moved by M. Schutzbank
Seconded by R. Brar
That the Agricultural and Food Policy
Committee adopted the 2023 meeting schedule as presented.
Carried

E. CORRESPONDENCE

This section had no items to consider.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

This section had no items to consider.

G. OTHER BUSINESS

This section had no items to consider.

H. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Agriculture and Food Policy Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2023 with proposed location in Meeting Room 125 A and B at Surrey Operations Centre.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. Van Keulen
Seconded by S. Rai
That the Agricultural and Food Policy
Committee meeting be adjourned.
Carried

Committee meeting be adjourned.

The Agricultural and Food Policy Committee adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Bose, Chairperson