

Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2013
Time: 9:01 a.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chairperson – M. Bose
D. Arnold
P. Harrison
M. Hilmer
J. Sandhar
K. Thiara
S. VanKeulen

Regrets:

Councillor Hepner
T. Pellett, Agricultural Land Commission

Environmental Advisory Committee**Representative:**

B. Stewart

Guest Observers:

G. Rice
F. Scales

Staff Present:

J. Arason, Engineering
C. Baron, Engineering
R. Dubé, Engineering
C. Stewart, Planning & Development
M. Kischnick, Planning & Development
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

Agency Representatives:

K. Zimmerman, Ministry of Agriculture

ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

It was Moved by P. Harrison
Seconded by D. Arnold
That the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory
Committee appoint Mike Bose as Vice-Chair for the 2013 calendar year.
Carried

It was Moved by D. Arnold
Seconded by J. Sandhar
That the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory
Committee appoint Stan Van Keulen as the Agriculture and Food Security Representative to
the Environmental Advisory Committee for the 2013 calendar year.
Carried

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by D. Arnold
Seconded by J. Sandhar
That the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory
Committee adopt the minutes of the October 11, 2012, meeting.
Carried

It was Moved by J. Sandhar
Seconded by P. Harrison
That the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory
Committee adopt the minutes of the December 6, 2012, meeting.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Jaspreet Rahal, Manager, By-law & Licensing Services**

At the December 6, 2012 Committee meeting, it was requested that the new By-law & Licensing Services Manager, Jaspreet Rahal, be in attendance at the next meeting for an introduction to the Committee and to provide an update on various issues/concerns the Committee has raised recently pertaining to illegal non-farm uses occurring within the ALR.

An update for each of the sites previously identified to the By-laws department was provided, noting that the process has been started for many of the sites and that staff are currently working with the various property owners and monitoring for compliance. For those property owners that have continued to be non-compliant, it was reported that court injunctions were being sought.

Discussion ensued with respect to the perception of 'allowable' non-compliance of various agricultural lands and the need for some form of advertising to let the general public know that the City and the ALC are aware of these infractions. It was suggested that an awareness campaign such as a generic notice or letter be used to outline the lengthy process involved, and that the City will and is proceeding with the necessary actions required to resolve the non-compliance, would help to assure the farming community that their concerns are being addressed.

2. Carrie Baron, Drainage and Environment Manager

Further to the presentation provided (Fall 2012) to the Committee on the Upper Nicomekl Servicing Strategy, C. Baron, Drainage and Environment Manager, was in attendance to provide an update, discuss the Surrey Dyking District transition and call for interested parties to set up a Lowland Dyke Stakeholders Committee.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided outlining the lowland flood control project and the work that has been done to manage flooding. It was noted that there has been 70 kilometers of dykes and 9 pump stations installed since 1999 (more than \$40 million spent) and that staff are currently working on conveyance improvements (ensure water gets to the pumps, etc.) for the next while. One of the challenges has been the bridges; many have been raised, but there are still a few that are quite low and/or can't be raised and are fairly slow. The works have been improving the productivity in a lot of the lands and bridges have helped to keep the water levels down. Over the last 5 years, more than 200 hectares is now being farmed. A substantial amount is at ARDSA standard now that wasn't before. A presentation of the work the City has done was also provided to the ALC in December.

J. Arason, Manager, Utilities, reported that currently there isn't a flood protected roadway to South Surrey and that plans are underway to address this. The areas that have the right-to-flood, the properties that do not have the ability to meet ARDSA requirements and the work the City is doing to address this, which includes sharing some of the expense with the City of Langley and the Township of Langley, were also identified.

J. Arason further responded to the recent advertisements regarding the Dyking Districts and the City's solicitation for volunteer membership of a stakeholder committee to work with the City. A background of the Provincially enacted legislation of the *Drainage Ditch Act*, which gave taxing authority, and the repeal of that legislation, which was extended from 2010 to December 31, 2012 and again recently extended for a further and final 3 years, was provided.

It was noted that a report from the General Manager, Engineering, to provide information about the pending dissolution of the Colebrook Dyking District and the Surrey Dyking District and to outline actions that are being taken by staff in relation to these matters, will be considered by Council at their January 14, 2013 Regular Council Public Hearing meeting. The report will be seeking Council's recommendation to authorize staff to continue to work with the Surrey Dyking District and the Province with a view to the City of Surrey assuming responsibility for the Surrey Dyking District in 2013, and to authorize staff to inform appropriate Provincial officials and representatives of the Colebrook Dyking District that the City is not able to assume responsibility for the Colebrook Dyking District at this time. [This legislation does not impact the Mud Bay Dyking District].

In closing, the Committee queried a report by the Province addressing climate change and how to vacate lands that would be flooded, noting that although the Province has never contributed to strategic dyking controls, they have recently made some recommendations for design criteria for dykes, subsidence, freeboard, seismic, sea level rise, etc., but the approach fails to consider the combined probability of all of this to happen at one time. Staff reported that there hasn't been a cost benefit analysis of \$800 million for seismic improvements and that they are presently working with the Province to revise the design criteria; the magnitude of the improvements are extreme, both provincial and federal support will be needed.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Follow-up: Phil Harrison and Tony Beck, Coalition for a GE Free Surrey - Delegation, December 6, 2012

Further to the delegation received on December 6, 2012 from Phil Harrison and Tony Beck, Coalition for a GE Free Surrey, and the Committee's invitation to Dr. Thierry Vrain, knowledgeable about GE Food, as a delegation at a future meeting, it was reported that Dr. Vrain has advised he will require 45 minutes for his presentation. As such, the Committee requested a printed copy of Dr. Vrain's presentation material, for review and further consideration.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Metro Vancouver Agriculture Advisory Committee (MVAAC) Update

AFSAC member and MVAAC member, D. Arnold, circulated a copy of the summary results of the recent study "Metro Vancouver Landowner Interviews - December 2012". The study, commissioned by the MVAAC, is in regard to the lands (or portions thereof) not being farmed for the region.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**F. CORRESPONDENCE****G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **Update for Rezoning and Development Permit Adjacent to ALR
15250 and 15330 – 54A Avenue**
File No.: 7912-0206-00

The memo received from Keith Broersma, Planner, South Surrey Section, dated December 21, 2012, was provided as confirmation that there will not be any vaccinium planting on the subject site, as recommended by the Committee.

2. **Lot Line Removal (Subdivision)**
4552 and 4624 192 Street
File No.: 7910-0008-00

Provided to the Committee for information, N. Androsoff, Planning Technician, reviewed the memo from Ron Hintsche, Current Planning Manager – South, dated December 21, 2012, regarding the above subject line.

3. **BC Farm Assessment Changes:**
 - What's New in Farm Assessment
(<http://www.bcassessment.ca/public/Pages/What'snewinFarmAssessment.aspx>)
 - Frequently Asked Question: Farm Assessment Review Panel (FARP)
(<http://www.farmassessmentreview.ca/pdfs/FARP-FAQ.pdf>)

4. **City of Richmond Genetically Engineered Free BC (Background Information)**
 - City of Richmond, General Purpose Committee, May 22, 2012 Minutes and City of Richmond Staff Report: Response to Genetically Engineered Fee BC Resolution
(http://www.richmond.ca/_shared/assets/GE_Free_GP_05221232994.pdf)
 - City of Toronto ban on shark fin soup struck down
(<http://www.davis.ca/en/entry/municipal-and-planning-law/municipalities-ban-on-shark-fin-soup-struck-down>)

It was Moved by B. Stewart
Seconded P. Harrison. harrison
That the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory
Committee receive all Information Items G.1 – G.4.
Carried

H. INTEGRITY OF THE AGRICULTURE LAND

The following concerns were noted for staff to review:

- (Location provided to staff) – the legitimacy of the building permit for a ‘farm building for farm equipment’ was queried.
- (Location provided to staff) – reminder to staff of previously reported non-compliance.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Update

It was reported that there were no pertinent items related to AFSAC at the EAC meeting of December 12, 2012.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee will be held on **Thursday, February 7, 2013**, in the **Executive Boardroom**.

K. ADJOURNMENT

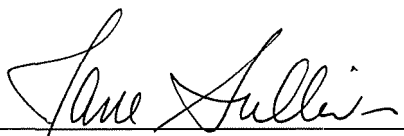
It was

Moved by B. Sandhu
Seconded by P. Harrison
That the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory

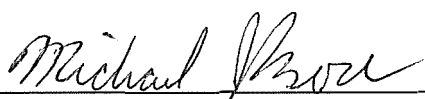
Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

The Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:29 a.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Mike Bose, Vice Chair
Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee