

Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee Minutes

Present:

Chairperson - M. Bose
M. Hilmer
J. Sandhar
B. Sandhu
S. VanKeulen
B. Stewart

Regrets:

Councillor L. Hepner - Chairperson
D. Arnold
P. Harrison
K. Thiara

Staff Present:

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

Guest Observers:

N. Ensing
G. Rice
N. Sckhon

Agency Representatives:

K. Zimmerman, Ministry of
Agriculture

The meeting was called to order and the Committee was requested to pass a motion to amend the Agenda to reflect the following changes:

Outstanding Business: New item C.1 - Meeting with Ministry of Environment

It was Moved by B. Stewart
Seconded by J. Sandhar
That the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory
Committee Agenda of April 3, 2014, be amended as requested.

Carried

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by M. Hilmer
Seconded by J. Sandhar
That the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory
Committee adopt the minutes of the February 6, 2014 meeting.

Carried

Date corrected as per research

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Carrie Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager**

The Drainage and Environment Manager was in attendance to discuss the application details to construct or expand existing manure tanks, and the design implications to the floodplain. Comments were as follows:

- The purpose of bringing this issue before the Committee is to determine whether or not the Committee wants or needs to give input on unusual proposals or significant design features of these manure tanks.

- A recent example showcasing a significant manure tank design, located in the Serpentine Nicomekl floodplain, was provided. The design is not a covered pit, with the rainwater being almost as much volume as the manure pit with 5:1 side slopes. Even though the footprint takes up less room, it will still have an impact on the floodplain.

The Committee was asked for their comments regarding what a reasonable design looks like and if future application designs should be reviewed by the AFSAC. The Committee responded as follows:

- It is understandable why the example provided would want to increase the size of the manure pit and have a 5:1 slope as water is required for irrigation and in order to function well, the water would need to be agitated. The dyke on the top allows for safe driving around the pit.
- With respect to the manure pit being sized beyond the needs of the farm, it would be easy to verify that the farm was in full-capacity and that a manure pit of that size was required and proportional to the size of the farm.
- There are only 5 or 6 dairy farms in Surrey. However as the Ministry of Environment becomes more restrictive with fresh water for blueberry farmers, and farmers will need to build more water reservoirs, increasingly the City is going to see more proposals with design features similar to the example given.
- The design of these dyke-style manure pits may not be incredibly efficient. The purpose of bringing these kinds of design proposals forward is so that the Committee can give input, ensuring that the agricultural lands in Surrey are being safeguarded as much as possible. The Committee will be able to give recommendations to staff, and in turn, staff can limit the amount of fill coming into the dykes.
- Even though the floodplain area is quite large and perhaps one farm with a larger manure pit that encroaches on the agricultural land will not make a huge difference, it does not disregard the fact that standards need to be in place via the Committee's input on each unique proposal.
- The MOE has yet to change their standards however they are still likely two to three years away from having updated standards in place.

It was

Moved by B. Sandhu

Seconded by M. Hilmer

That the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory

Committee recommend to the G.M Engineering that manure pit applications with significant footprints and impacts within the lowlands, be provided to the Committee for review.

Carried

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Meeting with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

With respect to water irrigation issues, K. Zimmerman, Ministry of Agriculture, followed up to the invitation extended at the February AFSAC meeting to set up a

meeting with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, City staff, AFSAC members and Ministry of Agriculture staff, to see if there are any options for water license management in Surrey for this summer.

Possible dates for the meeting are being considered, anticipated to take place sometime in May. Interested Committee members confirmed their availability, and it was also noted that C. Baron, Drainage and Environment Manager, and two additional Engineering staff members will also be attending.

It was suggested that it would be helpful to have a wider cross-section of farmers to also attend the meeting.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Proposed Rezoning and Subdivision Within the ALR 17030 Friesian Drive** File No.: 7913-0141-00

Donald Nip, Planner, was in attendance to review the memo from J. Robertson, Manager, Area Planning and Development - North, dated March 20, 2014, regarding the above subject line. Comments were as follows:

- The property is approximately 1.2 hectares (3.0 acres) in size, with the southern half of the site located within the ALR, and zoned A-1 and RA.
- The applicant is proposing to rezone the northern portion of the property from RA and A-1 to RF to allow subdivision into six single family lots.
- The proposed RF lots 1 - 6 range in size and are similar in size to the existing RF lots to the east. The proposed A-1 lot 7 is approximately 0.7 hectares (1.8 acres) in size, which includes a panhandle portion to allow vehicular access to 57 Avenue.
- ALC approval is not required for this application.
- City Policy O-23 requires the minimum setback between the ALR and the principal building for lots backing onto the ALR to be 37.5m. The building setbacks for proposed Lots 4 -6 will be approximately 13m, which is consistent with the building setbacks established on the existing lots to the east.

The Committee commented as follows:

- From a planning point of view, it would be better to have the access parallel to the lots so the farmer does not have to drive through the subdivision to get to his land.
- There is no NCP for this area. The best thing for this situation would be to consolidate the lot with the portion of land to the east, as it has already been raised and filled. It was reported that the lot to the west is not ready to subdivide at this time.
- This application does not comply with the buffering and setback requirements of Policy O-23 or the Agricultural Development Permit Area Guidelines
- This application needs to be reconfigured; if it were 4 lots only there would be less concern.

It was Moved by S. VanKeulen
Seconded by B. Stewart
That the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory
Committee recommend to the G.M Planning and Development, that Application No.
7913-0141-00 not be supported because it does not comply with Policy O-23 or the
Agricultural Development Permit Area Guidelines.
Carried

S. VanKeulen left the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Metro Vancouver
File No.: 0450-01

Letter, dated March 11, 2014, from Paulette Vetleson, Director, Board and Information
Services/Corporate Officer re: Regional Growth Strategy.

It was Moved by B. Stewart
Seconded M. Hilmer
That the Agriculture and Food Security
Advisory Committee receive the letter from Paulette Vetleson, Director, Board and
Information Services/Corporate Officer, Metro Vancouver, dated March 11, 2014,
regarding the Regional Growth Strategy, as information.
Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) Update

The agenda items for the ESAC meetings of February 26, 2014 and March 26, 2014 were
reviewed, and it was reported that there were no issues pertaining to agriculture at
those meetings. However, it was noted that ESAC currently has a pilot project
underway using pesticides for aphid control in an effort to limit tree loss. It was
further noted that the ESAC are reinstating the "Green Awards" and the call for
nominations (three categories) will be issued soon.

2. **The Province News Article: "Changes to the ALR could see more business on farmland"**

File No.: 6880-75

Staff is currently looking into the long-term effects of changes to the ALR. The Committee discussed the possibility of having an ALC representative speak at an upcoming AFSAC meeting.

It was

Moved by B. Sandhu

Seconded J. Sandhar

That the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee invite a representative from the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) to discuss the recent changes within the *ALC Act*.

Carried

H. INTEGRITY OF THE AGRICULTURE LAND

All issues from the previous meeting are currently being investigated. There were no new concerns noted for staff to review.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2014, in City Hall, 1E - Community Room A, 13450 - 104 Avenue.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

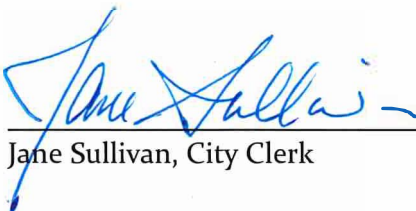
Moved by M. Hilmer

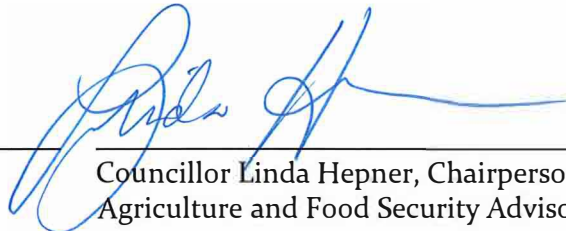
Seconded by B. Stewart

That the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

The Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:54 a.m.


Jane Sullivan, City Clerk


Councillor Linda Hepner, Chairperson
Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee