

Agriculture & Food Security Advisory Committee Minutes

2E - Community Room A
City Hall
13450 - 104 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2015
Time: 9:00 a.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Councillor Starchuk - Chair
M. Bose - Vice-Chair
D. Arnold
P. Harrison
M. Hilmer
J. Sandhar
B. Sandhu

Regrets:

S. VanKeulen
J. Gosal, Youth Representative

Min. of Agriculture Rep.

D. Geesing

ESAC Representative

Guests:

S. Sekhon
N. Sekhon
Pacific Land Group (2 reps)
K. Mullinix

Staff Present:

M. Kischnick, Planning & Development
C. Stewart, Planning & Development
R. Dube, Engineering
C. Bejtovic, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by M. Bose

Seconded by M. Hilmer

That the minutes of the Agriculture and
Food Security Advisory Committee meeting, held January 15, 2015, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

**1. Kent Mullinix, Director, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems
Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU)**

In attendance before the Committee to give a brief overview of the Southwest BC
Bio-Region Food System Design Project.

The following comments were made:

- KPU has been working with municipalities throughout Southwest British Columbia to execute the Bio-Region Food System Design Project. Kwantlen wants to make sure this Committee understands the project and is supportive of the City's engagement in it.
 - The Project is an unprecedented economic and community development and agriculture development study. It is designed and intended to look into potential outcomes of developing a substantially regionalized food system in southwest BC to complement the existing agricultural sector.
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- Four universities were involved in this 3.5 year study: KPU, UFV, UBC and Van Doren University in Israel. (One of the staff at Van Doren studied at UBC and is the world's leading expert on BC's food system carbon footprint.) The study attempts to make a case that we can grow our food system carbon footprint.
- To date 18 municipalities in southwest BC have fully engaged in the project and another 18 community organizations in the area have also endorsed the project.
- The objectives of the design are straightforward:
 - Maximize the region's ability to produce food for people who live here;
 - Maximize economic opportunities for the agricultural sector in terms of diversification, and in doing so create potential for job growth and business opportunities; and
 - Address some environmental issues that face agriculture such as greenhouse gas emissions.
- A computational model has been developed that has not previously existed. Its function is to maximize regional food self-reliance. With this model we can calculate exactly how much we are able to produce in the myriad of foods that we commonly eat and determine what level of production we need. This is being done for each of the five regional districts in southwest BC. Post production requirements will also be calculated to freeze, store, can, etc., to maximize regional production for regional consumption.
- The goal at the end of the project is to bring forth a vision for a substantially regionalized food system to complement the existing agricultural sector, and to make a strong data driven case for municipal and provincial government to support policy and development of this sector of the agriculture industry.
- The delegation is asking all municipalities in the five regional districts and regional government to engage in this project and to do three things:
 1. Endorse the project;
 2. Assign a staff liaison either from planning or economic development; and
 3. Contribute modest funding.
- This 1.3 million dollar project is just shy of being fully funded. Half of the funds are in-kind contributions from universities engaged in the project.

Discussion

The delegation has been in discussions with Metro Vancouver since inception of the project to determine how the project will integrate with Metro Vancouver's initiative on food sustainability. Senior staff and the Metro Agriculture Committee are fully supportive of the project.

In terms of assigning a staff liaison, this would require a commitment minimally of eight to ten hours a year. The purpose would be to brainstorm with planners and economic development staff and get direction as to where information is and what is available.

The BC Agriculture Council is the original endorser of the project; the Agricultural Land Commission and BC Agriculture have committed funding to the project.

The Committee suggested that any study of this nature needs to have involvement from the organizations and the people who are farming, and that the BC Blueberry Council is an important component. In response, the delegation stated that the kind of agriculture the project deals with is different from commodity agriculture and is more focused on smaller scale direct market agriculture. However, they will continue to engage the breadth of agriculture in the project.

It was
Advisory Committee receive this information and review at the April meeting.

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

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Backyard Chickens and Disease Control Measures Information

M. Bose provided a verbal update regarding poultry operations and disease control measures and updating the information guide for the Backyard Chicken Pilot Project.

The following comments were made:

- During the three months of avian flu outbreak in southern BC many restrictions were put in place. When an outbreak is identified, commercial growers immediately begin to meet almost daily and the team disseminates information to commercial growers. That process has improved tremendously from 2004 to 2015.
- Commercial growers support the permitting process for backyard chickens because they believe it is a way to identify where backyard operations are located so that in the event of an outbreak information can be disseminated. In 2004 one of the delays was finding those backyard flocks.
- In the United States most of the avian outbreak was in backyard flocks. The last three or four outbreaks in BC were also in non-commercial flocks. Due to the lack of information, some owners of backyard flocks were allowing their chickens to run free, and didn't understand that no movement is allowed without a permit when illness arises.

- The Pilot Project Guidelines may need to be adjusted to establish a way of communicating accurate information so that the entire process runs more smoothly and everyone is informed and protected.
- The Committee will be receiving a binder on the Backyard Chicken Pilot Project, which is to be reviewed in the fall.
- The CFIA has a guide on backyard flocks with information on who to contact if a flock gets sick, and is currently provided to those registered in the Pilot Project.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Application for lot line adjustment subdivision proposal of properties located at 16018 and 16082 - 40 Avenue**
File: 7914-0371-00

The following comments were made:

- The applicants propose a lot line adjustment of the two subject properties to create two reconfigured lots. Lot 1 will increase to 4.18 ha and Lot 2 will decrease in area to 8.37 ha.
- There are currently two dwellings located on 16082 - 40 Avenue (single family dwelling and a modular home); there are no dwellings on 16018 - 40 Avenue. The smaller two acre parcel currently allows for one single family dwelling; adjusting the lot line may allow for one additional single family dwelling for farm help based on the A-1 provisions. The application proposes to keep the farm home plate on Lot 1; there are no immediate plans to construct a dwelling on Lot 2.
- This proposal requires the approval of the Agricultural Land Commission and conforms to the standards for subdivision in the Agriculture Zone.
- The proposal is in compliance with the OCP which designates the subject site as Agricultural.

Discussion

The Committee noted that this would be favourable for agriculture. It was also noted this should not be viewed as a subdivision proposal; it is simply a lot line adjustment.

There are currently no plans to build another home even though the zoning by-law would allow for a second dwelling for farm help on the property.

It was Moved by M. Bose
 Seconded by J. Sandhar
 That the Agriculture and Food Security
 Advisory Committee recommend Council approve the application for lot line
 adjustment subdivision proposal of properties located at 16018 and 16082 - 40 Avenue
 with full support from the Committee.
Carried

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter of Complaint from "Concerned Residents of Surrey"

Re: Galvanizing Plant under construction in Surrey

The Chair advised that discussions are under way with the property owners and managers of the facility to have a representative come and speak to this Committee to clarify the facts. They will be invited to speak to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) as well. There are new standards in place for the operation of this type of facility; WorkPlace BC has been contacted for information.

The land has the correct zoning; the issue is around the type of business going into that zoning, for example no smoke, no vibration, ground water protection. No flags have been raised based on chemicals, processes, containment; however, it is unclear if anything has changed since construction began.

EBCO has advised that containment dyking is located inside the building itself; nothing is done outside.

The Committee expressed its gratitude for being included in the process and being invited to comment. There are concerns about the impact of fill on the survivability of the trees.

It was Moved by M. Bose
 Seconded by P. Harrison
 That staff invite a delegation from EBCO to
 attend a future meeting of the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee
 (AFSAC) to provide information on the operation of the galvanizing plant under
 construction in Surrey.

Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) Update

There was no update from the ESAC meeting of February 25.

2. Proposed Industrial Development - Campbell Heights

Memo from Planning and Development - Information Only
File: 7914-0360-00

This memo provides a project description for the proposed industrial development at Campbell Heights and was received for information.

3. Tourism Surrey - Food with Thought 2015 Guide
(Hard copy of Guide provided on table)

Staff provided an update on Tourism Surrey's 2015 "Food with Thought" Guide profiling local farms, restaurants, businesses and food in Surrey.

The following comments were made:

- The Guide contains interesting articles on agriculture and actively promotes vendors. Tourism Surrey staff has contacted the Surrey Farmers' Market for a future profile as they should be included, but has not yet had a response.
- It was suggested staff use what is in the guide as an avenue to fill the Celebrity Chef cooking stage at this year's Flavours of Surrey event.
- More information is available at www.foodwiththought.ca

4. Miscellaneous

- The Committee questioned the amount of fill used at a property at 64 Avenue and 152 Street. Measurements at the back of the fill came in at 86 meters; 50 meters is the allowable limit. Staff noted that the fill permit was issued in 2010, prior to the zoning bylaw changes which included the maximum farm residential footprint and setback restrictions.
- The Committee inquired as to the status of the number of trucks parked at a property north of 32 Avenue on 176 Street. Staff advised it is being dealt with.

H. INTEGRITY OF THE AGRICULTURE LAND

I. OTHER BUSINESS**1. AFSAC 2015 Work Plan**

The 2015 Work Plan will be reviewed at the next AFSAC meeting once the new members have come on board.

2. Vehicle Registration Guidelines

Committee members are required to complete a new Vehicle Registration Form (attached).

3. 2015 Good Citizen Award

Members are invited to submit the name of an individual they feel would be a candidate for the 2015 Good Citizen Award. (Nomination form is attached to the agenda package.) The deadline for nominations is March 30, 2015 @ 4:30 p.m.

4. Some Committee members attended the Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) workshop; it was helpful to be able to network. It is nice to see that what this Committee started here 20 years ago is the framework for what is being done around the Province and at the Ministry level.**5. Councillor Starchuk spoke about the changes being made to AFSAC. With "Food Security" being part of the acronym for AFSAC, the decision was made to increase the Committee by two and include two representatives from the area of food security.****J. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee to be held on Thursday, April 2, 2015, in 2E - Community Room A.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Bose


Seconded by P. Harrison

That the Agriculture and Food Security

Advisory Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:18 a.m.


Jane Sullivan, City Clerk


Councillor Starchuk, Chair