

Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee Minutes

Present:

Councillor Starchuk, Chair
M. Bose, Vice-Chair
B. Sandhu
B. Seed
D. Arnold
G. Hahn
H. Dhillon
J. Sandhar
M. Hilmer
S. VanKeulen

Agency Representative:

D. Geesing

Regrets:

P. Harrison

Staff Present:

A. Capuccinello, Legal Services
C. Stewart, Planning & Development
O. Croy, Parks, Recreation & Culture
R. Dube, Engineering
S. Neuman, Design & Construction
S. Wu, Economic Investment Strategist
C. Eagles, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The committee is requested to pass a motion adopting the minutes of October 29, 2015.

It was

Moved by M. Bose

Seconded by D. Arnold

That the minutes of the Agriculture and
Food Security Advisory Committee meeting held October 29, 2015 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Deirdre Goudriaan, Food Action Coalition Presentation**
File: 0250-20

In attendance before the committee to provide a presentation on integrated food security.

The following comments were made:

- The Food Action Coalition is a collection of agencies who are working on the "Moving Food Policy Forward in Surrey and White Rock" project. They are observing how food security works within the City of Surrey community. The coalition's definition of food security includes preservation of farmland and farmers.

- The Food Action Coalition is raising awareness of where our food is produced and is interested in integrating and teaching the new generation of farmers how to grow their own food and protect the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). The goal of the Food Action Coalition is to support local farmers and farmland.
- The delegation noted that the vast majority of why families eat poorly is based on social and economic conditions. New immigrants experience challenges obtaining healthy food because of their employment status. Low-income families have a difficult time finding work and staying out of poverty, which tends to result in poor eating. Retailers mark-up costs on locally sold products, making it difficult for low-income families to purchase healthy fruits and vegetables.
- The Food Action Coalition is hoping for an integrated approach across the City of Surrey in supporting local farms and farmland. They would like to see a systematic approach to address food security and would like to discuss the challenges and solutions to close the gap.
- In order for the new generation to learn necessary skills on how to cook and preserve food, integration between the City of Surrey, the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee and the Food Action Coalition is a key factor to support.
- A member of the committee shared their experience in providing healthy fresh foods to local food banks. The food bank facilities do not have enough storage, coolers, and refrigerators to house products given from local farmers. The food banks, and other large companies the farms supply, do not accept produce that does not look “perfect” to the public; therefore, a vast majority of fresh produce is thrown out.
- A member of the committee noted that a traditional service offered by temples in Surrey is to provide free food to those who need it. The committee would like to connect with the temples to see if they can partner in providing food.
- The Committee supports, in principle, the concept of an integrated food security system as presented by the Food Action Coalition.

It was

Moved by B. Seed

Seconded by M. Bose

That the Agriculture and Food Security

Advisory Committee (AFSAC):

1. Support building on the Metro Vancouver Regional Food Strategy,
2. Receive Food Action Collation (FAC) report as information; and,
3. Encourage coordination between AFSAC, FAC and other City of Surrey Departments.

Carried

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**D. NEW BUSINESS****1. Farm Tours and Flavours of Surrey**
Carla Stewart, Senior Planner

The following comments were made:

- Staff brought to the attention of the committee that there are ongoing challenges with operating Flavours of Surrey and asked the committee if they would prefer to continue with the initiative as is or lean towards other efforts to connect the public more directly to agriculture. The public enjoys the farm animals and food presentations but there does not seem to be a real connection with the Flavours of Surrey food vendors or the agricultural information handed out.
- Staff requested committee feedback regarding whether farm tours would be supported in place of Flavours of Surrey. Members of the committee noted that they would like to re-start the farm tour program and create an agricultural week with speakers and workshops, and possibly have the Food Action Coalition involved.
- Staff clarified that this was just an initial inquiry to determine if the committee was interested in focusing attention to farm tours instead of Flavours of Surrey. Logistics and funding are still required to determine if the farm tours are possible.

It was

Moved by M. Bose

Seconded by S. Van Keulen

That Agriculture and Food Security Advisory

Committee recommend staff move forward with looking at ideas to create a farm tour and speaker series and pursue funding from the Ministry of Agriculture and Surrey City Council.

Carried

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**F. CORRESPONDENCE****1. Surrey Urban Farm Market**
File: 0520-20

Correspondence was received from Nicole Ensing requesting to appear as a delegation to present an overview of the Surrey Urban Farm Market at the January 14, 2016 Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee meeting.

It was

Moved by M. Bose

Seconded by D. Arnold

That the Agriculture and Food Security

Advisory Committee accept the Surrey Urban Farm Market's request to appear as a delegation at the January 14, 2016, AFSAC meeting.

Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Virtual Incubator Farm Project**
Stephen Wu, Economic Investment Strategist
File: Verbal Update

In attendance before the committee to provide a brief update on the Virtual Incubator Farm Project

The following comments were made:

- The Virtual Incubator Farm Project will allow Surrey to pilot an initiative to connect those land owners who are interested in leasing their land to those who are interested in farming it.
- An application was submitted to Vancity EnviroFund where a forty-thousand (\$40,000.00) dollar grant was provided to the Project. The Project requirements are in the process of being finalized with partners including Young Agrarians, the Ministry of Agriculture, South Fraser Community Futures and University of Fraser Valley to develop the platform. Creation of the virtual component will start in January 2016 and will be fully built by the end of 2016.
- It is anticipated that the Project will encourage other communities to adopt similar models as well.

H. INTEGRITY OF THE AGRICULTURE LAND

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Consideration for Road Opening of Winter Crescent through 3600 King George Boulevard**
Scott Neuman, Manager, Design and Construction
Tony Cappuccino, Assistant City Solicitor, Legal Services
File: 1714-901-00

The following comments were made:

- The subject lands are necessary for the proposed new local road connection that will improve public safety, accessibility and traffic flow. Staff requested comments from committee members for the extension of the road. Members supported the road extension but had concerns with the long-term agricultural plans for the lands acquired. The Committee expressed concern that the lands will no longer be productive ALR lands. At the very least they would like the site managed and mowed regularly so it can remain as a green grazing area and habitat for ducks and geese to reduce pressure on other farming lands. Leaving the land fallow is not a good option.
- Staff clarified that the lands will remain in the ALR. The lands were acquired for the road connection, for bio-diversity and passive recreation. A Concept Plan for the parks portion of the land has not yet been developed, but any such plans will take into account input from various committees of Council and also public input. The preferred park master plan will be submitted to Council for endorsement.

It was Moved by S. Van Keulen
 Seconded by J. Sandhar
 That the Agriculture and Food Security
 Advisory Committee supports the road extension with a caveat that Parks,
 Recreation, and Culture Department ensures the lands stay as a formal park area
 and remain in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

Carried
 with G. Hahn opposed.

**2. Proposed Campbell/ Hazelmere truck facility/ re-zoning Development
 Application No. 1714-901-00
 File: N/A**

The following comments were made:

- The Chair noted that the proposed re-zoning application No. 1714-901-00 still has many requirements before it can be considered. The Committee members expressed concern as it is not ALR but it is zoned as farmland.

**3. Application to Exclude Land from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)
 File: N/A – On table**

The following comments were made:

- A report was circulated on table regarding a property that went to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) to have the property excluded and the application was approved. There are still significant issues that need to be addressed and dealt with before the property can be developed.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee will be held on January 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in 1E Community Meeting Room B.

K. ADJOURNMENT


It was

Moved by M. Bose
Seconded by D. Arnold
That the Agriculture and Food Security

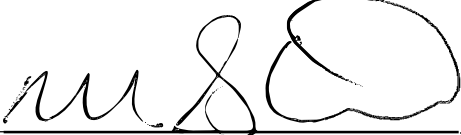
Advisory Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee adjourned at 11:00 a.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Councillor Mike Starchuk, Chair