

Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee Minutes

2E - Community Room B
City Hall
13450 - 104 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2016
Time: 9:06 a.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

M. Bose, Vice-Chair
B. Sandhu
B. Seed
D. Arnold
G. Hahn
J. Sandhar
J. Zelazny
M. Hilmer
P. Harrison
S. VanKeulen

Agency Representative:

D. Geesing

Regrets:

Councillor Starchuk, Chair
H. Dhillon

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Engineering
C. Stewart, Planning & Development
D. Luymes, Community Planning
E. Desautels, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator
M. Baynham, Planning & Development
M. Kischnick, Planning & Development
R. Dube, Engineering
R. Gilmore, Planning & Development
C. Eagles, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The committee will be requested to pass a motion adopting the minutes of May 5, 2016.

It was

Moved by M. Hilmer

Seconded by J. Sandhar

That the minutes of the Agriculture and

Food Security Advisory Committee meeting held May 5, 2016 be adopted as presented.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **South Campbell Heights Local Area Plan (LAP)**
Don Luymes, Community Planning Manager
File: 6880-75

In appearance before the Committee to provide an update on the Local Area Planning process in the South Campbell Heights area of Surrey.

The following comments were made:

- On September 14, 2015, Surrey City Council initiated a Local Area Planning process for South Campbell Heights Area to:
 - Identify issues, concerns, and opportunities with residents, and key stakeholders and groups;
 - Develop goals, objectives and a vision;
 - Generate land use options;
 - Select a preferred land use option;

- Initiate Local and Regional Council/ Board Consideration and Approvals; and
 - If directed by Council, to develop a comprehensive plan incorporating land use and development policies, a detailed land use plan including transportation network, design guidelines, servicing, financing and phasing strategies.
- An environmental study of South Campbell Heights was completed in 2015 and the Local Area Plan (LAP) process was initiated in spring 2016. Surrey created Terms of Reference for LAP and completed a market demand study. It is anticipated to meet with key stakeholders and intergovernmental groups in early summer 2016 and hold the second public open house and land owner meeting and stakeholder consultation.
 - The final phase before stage 2 is to develop a preferred Stage 1 Land Use Concept Plan which includes City Committee and intergovernmental consultation and City Council consideration.
 - An environmental study concluded that the City will implement riparian and wetland stewardship for species at risk in the little Campbell River Watershed. There were key areas of sensitivity identified from the environmental study and the City's Biodiversity Strategy will provide the highest support of protection. The key issue is to ensure the health of the Little Campbell River as it is the key source of drinking water.
 - The major land use issue is to ensure the regional concern of allowing space for the economy to grow. If the supply and demand trend continues, the City may only have 15-20 years of employment land supply remaining.
 - Major land use considerations include aquifer protection, agricultural land interface, access and transportation, fisheries and watercourse protection, servicing issues, strategic gravel resources, environmental and habitat protection, and existing and future land use.
 - Staff have put together extensive draft planning principles that outline key concerns the City is facing in developing a Land Use Plan for the South Campbell Heights Area.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. **2016 Irrigation Letter**
Carrie Baron, Drainage Manager, Engineering
File: 5225-01

A letter was circulated to residents in three irrigation districts off the Nicomekl River on April 29, 2016 explaining the Ministry of Environment's new *Water Sustainability Act*, which replaces the *Water Act*. The letter advised residents that the City will be installing signs along the road side in each area explaining the percentage of water used in relation to the authorized extraction amount outlined in the area water licence.

The following comments were made:

- Staff were under the impression that the Ministry of Environment would grant existing water licences under the new *Water Sustainability Act*, effective February 29, 2016.
- The Ministry of Environment is requesting that non-domestic groundwater users apply for a water licence and pay an application fee and annual water rentals. There is a three-year transition period for existing groundwater users. Under this application, the *Act* may change how these rights may be exercised during times of drought or water scarcity.
- The City of Surrey must follow the regulations set out by the Ministry of Environment, which includes monitoring the amount of groundwater extracted.
- It was noted short-term permits would be granted that would monitor how much water is drawn and who is using it for what purposes. If excess water is extracted than what is permitted, the Ministry would be able to shut down the user and fine the City. The City, at this time, does not have jurisdiction to fine users who do not hold a water licence.

The Committee would like to see short-term water licences issued so it can be determined how much water is extracted. They noted the Ministry should find a solution to water availability rather than shutting down operations. The Committee feels it is unreasonable for the Ministry to request landowners to produce a water study in order to submit an application for a short-term water licence. Water for irrigation purposes and farm production is critical to their economic viability.

RECOMMENDATION

It was

Moved by S. VanKeulen
Seconded by J. Sandhar
That the Agriculture and Food Security
Advisory Committee recommend to Council to provide a formal letter to the
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, to copy Ministry of
Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, that the request for land owners to
demonstrate the availability of water for irrigation purposes is unreasonable.

Carried

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Development Application No. 7916-0052-00**

Ryan Gilmore, Planner

File: 7916-0052-00; 6880-75

The following comments were made:

- The General Manager, Planning and Development, is seeking comments and recommendations from the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee on the proposed Official Community Plan (OCP) Amendment, Local Area Plan (LAP) Amendment, Rezoning, and Development Permits for Hazard Lands (steep slopes) and farm protection to allow for future light industrial or business park uses on the property.
- The subject site is located outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the site contains a single family residence and numerous farm buildings.
- The subject properties combined are approximately 8.26 hectares (20.4 acres) in size and designated "Agricultural"; partially designated "Mixed Employment" in the Official Community Plan (OCP); partially designated "Business Park" and "Open Space Corridors/ Buffers" in the Campbell Heights Local Area Plan (LAP); and are zoned "General Agricultural Zone" (A-1) and "Intensive Agricultural Zone" (A-2).

It was

Moved by M. Hilmer

Seconded by D. Arnold

That the Agriculture and Food Security

Advisory Committee recommend to the General Manager of Planning and

Development to support Development Application No. 7916-0052-00.

Carried**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL****F. CORRESPONDENCE****G. INFORMATION ITEMS****1. Urban Beekeeping: A Review of Backyard Beekeeping Policy – Conducted as part of a UBC Biology 448 Sustainability Class community based experiential learning project.****Maggie Baynham, Planning and Development**

File: 3900-01

At the March 3, 2016 AFSAC meeting, the AFSAC recommended that the Committee be apprised of any report findings from a University of British Columbia Biology 448 Biology Class project report looking at current urban beekeeping best practices as part of any future review of backyard beekeeping policy in the City of Surrey.

A copy of the Final UBC Urban Beekeeping student report is provided to AFSAC as general information.

It was

Moved by P. Harrison

Seconded by S. VanKeulen

That the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee receive the report entitled "Urban Beekeeping: A Review of Backyard Beekeeping Policy", conducted as part of a UBC Biology 448 Sustainability Class community-based experiential learning project, as information.

Carried

H. INTEGRITY OF THE AGRICULTURE LAND

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Surrey Doors Open Event: AFSAC Volunteer for Bus Tour**

Erin Desautels, Community Service Coordinator

File: 8200-01

In appearance before the Committee to request if an Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee member is available to volunteer to ride on an historical bus tour shuttle between Grandview and Cloverdale communities, and animate the ride by speaking about agriculture and farming within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

- The fifth annual Surrey Doors Open is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with free admission for the day. The event will be open to the public with 21 unique sites in City Centre, Grandview Heights, Newton and Cloverdale.
- The event includes three hop-on hop-off trolleys and two shuttle buses. Participants are encouraged to enter the Photo Contest and the Connect, Collect, and Win contest on social media using the hashtag #surreydoorsopen and be entered into a draw.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in 2E Community Room A.

K. ADJOURNMENT


It was

Moved by P. Harrison
Seconded by S. VanKeulen
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



Michael Bose, Vice-Chair