

# *Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee Minutes*

**Present:**

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

**Agency Representative:**

D. Geesing

**Regrets:**

H. Dhillon  
J. Sandhar

**Staff Present:**

C. Lumsden Planning & Development  
C. Stewart, Planning & Development  
J. Denney, Planning & Development  
L. Saffery, Parks, Recreation and Culture  
R. Dube, Engineering  
C. Eagles, Legislative Services

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. The committee is requested to pass a motion adopting the minutes of September 1, 2016.

It was

Moved by M. Hilmer

Seconded by P. Harrison

That the minutes of the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee meeting held September 1, 2016 be adopted as presented.

Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS**

1. **Food Security and Sustainability Initiatives in the Kids Gallery at the Surrey Museum**  
Lynn Saffery, Museum Manager  
File: 7800-08

In attendance before the Committee to provide a presentation on the food security and sustainability initiatives in the Kids Gallery at the Surrey Museum.

The following comments were made:

- The Kids Gallery at the Surrey Museum supports sustainability as its main theme, which falls under the City of Surrey's Sustainability Charter. The City is rapidly changing and the museum plays a critical role in sustainable living, it acts as a space to foster social contact, and is a place of dialogue and community. The museum is a public facility that strives to educate children in a fun manner. October 1 was the grand opening of the third section in the Kids Gallery.

- Characters were introduced that engage and help children follow along with the Gallery's interactives. There are three parts in sustainability at the Kids Gallery:
  - Energy: Interactives teach children the best energy saving devices, the greenhouse gas effect, climate change and the key points in conserving energy at home and in everyday life.
  - Water: The Kids Gallery teaches children that water is one of the greatest assets and is often taken for granted. Children learn that water has value to our society, environment and the economy. Conservation of water will allow for sustainability in Surrey's future and four interactives in the Gallery help display that.
  - Food: Food expands the sustainability theme and educates children on sustainable agriculture, food security, and farming in Surrey.
- The City of Surrey is a city of the future that has a balance of agricultural land and land for development. Surrey is growing its own food that can contain itself. The Gallery encourages children to engage in food issues and to try growing their own food. It engages children to think about how food and shelter are linked and what would happen if we lost farmland.

Phase two of the Kids Gallery, The Future, will engage children in indigenous knowledge, transportation and building design, and increase civic pride and deeper experiences in community learning.

#### C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

#### D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Development Variance Permit 7916-0444-00**  
Christopher Lumsden, Planning Technician  
File: 6880-75; 7916-0444-00

The following comments were made:

- The subject property is 1.93 hectares (4.78 acres) in size, is designated Agricultural in the Official Community Plan (OCP), zoned General Agriculture Zone (A-1), and is classified as farmland under the *Assessment Act*.
- The City of Surrey issued a permit to construct a residential dwelling on a pre-load pad at the eastern end of the property. The site currently produces blueberries and has no existing house.

- The applicant is requesting to vary the south yard setback requirements permitted under Section B.1 in the General Agriculture Zone (A-1) from 15 metres (50 ft.) to 5.0 metres (16.25 ft.); and vary the north side yard setback from the side street from 30 metres to 25.4 metres to accommodate the construction of a storage barn for the purposes of storing blueberries and farming equipment.
- A permit to allow the construction of a 613.6 square metre (6,605 sq. ft.) single family dwelling was issued upon the application of pre-load soils. The proposed storage barn is located in an area of the property which is not subject to the application of pre-load soils. The applicant will be responsible for obtaining a soil permit for both the proposed storage barn and the connected driveway.

The Committee noted their concerns with how far into the subject property the storage barn is. They would like to see the proposed storage barn closer to the house to allow for maximum agricultural use.

It was Moved by M. Bose  
 Seconded by D. Arnold  
 That the Agriculture and Food Security  
 Advisory Committee recommend to the General Manager of Planning and  
 Development to support the proposed Development Variance Application  
 7916-0444-00 and request that the setback from the house is no greater than  
 30 metres from the east side of the barn.

Carried

2. **Relaxation to setback and farm residential footprint requirements.**

**Application No. 7916-0372**

Jeff Denney, Planner

File: 6880-75; 7916-0372-00

The following comments were made:

- The subject property is located in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), is designated Agricultural in the Official Community Plan (OCP), is zoned General Agricultural Zone (A-1), and is an active blueberry farm.
- A Development Variance Permit (DVP) was issued by Council on July 21, 2014 to relax the farm residential footprint requirements to allow a home to be constructed on the existing fill pad in the southwest corner of the property. The house was never constructed and the DVP expired on July 21, 2016.
- The applicant is applying for a new DVP to construct a home on the existing fill pad in the southwest corner of the site. The applicant is seeking variances to increase the maximum front setback for a single family dwelling from 50 metres (164 ft.) to 285 metres (935 ft.) and increase the maximum depth of the farm residential footprint from the front lot line from 60 metres (200 ft.) to 310 metres (1,020 ft.).

- The subject application was presented at the January 9, 2014 Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee meeting as part of the previous DVP application. The Committee did not support the proposed variances and recommended that A-1 regulations apply.

The Committee noted that they do not support this subject application because the subject property was used as an illegal fill site and impacts the future use of the farm plate. The fill was placed in the southwest corner of the site (green field) without a soil permit and not from the current residential farm plate. The Committee is concerned this application may set a precedent to allow for unauthorized fill.

It was Moved by G. Hanh  
 Seconded by M. Bose  
 That the Agriculture and Food Security  
 Advisory Committee recommend to the General Manager of Planning and  
 Development to not support the proposed Development Application 7916-0372-00  
 because the location may negatively impact future agricultural uses.  
Carried

**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

**G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**H. INTEGRITY OF THE AGRICULTURE LAND**

**I. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Barn Permits**

The Committee requested that staff meet with the Building Division to engage a knowledgeable staff member of the department for conducting the inspections and tours of barn permits.

**2. Metro Vancouver Agriculture Water Forum**

The Agriculture Water Forum takes place on November 3, 2016 at the Melville Centre for Dialogue in Richmond. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to register by October 28, 2016.

**3. Agriculture Week**

Pie in the Plaza

The Committee thanked staff for their efforts to make Pie in the Plaza a successful, fun filled event.

Farm Fresh Sundays

The restaurants who participated in Farm Fresh Sundays are hoping to provide great local food next year.

It is expected that a Corporate Report will be put forward to Council to support a second annual Agriculture Week for 2017.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in 2E Community Room A.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Bose

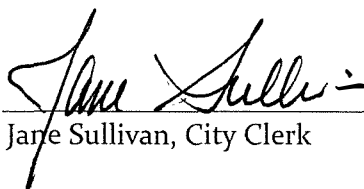
Seconded by P. Harrison

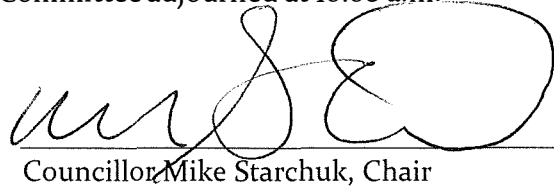
That the Agriculture and Food Security

Advisory Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

  
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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

  
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Councillor Mike Starchuk, Chair