

Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee Minutes

Present:

Councillor Starchuk, Chair
M. Bose, Vice-Chair
B. Sandhu
G. Hahn
H. Dhillon
J. Sandhar
J. Zelazny
M. Hilmer
P. Harrison

Regrets:

D. Arnold
D. Geesing
S. VanKeulen

Staff Present:

A. Boehm, Investment and Intergovernmental
Relations
C. Brown, Planning and Development
J. Denny, Planning and Development
R. Dube, Engineering
C. Eagles, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The committee is requested to pass a motion adopting the minutes of October 6, 2016.

It was

Moved by M. Bose

Seconded by P. Harrison

That the minutes of the Agriculture and
Food Security Advisory Committee meeting held October 6, 2016 be adopted as
presented.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **FarmableNOW Demo and Introduction**
Andreas Boehm, Business Development Liaison, Investment & Intergovernmental
Relations
File: 0620-20

The following comments were made:

- FarmableNOW is a website developed in partnership by the City of Surrey with funding from VanCity and is meant to be a one-stop resource for information and business tools for a new and established farmers to lease and grow their farms.

- The website provides support to new farmers that includes resources such as processors and equipment rentals, an interactive land leasing map, and provides network connections to connect landowners and farmers.
- The land leasing map allows landowners or service providers to submit a listing of available property. Farmers can search for a listing based on region and are able to contact the landowner directly. There are multiple layers available such as if property is located within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) or if wells are present.
- The website offers resources that are essential to starting a business such as skill training, creating a business plan, product promotion, climate specific items like flooding and irrigation, and information on high value crops for small scale production.
- Before launching the website, Surrey conducted consultations with a variety of farming groups, implement workshops with farmers, land owners and those looking for land, and promoting the site and its resources with partners.
- FarmableNOW is looking for an additional \$40,000 grant funding for the development of a project that will support workshop developing in hard skills such as learning irrigation. The monies would fund resources for technical skills and give new farmers an idea of how difficult it is to start a farm.

The Committee commended the work of the FarmableNOW website and noted Surrey is the leader in farming agriculture innovation.

2. Development Application 7916-0328-00

Jeff Denny, Planner

File: 7916-0328-00; 6880-75

The following comments were made:

- The subject property is 3.6 hectares (9 acres) in size and is located within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), is designated Agricultural in the Official Community Plan (OCP), and is zoned Comprehensive Development Zone (CD).
- The applicant is proposing to subdivide the site into two lots, construct a 20-bed hospice (care facility) on the north lot, and keep the existing house on the south lot. The proposed hospice will be 2,280 square metres (24,550 square feet) in area and will be donated to Fraser Health. There are no plans to extend the hospice facility. The site is not currently used for agricultural purposes.
- Staff clarified the Government will fund the facility and a third party organization will operate it.

The Committee noted they were not generally supportive of projects that reduce Agricultural lands within the City of Surrey and requested that staff implement a clause that if the parcel ceases to act as a hospice facility the zone will revert to A-1.

3. Development Variance Permit 7916-0337-00

Christa Brown, Planner

File: 7916-0337-00; 6880-75

The following comments were made:

- The subject property is a 3,061 square metre (32,947 square feet) panhandle lot and is designated "Suburban" in the Official Community Plan (OCP); designated "Suburban Residential (1/2 acre) in the West Panorama Ridge Local Area Plan (LAP); and zoned "Half-Acre Residential Zone (RH)".
- The applicant is proposing to relax the minimum allowable front yard setback from 7.5 metres (25 feet) to 6.0 metres (20 feet) to allow for the construction of a single family dwelling on the property.
- The site is located outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), is located within a hazard land development permit for steep slopes, and currently has no existing house or buildings located on the property.

It was

Moved by M. Bose

Seconded by M. Hilmer

That the Agriculture and Food Security

Advisory Committee recommend to the General Manager of Planning and

Development to support Development Application 7916-0337-00.

Carried

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

H. INTEGRITY OF THE AGRICULTURE LAND

I. OTHER BUSINESS

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in 2E Community Room B.

K. ADJOURNMENT


It was

Moved by P. Harrison
Seconded by G. Hahn
That the Agriculture and Food Security

Advisory Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

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



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Councillor Mike Starchuk, Chair