

Present:

Chairperson - Councillor Steele
Mayor Hepner
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hayne
Councillor LeFranc
Councillor Starchuk
Councillor Woods

Absent:

Councillor Martin
Councillor Villeneuve

Staff Present:

City Manager
City Clerk
Deputy City Clerk
General Manager, Corporate Services
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
General Manager, Planning & Development
Assistant City Solicitor

A. DELEGATIONS

1. Sara Dent, Young Agrarians BC Program Manager

File: 0250-20; 0550-20-10

The delegation provided Council with PowerPoint presentation overview of the Young Agrarians Land Matching Program and highlighted the following information:

- In the last six years, Young Agrarians has focused on how to grow new farmers in BC. Young Agrarians provides online community engagement, education, events and workshops, land accesses for young farmers, and business mentorship opportunities.
- The Lower Mainland Land Matching Pilot Program is provided in collaboration with the City of Surrey and Quebec's ARTERRE. Funding for the program is provided by VanCity, the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, Metro Vancouver, as well as the Provincial and Federal governments.
- The cost of land is the number one barrier for new farmers. The Land Matching Pilot Program puts unused agricultural land into production, supports agricultural area plans and demonstrates local governments' support for new farmers.
- The pilot Land Matching Pilot Program, launched in 2016, has provided five land matches totaling 30 acres in Surrey, Maple Ridge, Delta and Langley. Six additional land matches totaling a potential 18.5 acres in Surrey, Richmond, Coquitlam, Delta and Chilliwack are currently in negotiation. In addition, 52 agricultural organizations and affiliates were put in contact with three agricultural universities, and a community event hosted in partnership with the City of Surrey.

The delegation requested that the City of Surrey partner with Young Agrarians in 2018 to endorse the Land Matching Program, and provide \$10,000 in funding.

Procedural note: Mayor Hepner exited the meeting at 5:23 p.m. and did not re-enter the meeting.

In response to questions from Council, the delegation noted the following comments:

- The goal of the Young Agrarians with respect to the Land Matching Program is to have five - seven land matchers established across BC, and are currently in discussion with the Ministry of Agriculture to explore funding opportunities.
- There has been interest and demand across BC for the Land Matching Program, as there is an ageing population of farmers seeking assurance regarding the future of farming.
- Young Agrarians is currently completing research for the Ministry of Agriculture on land matching and regulatory issues facing new farmers. There are also discussions with the Agricultural Land Commission regarding fallow and unproductive farm lands. The Land Matching Program also educates agricultural land owners on how they may use their land (such as housing options for tenant farmers).
- The Land Matching Program works with two different types of land owners: ageing farmers who would like their property to remain productive; and non-farming land owners who have adopted a rural lifestyle, but are not farmers. Land Matching applicants are generally an equal mix of each types of landowner. Two of the current Land Matching Program applications have re-established the productivity of farm land that was previously not in use.
- Local governments can support the Land Matching Program by completing a land inventory study that indicates the amount of agricultural land that is not currently in use.

Council noted the importance of productive farm land, and noted that one-third of Agricultural Land Reserve property is located in Surrey. Council indicated an interest in completing additional outreach to agricultural land owners.

It was
Moved by Councillor LeFranc
Seconded by Councillor Hayne
That staff review the Land Matching Pilot
Program funding request and provide a report for Council's consideration.
Carried

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

- C. CORPORATE REPORTS
- D. DELEGATION REQUESTS
- E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS
- F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS
- G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

now adjourn.

Moved by Councillor Gill
Seconded by Councillor LeFranc
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:33 p.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Mayor Linda Hepper, Chairperson