Township of Langley

Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 7:00pm
Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

M I N U T E S

Present:
Councillor M. Pratt, Council Co-Chair

C. Alison, A. Cheema, B. Holmes, T. Meyers, C. Redekop, A. Smith, and U. Tayyab

Guest:
P. Tonn, Executive Director, BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation

Staff:
V. Gafka, Senior Manager, Economic Investment and Development
M. Gunn, Planner, Community and Policy Planning
P. Ward, Manger, Strategic and Social Planning, Community and Policy Planning
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

Welcome

Councillor Pratt welcomed everyone and round table introductions took place.

Code of Ethics Signing

Members signed the *"Code of Ethics, Confidentiality, and Conflict of Interest for Council Members and Appointees"* and submit electronically.

Election of Co-Chair

Deferred to next meeting.

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - February 22, 2023

Moved by C. Allison,
Seconded by A. Cheema,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the February 22, 2023 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - June 22, 2022

Moved by U. Tayyab,
Seconded by A. Smith,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the June 22, 2022 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation

Pat Tonn, Executive Director, provided a presentation regarding the Foundation. The Foundation is a "non-profit, charitable organization that works with educators to bring agriculture and food education to students throughout the province". She provided the following information regarding the programs that they offer:

BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program + Milk:

- Deliver to public and First Nations schools across the province to give students the opportunity to taste and is a teaching opportunity on healthy eating.

Fresh to You Fundraiser:

- Encourages students and their families to eat more fruits and vegetables.
- The school receives 40% profit of all orders sold.

Spuds in Tub:

- 500 classrooms around the province participate each year where teachers and students share the growing and harvesting of potatoes.

The Harvest Bin Project:

- Teaches classrooms to grow salad and herb gardens in raised bins that are versatile for any school yard.

Common Ground – The Strawberry Project:

- New in 2022, Indigenous and other school classes have been matched in a program to learn about growing wild and cultivated strawberries.

Ag Adventures:

- Farm tours perfect for learning about agriculture in a hands-on learning setting.
- Students explore bees, plants, soil, bugs, vegetables and more.

Take a Bite of BC:

- For high school students, 60 Culinary Arts teaching kitchens throughout the province receive five pallets of fresh BC products.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Multi-faceted online Spotlight Series helps students learn about the farm behind the products.

Planting a Promise:

- Planting a Promise Bulb (tulips) allows for an adaptable outdoor learning setting.

Summer Institute:

- An annual summer UBC credited course. Teachers learn about integrating agriculture lessons into their curriculum.

Online resources:

- Dozens of new online learning resources for easy learning anytime/anywhere including laptop, desktop, and mobile phone.

Farm Explorer BC:

- Goal is to create BC's largest and most comprehensive webpage of farm direct marketers using GIS mapping.
- An online educational tool that teachers, students, and classrooms (or anyone interested in farming) can use to learn about BC agriculture.
- Encourage people to think and shop local.
- Provides a marketing tool to connect farms to communities.
- Promotes agri-tourism in the province.
- Increases farm visits and sales.

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Review Terms of Reference

Staff reviewed the Terms of Reference with the committee.

2. 2023 Work Program

- Initial Draft Ideas
- Ongoing Projects
- Possible New Projects

Staff reviewed the proposed Work Plan for 2023.

F. WORK PROGRAM

MOTION
Moved by A. Cheema,
Seconded by C. Allison,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee endorse the 2023 Work Plan, as presented.
CARRIED

COUNCIL
Moved by U. Tayyab,
Seconded by B. Holmes,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee recommends that Council approve the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee 2023 Work Plan, presented as Attachment A.
CARRIED

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Chamber of Commerce Update

C. Redekop reported that one of the Chamber's priorities is to increase their agricultural presence and help local agriculture businesses.

2. Farmer's Institute Update

A. Smith reported that the Institute is looking for more members. They are also taking on a new task of educating farmers about the Institute and how they can assist farmers with clarifying regulatory concerns etc. The Farm Survey is also available now and will be forwarded to the AAEEC for information.

3. 2023 Membership List

Provided on table.

4. 2023 Meeting Schedule

Provided for information.

5. AAEEC Photo

Deferred to next meeting.

6. Ministry of Agriculture Updates

Staff provided an update on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by U. Tayyab,
That the meeting terminate at 8:30pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair

Attachment A

Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee 2023 Work Program

The Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee proposes to undertake the following work in 2023 consistent with the Committee's purpose and mandate. Calendar months show the time and duration of the work.

Project & Associated Tasks	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Recommendation of the Future of Farming Task Force (Item 1a): Media – Develop a dedicated agriculture webpage to include all things Agriculture in the Township including the contact information for the Agriculture Planner. (on-going)		√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√
Recommendation of the Future of Farming Task Force (Item 1b): Media – Develop a dedicated business agriculture webpage to provide information for farmers (new and current). (on-going)			√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√
Recommendation of the Future of Farming Task Force (Item 4): initiate the development of a "How to Start a Farm guide including supporting new farmers to develop viable business plans and succession plans through education.			√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√
Recommendation of the Future of Farming Task Force (Item 6): Initiate the preparation of a workplan for building relationships with the Township Farming community to expand the promotion of agriculture.			√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√
Recommendation of the Future of Farming Task Force (Item 7): Investigate and establish a tool that provides an online Farming Business Directory with the ability to promote and sell agriculture products. Incorporate community awareness campaign program			√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√
Farm Tour - *Tentative* Plan and host the Annual Farm Tour; scheduled in late spring			√	√	√	√						
Consider or inquire into matters as requested by Council Respond to on-going requests as they arise.		√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√

Key:

√ = Committee-led, Council initiative
O = On-going initiative, based on staff work programs and respective strategies

DRAFT