AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 7:00pm
Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

M I N U T E S

Present:
J. Caldarella, Community Co-Chair

C. Allison, A. Hamer, R. Ross, O. Smid, A. Smith and J. Walker

Staff:
S. Mikicich, Manager, Community Planning and Major Projects
M. Gunn, Planner
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

Guests:
C. Paulson, Director, Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation
M. Sachse, President, Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE COAST SALISH PEOPLES

J. Caldarella acknowledged the Traditional Territories of the Coast Salish Peoples.

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee – March 27, 2024

Moved by A. Smith,
Seconded by R. Ross,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the March 27, 2024 meeting, as amended.
CARRIED

Clerk's Note: Item G.2 was added to the agenda.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee – February 28, 2024

Moved by C. Allison,
Seconded by A. Smith,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the February 28, 2024 meeting, as amended.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (LSAF)

M. Sachse and C. Paulson provided a presentation with an overview of LSAF and its current activities. LSAF was established in 2011 and is a volunteer organization with up to 17 directors. Its purpose is to build agriculture capacity and knowledge in Langley. Its current activities include the following:

Grant Program:

- Established in 2022.
- Requirements for the grant include:
  - The project is undertaken on a Langley farm;
  - The project can be replicated;
  - The recipients present their project to a workshop in November to share their experiences.
- Several grants of up to $2,000 each have been awarded since 2022.
- Grant recipients and their projects include:
  - Bill's Honey House installed a mandala-shaped bee foraging garden;
  - Sage and Solace installed an aerator in a pond;
  - Fraser Valley Conservancy demonstrated how barn owls control rodents;
  - Van Hulsentops built a hedgerow using 10 native and 4 non-native species;
  - Composting at the Fraser Valley Cider Company;
  - Locality Brewing demonstrated heap composting;
  - Sage and solace explained Vermicomposting.

Education:

- Many workshops have been held over the last decade aimed at building agriculture capacity and knowledge.
- The most recent workshop in 2023, "Small Lot Living: explore composting and make connections", was co-hosted by the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee.
- The Langley Learning Farm was established in 2016 after LSAF identified food needs for both schools and the community.
- In December 2019, LSAF received Council approval to develop multiple activities on seven sites within the Derek Doubleday Arboretum and signed a 5-year licence agreement.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- The Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS) had taken on managing the Learning Farm.
- The Langley Learning Farm worked intensely with the Science Department at Langley Senior Secondary and LEPS to establish an Environmental Sciences 11/12 course in 2020. LEPS provides on-site teaching and manages the day-to-day operation.
- Produce that is grown is given back to the school or the Food Bank.
- A similar program is also now at Aldergrove Community Secondary School.
- A mini food-forest has been planted at the beginning of the pathway at the Arboretum, utilizing grants received by LEPS for the Learning Farm.

LSAF would like the AAC to co-sponsor its fall workshop on November 2, 2024, "Building Community Connections".

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chair Reports

No report.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. 2024 Work Program

M. Gunn presented the revised 2024 Work Plan based on feedback from the February meeting. She noted that a presentation from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food was added.

MOTION
Moved by A. Hamer,
Seconded by C. Allison,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee endorse the draft 2024 Work Plan, as presented.
CARRIED

COUNCIL
Moved by C. Allison,
Seconded by J. Caldarella,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council approve the Agricultural Advisory Committee 2024 Work Plan, presented as Attachment A.
CARRIED

F. WORK PROGRAM

2. 2024 Farm Tour

M. Gunn provided an overview of the Farm Tour. She noted that it is held annually, usually in June or September, and involves visiting two or three farms with lunch and guest speakers. Each year, there is a different theme for the tour. The committee was asked to brainstorm suggestions for the theme for this year.

The following ideas were provided:

- Sheep farms
- Community in agriculture
- Flower farms
- Commodity farms – large scale blueberry, dairy, chicken
- Greenhouses that have received a grant
- Bevo – owner as a guest speaker
- Agri food sources
- Dairy farming and new technology
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food as a guest speaker
- Hazelnut farms
- Krause and/or Driediger Farms

The following members volunteered to be part of the working group to plan the tour:

- J. Caldarella
- A. Smith
- A. Hamer
- J. Walker
- C. Allison

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

The following motion was referred to the Agricultural Advisory Committee at the December 4, 2023 Regular Council Meeting:

1. *Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee Recommended Motion*

File 0540-20

That Council directs staff to include an agricultural/rural community outreach campaign as part of the Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2024 work program considering the recommendations from the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee's Building Agricultural/Rural Connections Task Force.

REFERRAL
That Council refer this motion to the new Agriculture Advisory Committee to be considered within Q1 of 2024.
CARRIED

Staff noted that this item is included in the 2024 AAC work plan.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

2. Migrant Agricultural Worker Accommodation Farm Bylaw

M. Gunn noted that this bylaw received first and second reading at the March 25, 2024 Regular Council Meeting and was referred to the AAC for comment. The report was provided on table for the committee to review and the bylaw will be discussed at the April meeting.

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2024
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by J. Walker,
Seconded by C. Allison,
That the meeting terminate at 8:53pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair

Attachment A

Agricultural Advisory Committee
2024 Work Program

The Agricultural Advisory Committee proposes to undertake the following work in 2024 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
Agricultural Viability Strategy (AVS) Provide advice, support, input and direction in the implementation of the AVS.			√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√
2.1.2 *Prepare an Agriculture Profile* Based on data from 2021 Census of Agriculture and Ministry of Agriculture Land Use Inventory.					O	O			O	O	O	O
2.1.3 *Support partnerships with other organizations* Invite a 4-H Club to make a presentation to the committee. Invite Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation to make a presentation to the committee. Invite Langley farmers' market organizations to make a presentation to the committee. Invite Langley Animal Protection Society and/or a Conservation Officer to make a presentation on deterring predators.			√	√	√	√			√	√	√	
2.1.4 *Promotion of Agriculture* Recommendation of the Building Agricultural/Rural Connections Task Force: Develop an agricultural outreach campaign. Invite TOL Transportation Engineering to make a presentation on road safety for agritourism. Invite Ministry of Agriculture and Food to make a presentation on current outreach initiatives.			√	√	√	√			√	√	√	
2.2.1 *Water Use and Monitoring* Invite the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to discuss drought mitigation.				√	√	√			√	√	√	
Farm Tour Plan and host the Annual Farm Tour; scheduled in late spring or early fall.			√	√	√	√			√			
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