

City of Chilliwack
AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019 - 3:30 pm
DOGWOOD ROOM, CITY HALL

Council Members: Councillor Chris Kloot, Chair
ARAC Members: Walter Goerzen, Community Member
Walter Dyck, Industry Representative
Jeremy Wiebe, Industry Representative
Chris Les, Industry Representative
Peter Vink, Industry Representative
Jacqueline Boer, Community Member
Stan Vander Waal, Industry Representative
City Staff: Gillian Villeneuve, Manager of Development Planning
Karen Stanton, Manager of Long Range Planning
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary
Regrets: Councillor Harv Westeringh, Vice Chair
Steve Saccomano, Community Member
Sarah Sache, Community Member
Brett Payne, Industry Representative
David Blain, Director of Planning and Engineering
Glen White, Manager of Land Development / Approving Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Chris Kloot was Chair and called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

The Chair welcomed the new members and round-table introductions were made.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Agenda for the Agricultural and Rural Advisory Committee meeting held
Seconded (Tuesday, January 29, 2019 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes for the Agricultural and Rural Advisory Committee meeting held
Seconded (Monday, December 3, 2018 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION

5. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

2019 Terms of Reference

The 2019 Terms of Reference were provided for information.

2019 Membership List

The 2019 Membership List was provided for information.

Dylan Anderson and Cassidy Silbernagel, OTG Developments were present.

ALR00317 – 9705 Banford Road

The Manager of Development Planning provided a presentation regarding this application for a two lot subdivision of the subject property located within the ALR to create a 1.3ha homesite severance lot and a 12.5ha remainder lot. The information provided included the location map/orthophoto, proposal/factors, and recommendations.

A query was discussed as to whether this application qualifies for a homesite severance as the owner has lived on the property prior to 1972; the application is still required to be forwarded to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for approval as well as follow Policy Directive No. G-31 – Boundary Adjustments in the ALR and the Small Lot Agricultural Policy Directive through the City of Chilliwack in order to make the homesite lot as small as possible. The Committee noted that this application is not the intent of the original homesite severance and expressed concern with the creation of a new title.

Moved /) The Agricultural and Rural Advisory Committee does not support the proposed
Seconded (homesite severance as presented and recommends Council forward the application
to the Agricultural Land Commission “without support”.

Carried Unanimously

As part of their rationale, the Committee noted concern with respect to the proposed size and configuration of the proposed homesite.

Dylan Anderson and Cassidy Silbernagel left the meeting at 3:49 pm.

Laura Cameron Delisle, Chilliwack Beekeepers Community (Bee Club), was present.

Urban Beekeeping Bylaw

In response to community interest and previous direction from Council, the Manager of Long Range Planning presented a draft Urban Beekeeping bylaw which was prepared to allow and regulate the keeping of bees as a hobby and to provide education of the general public in urban apiculture. Laura Cameron Delisle, Chilliwack Beekeepers Community was present to answer any questions the Committee may have.

8. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

The draft bylaw is modelled after beekeeping bylaws established in other BC municipalities, and takes into account Provincial regulations, and input provided by the Chilliwack Beekeepers. Discussion ensued regarding swarm control measures; to date, there have been no records of nuisance complaints or enforcement issues in other municipalities. Also discussed were the minimum setbacks requirements, siting of beehives in rear yards and the zones in which beehives will be permitted under the Bylaw. A query as to the frequency of visits that beekeepers will be required to conduct in community gardens was discussed; and it was noted that visits should be done approximately every 10 days. The number of hives permitted and flight paths were also discussed.

Jeremy Wiebe left the meeting at 4:06 pm.

Moved /) The Agricultural and Rural Advisory Committee supports the proposed Urban
Seconded (Beekeeping Bylaw as presented; and further, recommends it be forwarded to Council.

Carried Unanimously

Laura Cameron Delisle and Karen Stanton left the meeting at 4:22 pm.

6. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

Memo: ALC Decisions & Site Inspections (2015 to present)

A memo regarding the ALC Decisions & Site Inspections (2015 to present) was provided for information.

Planning staff have undertaken a comprehensive review to determine to the total amount of applications Initiated under the *Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act* and considered by Council since 2015. The objective of the review was to determine:

- 1) The total amount of Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) applications approved/rejected by the ALC that *went against* the ARAC/Council's recommendations; and,
- 2) To determine whether site inspections were undertaken as part of the ALC's review.

Discussion ensued regarding ALC staffing with only 3-4 compliance officers in the entire province resulting in a lack of enforcement, local knowledge and insufficient site visits. The Agricultural and Rural Advisory committees are a fairly new concept to most communities; a recommendation came from the Ministry of Agriculture, local government and the ALC to initiate this type of committee. Staff noted that from the ALC's perspective, the volume of applications received and the geographic range to do site inspections is not feasible.

6. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION (continued)

The Committee suggested a letter be written to the Minister of BC Agriculture, Lana Popham to express concerns regarding the lack of site inspections in Chilliwack.

Moved /) The Agricultural and Rural Advisory Committee recommends a letter be drafted
Seconded (to the Minister of BC Agriculture, Lana Popham; and further, that the letter be brought back to this committee for review.

Carried Unanimously

The Chair and Committee thanked Gillian Villeneuve for the hard work that was done by her and her staff to compile this report.

Memo: ARAC Recommendations / ALC Decisions

A memo regarding the ARAC Recommendations / ALC Decisions in 2018 was provided for information.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meetings of the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held at the call of the Chair.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm.

Councillor Chris Kloot, Chair