



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 7:00pm
Nicomekl River Meeting Room and Zoom
4th Floor, 20338 – 65 Avenue, Langley, BC

MINUTES

Present:

J. Caldarella, Community Co-Chair

C. Clark, V. Pontaletta, and A. Smith

Staff:

V. Gafka, Senior Manager, Economic Investment and Development

M. Gunn, Planner, Community and Policy Planning

R. Nelson, Senior Planner, Community and Policy Planning

K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

Guests:

A. Huberman, CEO, Surrey Board of Trade

C. Guerrero, CEO, Purpose Driven Development & Planning

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - October 28, 2020

Moved by A. Smith,

Seconded by C. Clark,

That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the October 28, 2020 meeting.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - September 23, 2020

Moved by A. Smith,

Seconded by C. Clark,

That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the September 23, 2020 meeting.

CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Surrey Board of Trade

A. Huberman, CEO, Surrey Board of Trade and C. Guerrero, CEO, Purpose Driven Development & Planning, provided a presentation regarding the “Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization Initiative”, a regional economic recovery strategy. This will be partnership with municipalities, senior governments, industry, the business community, and key decision-makers to achieve a new standard of economic viability and livability. The project will:

- Attract, recruit, and retain workforce talent;
- Address affordable housing;
- Expand trade enabling industrial lands;
- Create a vibrant innovation district hub; and
- Develop partnerships with First Nations, private sector, tourism, education, healthcare, industry, municipal, and regional governments.

Supporters to date include:

- City of Surrey
- City of New Westminster
- City of Maple Ridge
- Port of Vancouver
- Metro Vancouver
- Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce
- Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce

Why now?

- For every \$1 public sector investment, there is \$18 to \$31 private sector investment for revitalization initiatives;
- For every one acre of land revitalized, nine new jobs are created on average;
- Enhanced land value and increased tax base;
- Unlocked trade and development opportunities and private sector economic bolstering;
- Connect infrastructure and industrial land to a transportation corridor; and
- Significant social, environmental, and community benefits.

Some of the benefits of waterfront revitalization include:

- Social Equity and Inclusion;
- Environmental protection and climate protection; and
- Economic Development and Recovery.

Successful examples of waterfront revitalization in Canada:

- The Forks, Winnipeg
- West Don Lands, Toronto
- Olympic Village, Vancouver

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Timeline for the project between September 2020 and February 2021:

1. Project initiation and background review;
2. Opportunity and constraints, identification and analysis;
3. Consultation and roundtables;
4. Develop a Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization Strategy;
5. Develop a revitalization roadmap; and
6. Implementation.

The ask of the Committee and the Township is as follows:

1. TOL representation in a working group, and
2. Contribute to the budget to deliver Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization Strategy and Roadmap. The total budget for the preparation of the Strategy is estimated at \$250,000 - \$300,000. No direct financial contribution was recommended.

Deliverables to be achieved:

- Vision for Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization;
- Establish a Working Group with representation from municipalities, First Nations, business and industry for the duration of the project;
- A Fraser River Waterfront Revitalisation Strategy; and
- A Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization Roadmap.

MOTION

Moved by A. Smith,

Seconded by C. Clark,

That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee endorse the Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization Initiative, in principle, and request that a similar presentation by the Surrey Board of Trade be presented to Council for information.

CARRIED

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Future of Farming Task Force

At the September meeting, the Committee reviewed the Future of Farming Task Force Terms of Reference and the five areas (lenses) which the task force will focus on.

M. Gunn reviewed each of the five lenses:

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Future of Farming,
2. Farming Protection,
3. Assistance to Small and Medium Sized Farms,
4. Food Security, and
5. Regulations.

The Legislative Framework that relates to farming in the Township was reviewed. The framework list is to help understand the levels of government in which the Township and farmers operate, including federal, provincial, regional, and municipal governments.

Discussion ensued and it was suggested that Fraser Health, in regards to well-water testing, should be added to the list.

The Agricultural Viability Strategy was reviewed in regards to the initiatives that the Task Force will focus on:

- 2.1 Providing a welcoming business environment for farming; and
- 2.3 Providing a secure agricultural land base.

Initiative 2.1, Providing a welcoming business environment for farming, involves the following actions, many of which have already been implemented in the Township:

- Assure farmers that agriculture is important in the Township and to support agriculture at the Township level.
- Provide an active and effective Agriculture Advisory Committee.
- Promote the role of agriculture to citizens and others.
- Address agriculture crises and disaster in the Township.
- Support the intensification of agriculture within the ALR consistent with Township plans, bylaws, and provincial regulations.
- Assist the local farm community with labour options and to address housing issues for seasonal or temporary labour in the Township.
- Maximize potential for agriculture on farms used mainly for residential purposes and agricultural land owned by governments.

Initiative 2.3, Providing a secure agriculture land base, involves the following actions, many of which have already been implemented in the Township:

- Protect agricultural land for agricultural purposes in the Township of Langley.
- Ensure zoning in the Township supports agriculture.

Committee members were asked to review the Future of Farming Legislative Framework document and provide feedback to staff regarding which programs or regulations are most relevant to farmers and could be highlighted on a future Agriculture Township webpage.

G. **COUNCIL REFERRALS**

H. **OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

I. **NEXT MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2020
Location: Nicomekl River Meeting Room and Zoom
4th Floor, 20338 – 65 Avenue
Time: 7:00 pm

J. **TERMINATE**

Moved by C. Clark,
Seconded by A. Smith,
That the meeting terminate at 8:21pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair