

Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes
January 10, 2013
7:30 PM
Canada Room

Members Present: Regional Councillor Gord Landon, Chair Jay Reesor, Vice Chair Councillor Don Hamilton Ruth Brock Kim Empringham Guy Farintosh Bryant Hulshaf Lynne Koss Agency Representatives: Candice Einstoss, York Region Public Health Gary Wilkins, TRCA Maria Papoulias, Rouge Park Alliance	Staff Present: Katie Burns, Sustainability Coordinator Lilli Duoba, Senior Project Coordinator Elizabeth Wimmer, Senior Environmental Planner Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator Regrets: Mike Bender, Rouge Park Alliance Jason Ezer, York Region Harriet Friedmann Phil Fung, Environmental Advisory Committee Doug Lindeblom, York Region Paul Reesor Richard Reesor Ruth Rendon, Senior Environmental Planner
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The Agricultural Advisory Committee convened at 7:04 p.m. with Regional Councillor Gordon Landon presiding as Chair.

1. OPENING REMARKS

The Chair advised that Christopher Burkholder has resigned from the Committee.

2. REVIEW OF DECEMBER 6, 2012

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Moved by Ruth Brock

Seconded by Kim Empringham

That the December 6, 2012 Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. Agricultural Webpage No. of Web Hits

Katie Burns, Sustainability Coordinator, reported that 76 people viewed the Agricultural webpage on Markham's website in the month of December. A monthly report will be provided on the number of web hits to the webpage on a go forward basis.

B. Policy Sub-Committee Update

The Committee reviewed the recommendations from the Policy Sub-Committee on Markham's draft new Official Plan. A copy of the recommendations is attached as Appendix A of the Minutes.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence

Katie Burns reported that the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence is an award that was introduced by the Province to recognize innovation in agri-food. The application deadline is Friday, January 18, 2013. It was suggested that the following Markham farms would be strong candidates for the award:

- The Whittmore Farm and Judi's Tropical Gardens;
- Artichoke Farmer on 19th Avenue.

Katie Burns was requested to look into the possibility of nominating the above farms/farmers for the award. Jay Reesor will help Katie get in touch with the Artichoke Farmer.

Additionally, Kim Empringham will be submitting an application for a Eco-Farm model that has been used at the Markham Fair for the past two (2) years and that has been funded by the Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund.

Kim Empringham advised that Kathy Simpson from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture was assisting with the York Durham applications for this award.

B. Food Charter

Kate Greavette, Food Charter Coordinator, York Region Food Network, and Katie Burns, Sustainability Coordinator, provided a presentation on the draft York Region Food Charter.

The Chair reported that the draft York Region Food Charter should be endorsed by this Committee prior to it being brought forward to Council for endorsement.

The Committee provided the following feedback on the draft York Region Food Charter:

- The charter currently has too much detail for an vision document;
- The charter should be a simple and easy to read and to understand ;
- An action plan should be presented to Council with the Food Charter.

It was clarified that the draft York Region Food Charter is being prepared by the York Region Food Charter Working Group. Furthermore, the project is being hosted by the York Region Food Network and is being completed in partnership with the following groups:

- Health York
- Heart and Stroke Foundation
- Seeds for Change
- City of Markham Sustainability Office
- United Way of York Region, in partnership with York University
- York Federation of Agriculture
- York Region Public Health

It was explained that this document is intended to be a vision document for all of York Region. The Charter will be brought forward to the different municipalities in York Region for their endorsement. York Region municipalities can then create their own programs that follow the principles stipulated in the Food Charter.

C. Resolutions

Moved by Lynne Koss

Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That the Policy Sub-Committee recommendations attached as Appendix A be approved.

CARRIED

Moved by Jay Reesor

Seconded by Bryant Hulshaf

That the resignation of Chris Burkholder from the Agricultural Advisory Committee be received with regret for information purposes and that a letter of appreciation be forwarded by Mayor Frank Scarpitti.

CARRIED

D. Stiver Mill

Councillor Don Hamilton reported that the Stiver Mill located on Main Street Unionville will be revitalized. The project must be completed by March 2014, as this is a condition of the government grant that is being used towards the project. Staff are trying to plan the construction so that the farmers market can continue throughout the construction.

There is currently a debate whether the Stiver Mill should be red or silver in colour.

5. NEXT MEETING DATE

It was requested that the October 2013 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting date be moved from the first Thursday of the month to the second Thursday of the month due to the Markham Fair.

The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2013 in the Canada Room.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Kim Empringham

Seconded by Bryant Hulshaf

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

CARRIED