



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee **Date:** January 30, 2023
From: John Hopkins **File:** 01-0100-30-AADV1-01/2023-Vol 01
 Director, Policy Planning
Re: **Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Work Program**

Staff Recommendation

That the Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Work Program, as presented in the staff report titled "Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Work Program", dated January 30, 2023, from the Director of Policy Planning, be approved.

John Hopkins
 Director, Policy Planning
 (604-276-4279)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO: Parks Services	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

The Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee (FSAAC) advises Council on food security and agricultural issues referred by Council or staff. In accordance with the Terms of Reference for the FSAAC, this report summarizes the activities of the Committee in 2022 (Attachment 1) and recommends a 2023 Work Program (Attachment 2) for consideration and approval by Council. The Committee reviewed and endorsed the proposed 2023 Work Program at the FSAAC meeting held on January 26, 2023.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #2 A Sustainable and Environmentally Conscious City:

Environmentally conscious decision-making that demonstrates leadership in implementing innovative, sustainable practices and supports the City's unique biodiversity and island ecology.

2.3 Increase emphasis on local food systems, urban agriculture and organic farming.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #8 An Engaged and Informed Community:

Ensure that the citizenry of Richmond is well-informed and engaged about City business and decision-making.

8.1 Increased opportunities for public engagement.

Analysis

2022 Annual Report

The detailed FSAAC 2022 Annual Report is contained in Attachment 1, and includes the following highlights:

- Reviewed and provided comments on a total of five development proposals related to or impacting agricultural activities and two soil deposit applications. This included Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) non-farm use applications, subdivision, and a Development Permit application.
- Received regular updates and provided comments on various City policies and initiatives (e.g., Richmond Local Food Map, London Heritage Farm Master Plan, Dike Master Plan and Richmond Circular City Strategy).
- Received updates and provided comments on the Garden City Lands Project as presented by Parks staff.
- Received updates from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Land Commission, and Metro Vancouver on various initiatives (e.g., Metro Vancouver Agriculture Road Map Climate 2050, funding opportunities to address climate change related issues, on-

farm research workshops, and regulations related to controlled environment structures and residential flexibility).

2023 Work Program

The detailed FSAAC 2023 Work Program is contained in Attachment 2, and includes the following highlights:

- Review and provide comments on development proposals and soil deposit applications forwarded to FSAAC by staff or Council.
- Continue to receive regular updates and provide comments on various City policies and initiatives related to agriculture and food security forwarded to FSAAC by staff or Council.
- Continue to receive regular updates and provide comments on the Garden City Lands Project, as presented by Parks staff.
- Provide education and information sharing to the Committee, in coordination with upper-levels of government, regarding sustainable farm practices and agriculture-specific strategies for climate change resilience.
- Explore opportunities to raise public awareness of local farming and strengthen relationships with external organizations that promote agriculture, in coordination with Economic Development staff.


The work program will be revised as necessary, based on emerging issues and future Council priorities.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The FSAAC serves an important role in providing advice and guidance to Council on food security and agricultural issues. The 2022 Annual Report for the FSAAC is submitted for information and the 2023 Work Program is recommended for Council's approval.



Steven De Sousa
Planner 2
(604-204-8529)

SDS:sds

- Att. 1: Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report
2: Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee 2023 Work Program

**FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

Projects	Results	Accomplishments and Comments
City and ALC Development Applications	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and provided comments on a total of five development applications forwarded to the FSAAC from staff. Projects covered issues related to ALR non-farm use applications, subdivision, and Development Permits.
Soil Removal and Deposit Applications in the ALR	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and provided comments on a total of two soil deposit applications forwarded to the FSAAC from staff.
Garden City Lands	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and provided comments on the implementation of the Garden City Lands Project as presented by Parks staff.
Policy Initiatives	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received information and reviewed issues related to agriculture and food security policy forwarded to the FSAAC from staff. Projects included the Richmond Local Food Map, London Heritage Farm Master Plan and contents of farm plans. Received updates from Metro Vancouver on the draft regional Agriculture Road Map associated with Climate 2050.
Drainage and Irrigation	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received updates from Engineering staff on the Dike Master Plan Phase 4 and impacts to agriculture.
Environment	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and provided comments on the proposed Richmond Circular City Strategy.
Public awareness and local food initiatives	Improved awareness and understanding of agriculture and food security issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received updates from the Ministry of Agriculture on new funding opportunities to address climate change related issues (i.e., nitrogen management, cover cropping, and rotational grazing) and on-farm research workshops. Received updates from the ALC on regulations regarding controlled environment structures and residential flexibility.

List of Applications Reviewed in 2022		
Application	Address	Proposal
ALR Development Applications		
SD 21-940119	6511 & 7071/7169 No. 9 Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subdivision consistent with the <i>Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALCA)</i> for boundary realignment.
AG 18-837641	5560 Garden City Road (Garden City Lands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALR non-farm use application to allow the remaining project components identified in the Garden City Lands Master Plan.
DP 21-931059	8888 No. 6 Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Permit to construct a single-family dwelling and consider an alternative farm home plate location.
AG 22-007162	15140 Westminster Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALR non-adhering residential use application to allow an addition to an existing additional dwelling for the purposes of accommodating accessibility features.
AG 22-007407	8160 No. 5 Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALR non-farm use application to allow religious statues and parking area in association with the existing religious assembly use.
ALR Soil Deposit and Removal Applications		
CD 112247	22040 River Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deposit 7,630 m³ of soil on the property to support the production of blueberries.
CD 130242	8251 No. 5 Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain 1,100 m³ soil that was deposited on the site without approval to support the production of blueberries.

**FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FSAAC)
2023 WORK PROGRAM**

Projects	Expected Results	Objectives and Deliverables
City and ALC Development Applications	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review City and ALC development applications forwarded to the FSAAC by staff or Council. Provide comments to applicants.
Soil Removal and Deposit Applications in the ALR	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review soil applications (removal or deposit) in the ALR forwarded to the FSAAC by staff or Council. Provide comments to applicants.
Garden City Lands	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to review the implementation of the Garden City Lands Project as presented by Parks staff. Provide comments to staff.
City Policy Initiatives	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review issues related to agriculture and food security policy forwarded to the FSAAC by staff or Council. Provide comments to staff.
Drainage and Irrigation	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive updates from Engineering staff on drainage and irrigation projects impacting agriculture. Provide comments to staff.
Transportation	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive updates from Transportation staff on projects impacting agriculture. Provide comments to staff.
Environment	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and information sharing regarding, in coordination with upper-levels of government, regarding sustainable farming practices (incl. water and soil conservation, renewable energy use, soil management).
Public awareness and local food initiatives	Improved awareness and understanding of agriculture and food security issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise public awareness of local farming, farmer's markets, and local food products, produce and programs. Strengthen relationships with outside organizations that provide agriculture-related educational opportunities and promote local farming.