



To: Planning Committee

Date: April 6, 2021

From: John Hopkins
Director, Policy Planning

File: 01-0100-30-AADV1-
01/2021-Vol 01

Re: Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report and
2021 Work Program

Staff Recommendation

1. That the Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report, as presented in the staff report titled "Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Work Program", dated April 6, 2021, from the Director of Policy Planning, be received for information; and
2. That the Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee 2021 Work Program, as presented in the staff report titled "Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Work Program", dated April 6, 2021, from the Director of Policy Planning, be approved.

John Hopkins
Director, Policy Planning

JH:sds
Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
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 2020 (Attachment 1) and recommends a 2021 Work Program (Attachment 2) for consideration and approval by Council. The Committee reviewed and endorsed the proposed 2021 Work Program at the FSAAC meeting held on February 25, 2021.

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.

2020 Annual Report

The detailed FSAAC 2020 Annual Report is contained in Attachment 1, and includes the following highlights:

- Reviewed and provided comments on a total of seven development proposals related to or impacting agricultural activities and four soil deposit applications. This included Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) subdivision proposals, non-farm use applications, and Development Permits.
- Received regular updates and provided comments on various City policies and initiatives (e.g. Farming First Strategy and agricultural signage).
- 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. open-air burning regulations, regional agricultural discussion paper, and potential of an agri-tech zone).

2021 Work Program

The detailed FSAAC 2021 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 from staff or Council.
- Continue to receive regular updates and assist in the implementation of the Farming First Strategy, as presented by Policy Planning staff.
- 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 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 2020 Annual Report for the FSAAC is submitted for information and the 2021 Work Program is recommended for Council's approval.



Steven De Sousa
Planner 1

SDS:cas

Attachment 1: Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report
Attachment 2: Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee 2021 Work Program

**FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2020 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 seven development applications forwarded to the FSAAC from staff. Projects covered issues related to ALR subdivision applications, ALR non-farm use applications, 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 four soil deposit applications forwarded to the FSAAC from staff. Reviewed and provided comments on the Soil Removal and Fill Deposition Regulation Bylaw.
Farming First Strategy (Agricultural Viability Strategy Update)	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and provided comments on the proposed Farming First Strategy which is an update of the 2003 Agricultural Viability Strategy.
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.
City Policy Initiatives	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed issues related to agriculture and food security policy forwarded to the FSAAC from staff. Projects covered issues related to regulations for agricultural signage and agri-tourism in the ALR. Received updates from Metro Vancouver on open-air burning regulations and the regional Agriculture Discussion Paper. Received updates from KPU on a study regarding approved non-farm use and subdivision applications.
Drainage and Irrigation	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received updates from Engineering staff on drainage and irrigation projects impacting agriculture.
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 Economic Development staff on opportunities for promoting the agricultural sector in partnership with Tourism Richmond. Received updates from the Ministry of Agriculture on the potential of an agri-tech zone.

List of Applications Reviewed in 2020		
Application	Address	Proposal
ALR Development Applications		
DP 19-876647	17720 River Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Permit to construct a single-family dwelling and consider an alternative farm home plate location.
TE 19 861860	3600 No. 6 Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telecommunications Protocol application to install a telecommunication facility on the ALR property.
AG 19-853589	11371 No. 3 Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALR non-farm use application to allow the existing education use on the property to continue.
AG 20-891572	3031 No. 7 Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALR subdivision application to subdivide the homesite from the remainder parcel for farm succession planning.
SD 19-872413 SD 20-891374 DV 20-896703	2151, 2511, 2611 No. 7 Road & PID 001-928-899	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subdivision consistent with the <i>Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALCA)</i> and Development Variance Permit for farm succession planning.
AG 19-881146	20451 Westminster Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALR non-farm use application to allow an expansion of the education use on the property.
DV 20-907740	6460 No. 5 Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Variance Permit to allow the conversion of a single-family dwelling into an agricultural building.
ALR Soil Deposit and Removal Applications		
CD 90815	5800 No. 7 Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deposit 110,000 m³ of soil on the property to support the production of vegetables.
CD 88742	19740 River Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deposit 32,000 m³ of peat on the property to support the production of cranberries.
CD 28808	8511 No. 6 Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deposit 30,000 m³ of soil on the property to support the production of blueberries.
CD 86351	20371 Westminster Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deposit 2,500 m³ of soil on the property to improve the agricultural capability.

**FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PROPOSED 2021 WORK PROGRAM**

Projects	Expected Results	Objectives and Deliverables
City and ALC Development Applications	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review development applications forwarded to the FSAAC from 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 (deposit or removal) forwarded to the FSAAC from staff or Council. Provide comments to applicants.
Farming First Strategy	Agricultural advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review action items from the Farming First Strategy and work on implementation (e.g. Local Food Map) Provide comments to staff.
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 from 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 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.