

**Schedule C: Agriculture Advisory Committee Recommendations to Council on Agriculture Plan Update, from October 13, 2016.**

The Agriculture Advisory Committee met with staff and the consultant to review the draft theme areas that emerged from the public engagement on October 13, 2016. As well the Agriculture Advisory Committee reviewed and provided input on draft action items for the Agriculture Plan Update. At the meeting, the following recommendations were passed:

**Moved by Dominic Rampone/Seconded by Keith Duhaime**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council support the key themes for the Agricultural Plan update with the following amendments for consideration:

1. Theme 1 - The City should take the 'lead' role rather than a 'supporting' role when addressing wildlife conflicts and concerns;
2. Theme 2 - Deepening partnerships with schools should be changed to deepening partnerships with schools and other public institutions;
3. Theme 4 - The City should play a 'supporting' role rather than 'no role' in cultivating farm-scale business planning and advancing sector innovation.
4. Theme 5 - Need to be more specific regarding 'food security' and clarify it by stating either 'community food security' or 'household food security.'

**Carried**

**Moved by Dominic Rampone/Seconded by Yvonne Herbison**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council adopt Theme 1 - Harnessing and stewarding the bio-physical environment: taking advantage of great soil and sun, while minimizing water use and waste, with the following recommended actions:

- Work with the Invasive Species Council of BC and Regional District of Central Okanagan on initiative to control noxious weeds and invasive species.
- Include agriculture in climate change strategies and plans.
- Develop emergency plans (i.e. wildfire, drought) that are inclusive of agriculture.
- Work with AAFC Summerland Research Station and BC Ministry of Environment to determine opportunities for soil maps to be digitized and made available online.
- Ensure City bylaws (Maintenance of Boulevard Bylaw, Noxious Weeds & Grass Control Bylaw) contain up-to-date list of species of concern.
- Maintain fair water pricing for agricultural users.
- Provide support for water reclaim and re-use projects on farmland.
- Explore impacts of increasing access to treated water and sewer for agriculture.
- Enforce existing weed bylaws.

**Carried**

**Moved by Keith Duhaime/Seconded by Dominic Rampone**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council adopt Theme 2 - Increasing consumer awareness and support for local agriculture: introducing Kelowna farms to residents and visitors alike, with the following recommended actions:

- Explore opportunities to develop an agri-tourism strategy with RDCO and Tourism Kelowna.
- Develop historical interpretive signage regarding agriculture for local parks.
- Support agricultural events, festivals, fairs, and celebrations.
- Develop policies and bylaws to increase opportunities to sell local food within the community.
- Install signs along roads in farming areas to indicate specific farms, crops, etc.
- Work with school districts to explore the possibility of using school grounds for pop-up markets or other agricultural events.
- Support curriculum in schools and community-level programming that educates residents about the history of agriculture in Kelowna.
- Explore the development of a local food procurement policy.
- Develop an identity for Kelowna that highlights a diverse agricultural sector.

**Carried**

**Moved by Jeff Ricketts/Seconded by Dominic Rampone**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council adopt Theme 3 - Managing urban and rural growth & development: keeping non-farm uses off the ALR, with the following recommended actions:

- Address known non-compliance issues and hot spots through bylaw enforcement.
- Support the Farm Practices Protection Act and associated dispute resolution process.
- Work with the real estate industry to develop a “Good Neighbour” policy that provides new landowners with information about normal farm practices.
- Adopt permanent growth boundary protection tools to further protect the ALR.
- Plan roads, sewer, and other services such that the island effect for farmland is minimized.
- Adopt a policy such that ALR applications are only forwarded to the ALC if an Agrologist report indicates an overall benefit to agriculture.
- Develop a homeplate policy to limit overall footprint of residential uses on ALR.
- Provide information to real estate industry about impacts of farmland speculation.
- Encourage city officials to meet with real estate governing bodies to communicate development restrictions on farmland.
- Meet with other local governments to discuss common concerns and advocate for changes at the provincial level (e.g. property transactions and disclosures).

**Carried**

**Moved by Jeff Ricketts/Seconded by Yvonne Herbison**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council adopt Theme 4 - Supporting economic development of the agricultural sector: creating farms that create a profit, with the following recommended actions:

- Enhance connections between producers, small businesses, non-governmental organizations, and small scale food processors.
- Conduct an inventory of food storage, distribution, and processing capacity for small and medium-scale producers.
- Support staff in professional development towards agricultural and rural planning.
- Provide templates and other guidelines and support for farmworker housing development.
- Continue to communicate third-party business planning sessions and workshops to the agricultural community.
- Support the agricultural economic development goals of the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission (COEDC).
- Advocate for general support from higher levels of government.
- Facilitate the development of a local Farmers Institute.
- Support community-level agricultural facilities for food preparation, processing, and cold storage and investigate possible funding sources.

**Carried**

**Moved by Yvonne Herbison/Seconded by Keith Duhaime**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council adopt Theme 5 - Bridging existing gaps in the food system: getting local food onto local plates, with the following recommended actions:

- Conduct an inventory of urban (public land) farming opportunities.
- Create grant/funding stream for projects that support local food system initiatives.
- Endorse/support the visions of other local organizations working in food security, food access, and food self-sufficiency.
- Explore the possibilities of incubator farming on public lands.
- Convene a meeting with stakeholders about the needs and opportunities for a community food hub.
- Support the development of a healthy food strategy.

**Carried**

**Moved by Yvonne Herbison/Seconded by Ed Schiller**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council adopt Theme 6 - Planning for farm succession: making sure that retirement of the farmer doesn't mean retirement of the farm, with the following recommended actions:

- Support dissemination of guides, factsheets, reports, on alternatives to buying/selling of farmland.
- Explore opportunities to establish a farmland trust (possibly regional).
- Promote land linking and mentorship programs (i.e. Young Agrarians).

- Work with the real estate industry to provide those selling ALR with alternative options to fee-simple sales.

**Carried**

**Moved by Dominic Rampone/Seconded by Ed Schiller**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council adopt Theme 7 - Aligning local policies and regulations with the Agriculture Plan Update-'s vision: providing clear direction for decision-makers and landowners, with the following recommended actions:

- Perform regular review of OCP and Zoning Bylaw to ensure that commitment to agriculture and food system is embedded and reflected.
- Meet with RDCO, RDNO, other nearby local government planners to discuss common agricultural and food security goals.
- Meet with other Farm Bylaw municipalities (Abbotsford, Langley, Delta) to discuss common issues.
- Provide support (endorsements, funding) for non-governmental groups working on projects/initiatives that the Agriculture Plan Update supports.
- Explore the development of a local food procurement strategy.
- Re-examine ALR minimum lot sizes and determine whether they support or constrict a diversity of agricultural activities.
- Explore compensation for ecosystem services provided by agriculture.

**Carried**