

FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, June 4, 2015

4:30 p.m. in the City Hall Committee Room

Present: John Mayba, Chris Alemany, Sam Brownlee, Guy Langlois, Rosalind Chapman
Sandra Gentleman

Regrets: Gary Swann, Bob Haynes

Guest: Heather Shobe

1. **Approval of minutes from May 7 2015**

John Mayba moved to approve, Chris Alemany Seconded

2. **Approval of agenda**

John Mayba moved to approve, Chris Alemany Seconded

3. **Eden Tree presentation on the Alberni Valley Gleaning Project**

Heather Shobe talked to the committee on the status of the Alberni Valley Gleaning Project. She is seeking support from the City for the project.

Motion to refer the request for in-kind support from city staff and request that City Council consider providing \$3,000.00 from the Carbon Fund to the Alberni Valley Gleaning Project.

John Mayba moved the motion, Sandra Gentleman seconded.

4. **Correspondence**

- Discussion regarding the email letter from Jen Fisher Bradley recommending that the City of Port Alberni develop a Food Security Portal on their website to allow local food producers to post what produce they have available for sale.

Chris Alemany recommended that the city develop a Food Security and Climate Change webpage on the City's website and provide a link to the Alberni Valley Transition Towns Webpage.

- Sandra Gentleman recommended that the first and last names of committee members be stated in the minutes on our meetings.

4. **Action Item List**

Priority lists from committee members on food security, climate change and transportation

Guy Langlois

- **Rain Water Harvesting rebate program**

Considering that the Alberni Valley will experience long periods of drought in the summer months, there is an immediate need to explore rain harvesting to ensure that citizens access to water to grow food.

- **Impact of sea level rise on city infrastructure, private property**

Guy Langlois will ask the city engineer what strategies the city is taking to address these issues.

- **Impact of LNG project on climate change**

The committee had a brief discussion on the Steelhead LNG project. The project will contribute to climate change as LNG is a carbon fuel. There was also some concern over the environmental impact on fracking. It was decided that this issue is very political and beyond the scope of the FSCC committee.

5. **New Business**

- Chris Alemany reported on the motion to City Council on the recommendation to NIC to consider offering food production courses at the Port Alberni campus.
- Chris Alemany reported on the motion to grow food in boulevards and flower gardens owned by the City. There was some concern on city council regarding who would be responsible for maintaining these gardens.

Guy Langlois informed the committee that Food Share and the Nanaimo Community Garden Society assumed responsibility in taking care of food crops grown in City of Nanaimo garden beds.

Sandra Gentleman stated that the Young Professionals may want to assume this responsibility.

Janet Cormier of the Young Professionals will be invited to talk to the committee in regards to taking on the responsibility of taking care of food crops grown in City of Port Alberni garden beds.

- Guy Langlois stated that there is a need for an organization to take responsibility for food security in our community. Island Health has been promoting the formation of regional Food Hubs. The AVTTS has received grants within the past few years to work on a food assessment, household food survey, and a food action plan. Guy Langlois questioned if the AVTTS has the capacity to move forward on these issues and commented that there is a need for a local organization to take responsibility for food security in our community. It is difficult for our community to action on food security issues without having a local organization with the capacity move forward on food security. The AVTTS is a volunteer based organization and has resisted building more capacity, e.g. hiring staff or renting office space. Several communities on Vancouver Island have local organizations that have built the capacity to implement food security plans in their communities, e.g. Lush Valley Food Action Society in Courtenay, CR Fair in Victory, Cowichan Green Community in Duncan, Food Share in Nanaimo. The committee discussed contacting Island Health to express our concerns and inquire what financial support is available to local organizations to build capacity to take action on food security issues.

John Mayba informed the group Alberni Community & Women's Services (ACAWS) had recently bought a building and was looking at possibly forming some type of social enterprise to support their organization.

Guy Langlois expressed that ACAWS may be a good fit to take on food security issues.

Guy Langlois will contact Analisa Blake at Island Health first before talking to the Sarah Jean Silver, Executive Director at ACAWS regarding their plans. Guy will inquire if Analisa is available to talk to the committee.

- Sam Brownlee and Guy Langlois will contact Ken Watson to get more information regarding the City Carbon Fund.
- Guy Langlois will work on recommendations to city council to form policies and bylaws regarding the creation of community gardens on city owned land.

6. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Chris Alemany, seconded by John Mayba.
- The meeting adjourned at 6:05PM

7. Note to Davina Hartwell: The date of the next meeting was changed to July 9th 2015.

Sam Brownlee, Chair

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk