

FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

**THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.
4:30 p.m. in the City Hall Committee Room**

Present: Gary Swann
John Mayba
Chris Alemany
Sam Brownlee
Guy Langlois
Rosalind Chapman
Sandra Gentleman
Bob Haynes

Guests: Jen Fisher Bradley, Anna Lewis, Connie Kuramoto, Carrie Powell Davidson

1. Approval of minutes from April 2 2015

It was moved and seconded that the April 2, 2015 minutes be approved.

2. Approval of agenda

3. Alberni Valley Agricultural Plan

Anna Lewis and Connie Kuramoto summarized their initiatives and findings that will be presented in the forthcoming report to the ACRD Agricultural Development Committee:

- Improvements to farmers markets
- Growers guide
- West Coast initiatives
- Survey of restaurants
- Need for more farmers
- Securing funding from the ACRD for food security initiatives
- Food security workshop
- Using city owned land for agriculture
- Discussion with Pat Deakin and Michael Huston on hosting a planning charrette for agricultural awareness to attract young farmers to the Alberni Valley
- Agriculture Workshops (SPIN)
- VIU offering a food production course in the Cowichan Valley.
 - o Gary Swann commented that there is a need for NIC to offer a food production course in Port Alberni
- Gary Swann commented that farmers could use wage subsidies for hiring farm workers.
 - o Guy Langlois stated that wage subsidies are available through the Employment Program of BC
- Jen Fisher Bradley stated that there is a need for food security to be integrated into the Community Plan

- Sandra Gentleman stated that health needs to be considered in the Community Plan
- Bob Haynes stated that mindset of farming has to change from not being something that young people should get into as a career to a more positive approach.
- Carrie Powell Davidson congratulated our community on taking action on food security and climate change. She stated that there was a need for our group to connect with the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce of these issues as she indicated it was not presently on their radar.
- Rosalind Chapman commented on the success of the Salt Spring farmers market
- John Mayba commented on the need for base line data on how much local food is sold in the Alberni Valley

4. Action Item List

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

Gary Swann

- Need make humus to support the growing of food
 - Guy Langlois will contact the ACRD and Carey McIver & Associates Ltd. to find out where they are at in developing a composting program for the valley
- Need for longer rotations in our community forest (120, 180, 240 year rotations instead of 50-60 year rotations). Sequestering Carbon should be goal of BC Forest Policy

Bob Haynes

- Water conservation program
- Agri-Irrigation program
- Subsidies for farmers

Chris

- Need to bring the farmers markets together
- Develop bike lanes
- Large solar buy
- Baseline data for energy, local food and CO² emissions

Rosalind

- Development of bylaws to support community gardens and neighbourhood gardens
 - Guy Langlois will find a copy of the draft proposed community gardens bylaw that he sent to Scott Smith

John

- Urban farms directory

Sam

- Online source/portal for food distribution to make it easier to access local food

- Feasibility of making the Alberni Valley GMO free
- Bladeless wind turbines
- Tesla institutional energy program
- Bike paths

Sandra

- Development of a community plan that improves city infrastructure for more active transportation ie. bike lanes, cycling paths, extended waterfront boardwalks, plus safe and reasonable public access to city's waterfront lands.
- Move to reduce amount of polluting and messy logs in inlet, and decomposing wood fibre in the canal and on municipal waterfront lands in front of city centre.

These two priorities will assist in improving the health of our local environment and will modify the waterfront to become more people-friendly, safe, attractive and inviting for residents and tourists.

Guy

- He will present his priorities at the next committee meeting

5. Correspondence

- We did not have time to discuss the email letter from Jen Fisher Bradley

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30PM

Sam Brownlee, Chair

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk