

EDMONTON FOOD COUNCIL

Minutes - Meeting Ten

May 6, 2014 - CKUA Radio Network, 9804 Jasper Avenue, Third Floor Boardroom

Present:

M. Bailey, M. Male, J. Herbert, M. LaRue, C. Sikora, H. Dinner, J. Fisk, M. Bencz, K. Kossowan, M. Dear, M. Woodman, K. Franke, D. Bajer

Absent:

B. Swallow

Also in attendance:

H. Quan, Principal Planner, Urban Planning and Environment Branch
L. Larson, Senior Planner, Urban Planning and Environment Branch
K. Anderson, Director, Urban Planning and Environment Branch
C. Lawson, Senior Policy Advisor, Intergovernmental and External Affairs
M. Wispinski, Chief Advisor, Intergovernmental and External Affairs
R. Risling, Manager, Assessment and Taxation Branch

1. Welcome and opening remarks by Co-Chairs

J. Fisk called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A brief overview of the agenda for the meeting was provided.

2. STANDING ITEM - Approval of previous Minutes

J. Fisk introduced the new standing item and invited everyone to review the previous Minutes and make suggestions for edits, if any. M. Bencz made a motion to approve the Minutes as they were. K. Kossowan seconded the motion and all voted in favour. The motion was carried.

3. STANDING ITEM - News and information sharing

H. Quan began with brief overview of news and updates from the City. A number of Food Council members also took turns sharing relevant news and information.

4. Food Council Work Plan

J. Fisk and M. Bailey provided an overview of their meetings with City Councillors over the past few weeks to highlight the salient discussion points of relevance to the Food Council. Based on all the foundational discussions at Food Council meetings to date, the discussions from the two working groups, the results of the meetings with City Council and the limited resources available to the Food Council to carry out work, J. Fisk and M. Bailey offered recommendations for a work plan for the remainder of 2014 for the Food Council.

The work plan would include holding three public meetings to learn about specific topics, with the first public meeting to be held as early as June. The three topics would be: the process to develop community gardens, urban agriculture and the zoning bylaw, and urban agriculture on vacant lots. The work plan also included using other public engagement and communications tools, such as creation of an Food Council online presence, pending approval from the City of Edmonton on a website external to the City's website. The two working groups would be discontinued and ongoing governance work would need to continue, including the recruitment of new members for the fall. The work plan was discussed at length, in consideration of multiple viewpoints and various potential issues. At the end of the discussion, C. Sikora made a motion to adopt the work plan as recommended. The motion was seconded by M. Dear and all voted in favour. The motion was carried.

J. Fisk and M. Bailey invited interested members to let them know if they would like to join a small working group to help organize the first public meeting for June.

Break

5. Municipal Government Act Consultation

Members of the City's Intergovernmental and External Affairs team presented on the current provincial initiative to review the Municipal Government Act. Approximately an hour was spent consulting with Food Council members on multiple Municipal Government Act issues relevant to food and agriculture and Edmonton. No recommendations were made, but Food Council members provided feedback based on the information presented.

6. Website Update

H. Quan indicated that a request as been submitted to the City's Internet Steering Committee for approval of an external website for the

Food Council. The decision was expected to be communicated by the end of the week.

7. Governance Update

J. Fisk and M. Bailey provided a brief update on the work of the Governance Committee, which will now focus on the recruitment of new members. The Governance Committee has agreed to new term lengths for members that include one, two and three years. Additional work is being done to ensure that the Food Council strategically recruits members to ensure that the Food Council maintains a balanced set of necessary skills, experience, representation and attributes.

8. Closing Remarks

J. Fisk provided closing remarks and adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.