

**1ST REPORT OF THE**  
**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting held on December 16, 2015, commencing at 5:00 PM, in Committee Room #5, Second Floor, London City Hall.

**PRESENT:** L. McKenna (Chair), H. Fletcher, S. Franke, A. Lawrence, M. McAlpine and S. Twynstra and B. Mercier (Secretary).

**ABSENT:** P. Conlin and K. Dinell.

**ALSO PRESENT:** C. Crispin and L. Maitland.

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it **BE NOTED** that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

**II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

That L. McKenna and S. Franke **BE APPOINTED** as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for the term ending November 30, 2016.

**III. SCHEDULED ITEMS**

3. Urban Agriculture in London

That it **BE NOTED** that a verbal update from L. Maitland, Planner 1, with respect to Urban Agriculture in London, was received; it being noted that the Agricultural Advisory Committee was advised that the draft Terms of Reference for Urban Agriculture may be available by the Spring of 2016.

**IV. CONSENT ITEMS**

4. 3rd Report of the Agriculture Advisory Committee

That it **BE NOTED** that the 3rd Report of the Agricultural Advisory Committee from its meeting held on September 16, 2015, was received.

5. 7th, 8th and 1st Reports of the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it **BE NOTED** that the 7th, 8th and 1st Reports of the Advisory Committee on the Environment from its meetings held on October 7, November 4 and December 2, 2015, respectively, were received.

6. Municipal Council Resolution - 3rd Report of the Agriculture Advisory Committee

That it **BE NOTED** that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its session held on October 13, 2015, with respect to the 3rd Report of the Agricultural Advisory Committee from its meeting held on September 16, 2015, was received.

**V. SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS**

None.

**VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

7. Mushroom Farm Zoning Review - City Of London

That the Civic Administration **BE ADVISED** that the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) indicated that in its opinion, the setback requirement for mushroom farms should be 500m from the nearest dwelling, institutional zone or hamlet zone, due to the nature of the business; it being noted that the AAC received a draft report from the Managing Director, Planning and City Planner, and heard a verbal report from L. Maitland, Planner 1, with respect to this matter.

8. 2016 Work Plan

That the revised ~~attached~~ 2016 Work Plan for the Agricultural Advisory Committee **BE FORWARDED** to the Municipal Council for consideration.

9. AAC Representative for London Advisory Committee on Heritage

That the matter of an Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) representative for the London Advisory Committee on Heritage **BE DEFERRED** to the March 16, 2016 meeting of the AAC, for consideration.

10. Frequency of Meetings

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Terms of Reference **BE AMENDED** to change the frequency of the meetings from quarterly to five (5) times annually, January, March, June, September and November.

**VII. DEFERRED MATTERS/ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

None.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: January 20, 2016**

**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
2016 WORK PLAN**

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/ Responsible	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Backyard Chickens/small livestock allowed in municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Allow citizens to keep hens within city limits as long as they adhere to certain guidelines</li> <li>● Allow chicken owners to sell their eggs</li> <li>● ex. Hens and bees are permitted within city limits in the City of Victoria provided they are properly cared for and maintained. Secure outdoor shelter must be provided to contain hens or other outdoor domesticated animals and protect them from predators. Bee hives must be maintained to prevent swarming and placed far enough away from property lines to prevent them from impacting neighbouring properties (City of Victoria, 2011)</li> <li>● City of Vancouver Backyard Hens Bylaw: In March 2010, policy guidelines were developed for the keeping of backyard chickens (City of Vancouver, 2010). (<a href="http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/backyard-chickens.aspx">http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/backyard-chickens.aspx</a>)</li> <li>● <b>POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATION:</b> City staff research backyard chicken feasibility for London, and compare bylaw policies in other mid-large urban centres in Canada.</li> </ul>	Skylar	Ongoing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The London Plan (Food System) – draft</li> <li>● London and Middlesex Food Policy Council - new</li> <li>● Child and Youth Agenda 2012-2015</li> </ul>
Developing a plan for Transactional Urban Agriculture (UA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Allow UA farmers to sell their produce, as long as they have undergone a site assessment and have a business licence, regulatory food policies Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU)</li> <li>● Can sell to; CSA, Farmer's Market, Roadside, Restaurants, home delivery etc.</li> <li>● Work with MLHU to ensure that the food safety is up to code (including any onsite processing facility)</li> <li>● <b>POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATION:</b> City staff compile a report regarding feasibility for London, and compare bylaw policies in other mid-large urban centres in Canada</li> </ul>	Skylar	Ongoing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The London Plan (Food System) – draft</li> <li>● London and Middlesex Food Policy Council - new</li> <li>● Child and Youth Agenda 2012-2015</li> </ul>
Work with the London and Middlesex Food Policy Council (LMFPC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have the LMFPC present at an AAC meeting</li> <li>● <b>POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATION:</b> A member from Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) sit on the LMFPC after it is developed</li> </ul>	Whoever would like to sit on AAC	When the LMFPC is established		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The London Plan (Food System) – draft</li> <li>● London and Middlesex Food Policy Council - new</li> </ul>

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Advocate for more fruit and nut (more edible) trees on public lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATION:</b> that fruit trees are planted in parks and boulevards throughout the city to assist with healthy communities and providing alternative food options</li> <li>● Work with Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) to develop this recommendation</li> </ul>	Skylar + TFAC	Ongoing	~\$500 for guest speaker to present on fruit/nut tree policies in Toronto (combine with TFAC/ACE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Urban Forest Strategy</li> <li>● The London Plan (Natural Heritage and The Green City) – draft</li> <li>● Child and Youth Agenda 2012-2015</li> </ul>
Support for Urban Agriculture related business development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATION:</b> City staff explore the idea of urban farmland- offer leases to farmers for public property, new zoning designation etc (incubator farms)</li> <li>● <b>POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATION:</b> City staff explore the idea of a new position at city: UA Farm Manager (in charge of maintaining UA programs and farmland, works with LMFPC and Community Gardens across London to run a coordinated effort of urban agriculture (UA)) - ties into Sept 1 2015 Council meeting- Council directed staff to consult with stakeholders and to report back regarding the <a href="#">London Community Garden Program Strategic Plan</a> with respect to the feasibility of an overarching urban agriculture policy)</li> <li>● <b>POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATION:</b> Staff explore allowing for on-site processing in Urban Agricultural farmland</li> <li>● City in charge of processing soil testing -The Toronto Site Assessment is a tool developed by Toronto Public Health for city staff to assess potential sites for community and allotment gardens, and to identify and mitigate areas that are contaminated but could be suitable for food production (Toronto Public Health, 2011).</li> </ul>	Suggestions for the report being done to explore UA in London (end of 2016) City of London Staff + AAC	Ongoing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● London Economic Development Corporation's Industry Focus Areas: - Food Processing</li> <li>● Invest more in heritage restoration, brownfield remediation, urban regeneration, and community improvement projects.</li> </ul>
<b>POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATION:</b> Develop an Urban Agricultural Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● use the comprehensive scan from the City of London (Sept 1 2015), in partnership with the London Middlesex Food Policy Council to develop an UA plan for the City of London</li> <li>● Include points from the London Plan (Food Systems and Farmland Use sections)</li> <li>● (Sept 1 2015) Council directed staff to consult with stakeholders and to report back regarding the <a href="#">London Community Garden Program Strategic Plan</a> with respect to the feasibility of an overarching urban agriculture policy)</li> </ul>	AAC Team	Ongoing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child and Youth Agenda 2012-2015</li> <li>● The London Plan (Food System) – draft</li> <li>● London and Middlesex Food Policy Council - new</li> </ul>
Work with associated entities to develop agribusiness in London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● work with interested parties (ex. London Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) to discuss agribusiness (ex. plant processing, food production, food chains)</li> <li>● AAC would like to promote the development and securing of plant processing, food chains and food production</li> </ul>	AAC Team	Ongoing		

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Review City of London Land lease agreements for agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review City of London standard farmland/agriculture land lease agreements to provide feedback</li> </ul>	Steve	mid 2016		

**Resources:** Urban Farming Guidebook- <http://www.refbc.com/sites/default/files/Urban-Farming-Guidebook-2013.pdf>  
<https://www.london.ca/newsroom/Documents/CommunityGarden.pdf>