



ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE

CANNABIS WORKSHOP

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
10:15 am
FVRD Boardroom, 45950 Cheam Avenue, Chilliwack, BC

Members Present: Director Bill Dickey, Electoral Area D, Chair
Director Terry Raymond, Electoral Area A
Director Dennis Adamson, Electoral Area B
Director Wendy Bales, Electoral Area C
Director Orion Engar, Electoral Area E
Director Hugh Davidson, Electoral Area F
Director Al Stobbart, Electoral Area G
Alternate Director Dave Clyne, Electoral Area H

Regrets: Director Taryn Dixon, Electoral Area H

Staff Present: Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Jaime Reilly, Manager of Corporate Administration/Corporate Officer
Suzanne Gresham, Director of Corporate Initiatives
Tareq Islam, Director of Engineering & Community Services
Margaret-Ann Thornton, Director of Planning & Development
Milly Marshall, Director of EA Special Projects
Graham Daneluz, Deputy Director of Planning & Development
Julie Mundy, Planning Technician
Matthew Fang, Network Analyst I
Tina Mooney, Executive Assistant to CAO and Board
Chris Lee, Executive Assistant, Corporate Admin (*Recording Secretary*)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dickey called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDENDA AND LATE ITEMS

Moved By STOBART
Seconded By RAYMOND

THAT the Agenda, Addenda and Late Items for the Electoral Area Services Committee Cannabis Workshop of September 10, 2019 be approved;

AND THAT all reports, correspondence and other information set to the Agenda be received for information.

CARRIED

3. CANNABIS WORKSHOP PRESENTATION

Margaret-Ann Thornton, Director of Planning and Development gave a PowerPoint presentation, providing a brief overview of the cannabis legislation and production. She reported that the objectives of the Cannabis Workshop are:

- To hear from Electoral Area Directors what the issues are in their areas in relation to cannabis production and sales;
- Electoral Area Directors to provide clear land use directions to staff for the new and evolving Cannabis industry.

Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Federal, Provincial and ALR legislation is changing with no input/consideration of Local Government concerns;
- Total number of Current Cannabis Health Canada Notices in FVRD Electoral Areas: 26 – [Area “B” (2), “E” (2), “F” (13), “G” (5) and “H” (4)];
- Electoral Areas “A”, “C” and “D” do not have any current known applications;
- There are bylaw enforcement files related to cannabis production in all Electoral Areas;
- Uses currently permitted under FVRD zoning:
 - *Retail sale of cannabis* – not defined under zoning, generally permitted where retail commercial uses are permitted. Provincial approval required and local government consent is required as part of the provincial licensing process;
 - *Growing of cannabis in the ALR (outside or in a soil based building, or within a building built for the growing of crops constructed before July 13, 2018)* – is permitted by the Agricultural Land Commission anywhere within the ALR;
 - *Growing of cannabis in the ALR (in a new building constructed after July 13, 2018)* - permitted in Electoral Areas “A”, “B”, “C”, “F” and “G” only;
 - *Processing of cannabis* - permitted in SOME ZONES IN Electoral Areas “A”, “B”, “C”, “F” and “G” only;
 - *Manufacturing of cannabis products (edibles, etc.)* - permitted In the ALR with limitations (i.e. 50% of cannabis grown on the farm) and in industrial zones;
 - *Micro-Grow Operations* (zoning does not differentiate the size of cannabis operation) - permitted in Electoral Areas “A”, “B”, “C”, “F” and “G” only

Agricultural Land Commission regulations with respect to cannabis production were noted.

Ms. Thornton further reported that the Electoral Area Directors survey noted no consistent Electoral Area-wide approach. Two general streams were noted:

- Avoid cannabis: as much as legally possible
- Support cannabis: mitigate the negative impacts

An update on actions taken in the surrounding areas/municipalities with respect to Cannabis production and retail sales was also provided.

With respect to the public consultation strategy, Ms. Thornton reported that the survey indicated the following level and dialogue is desired by EA Directors:

- Public Information Meeting – hosted by FVRD
- Public Information Meeting – hosted by Applicants
- Public Outreach
- Outreach to Stakeholders

In summary, Ms. Thornton noted the following points from the discussion:

- Acknowledge that cannabis is an important land use and need to be dealt with;
- Two directions: 1) Avoid cannabis production or 2) permit and mitigate the effects;
- Prepare summary and create a policy to address some of the issues with respect to Health Canada and ALC requirements;
- Immediate need for implementation of policy;
- Every cannabis facility is site specific, either retail use or production - to flush out public consultation options for site specific issues;
- To address Micro grow and smaller scale operators issues

Ms. Thornton concluded her presentation noting that a summary, policy and strategy including public consultation options based upon EASC direction will be brought forward at the October EASC meeting for consideration. A zoning bylaw amendment is also anticipated to be tabled at the October meeting.

Staff thanked the Electoral Area Directors for the constructive input provided at the workshop and also the response to the survey.

Electoral Area Directors noted that in some electoral areas there is an urgent need to get regulations in place because of the strong producer interest. In Area “F”, for example, thirteen Heal Canada notices have been received regarding proposed cannabis production facilities.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By RAYMOND
Seconded By DAVIDSON

THAT the Electoral Area Services Committee Cannabis Workshop of September 10, 2019 be adjourned.

CARRIED

The Electoral Area Services Committee Cannabis Workshop adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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Director Bill Dickey, Chair