



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 23, 2019

Date: May 16, 2019

From: Councillor Ben Isitt and Councillor Jeremy Loveday

Subject: Support for Establishment of Regional Food and Farmland Trust

Background:

Council has received a referral from the Capital Regional District, soliciting the City of Victoria's position on the proposed establishment of a Regional Food and Farmland Trust.

In light of the lack of available agricultural land in the City of Victoria, and the requirement for food security and food sovereignty on a permanent basis, particularly in the context of climate change, it is recommended that the City of Victoria endorses the establishment of a Regional Food and Farmland Trust. It is also recommended that the City of Victoria call on the Capital Regional District to establish this mechanism to protect farmland and increase access for food production on a priority basis.

Recommendations:

That Council requests that the Mayor respond, on behalf of Council, to the Capital Regional District Board Chair's letter regarding establishing a Regional Food and Farmland Trust, indicating that Council:

1. Endorses the establishment a Regional Food and Farmland Trust on a priority basis.
2. Requests that the Capital Regional District prepare a Service Establishment Bylaw for referral to member local governments, based on:
 - (a) Voluntary participation among local governments;
 - (b) Collection of a Regional Food and Farmland Levy from ratepayers in participating local governments beginning in the 2020 Financial Plan, priced at an initial rate of \$10 per average household per year, with indexation to inflation for future years;
 - (c) A mandate to acquire lands to expand food production and improve access to healthy, locally grown, affordable food in perpetuity in the context of climate change.
3. Requests that the Capital Regional District work with members of the agricultural sector, including established farmers as well as prospective farmers who currently lack access to land, and report back to the Capital Regional District Board with a proposed operating model for the leasing and improvement of lands held in the Regional Food and Farmland Trust.

4. Indicates that the City of Victoria, as a built-out municipality in the core area of the region, does not own parcels of land available for inclusion in a Regional Food and Farmland Trust.
5. Supports an examination of selected areas within Regional Parks which could be used for food production alongside other recreational and ecological services provided in these parks, for example the easterly portion of Elk and Beaver Lake Regional Park in the vicinity of the Patricia Bay Highway and Sayward Road, subject to ongoing public access and consultation with the District of Saanich.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Isitt



Councillor Loveday

Attachments:

1. Letter from Capital Regional District Board Chair
2. Regional Foodland Access Program Questions / Answers
3. Regional Foodlands Access Program Feasibility Study