

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Urban Beekeeping

Motion:

That Council direct Administration to work with Alberta Urban Garden on the development of an application for Urban Beekeeping within the City of Fort Saskatchewan.

Purpose:

To introduce the proposal for Urban Beekeeping within the City of Fort Saskatchewan.

Background:

On April 28, 2015 the City of Edmonton approved a bylaw formalizing the licensing process for urban beekeeping, and permitting urban beekeeping throughout the City. As a result of this approval, applications for urban beekeeping are now underway in surrounding urban municipalities in the Capital Region.

In the City of Fort Saskatchewan, the Alberta Urban Garden is a non-profit group with an interest in furthering organic and sustainable agricultural practice in urban settings. This group is a local champion for the regional urban beekeeping movement. Along with other groups in other communities throughout the region, they are proposing that regional communities follow the lead of the City of Edmonton to permit urban beekeeping.

Alberta Urban Garden has made a request to the City of Fort Saskatchewan to assist the group in proposing changes to the Land Use Bylaw in order to permit Urban Beekeeping. The Land Use Bylaw currently permits beekeeping within the 'Agriculture' use, which is permitted within the Industrial Reserve (IR) and the Industrial Buffer (IB) districts, and is discretionary within the Urban Reserve (UR), Residential Estates (RE), Medium Industrial (IM) and Heavy Industrial (IH) districts.

How Urban Beekeeping will be regulated and where Urban Beekeeping may be allowed are questions that will be answered through the application process. Administration would prefer to work with the applicant to develop the application in such a way that meets the needs of their proposal as well as the City's current processes. By assisting in the application process, Administration will ensure that the final proposal will be the most preferred option for the City.

Alberta Urban Garden have requested the fees for the Land Use Bylaw amendment application to be waived. The fee for these applications are established in the Fees & Charges Bylaw and are based on recouping the cost of staff time. The fee for a Land Use Bylaw amendment application is \$2,500.00.

The intent of the proposal would be to provide for the use throughout a broader range of districts, as opposed to only one specific property. For this reason, Council may feel there is merit to provide in-kind assistance to this organization as the application would have city-wide impacts. Should Council wish to do so, the following motion would be passed:

That Council direct Administration to provide Alberta Urban Garden with a \$2,500.00 grant to be funded from Planning & Development revenue for the purpose of proceeding with a Land Use Bylaw amendment application.

It should be noted that the Land Use Bylaw does not provide for the waiver of fees and as such the above process is the alternative to be followed.

Plans/Standards/Legislation:

The Community Sustainability Plan and the Municipal Development Plan both identify a key principle for Fort Saskatchewan to be stewardship of the environment. This includes the preservation and enhancement of natural ecosystems and the integration of nature with our urban environment.

Alternatives:

1. That Council direct Administration to work with Alberta Urban Garden on the development of an application for Urban Beekeeping within the City of Fort Saskatchewan.
2. That Council not direct Administration to work with Alberta Urban Garden on the development of an application for Urban Beekeeping within the City of Fort Saskatchewan, and advise how they wish to proceed.

Recommendation:

That Council direct Administration to work with Alberta Urban Garden on the development of an application for Urban Beekeeping within the City of Fort Saskatchewan.

Attachments:

1. Appendix A – Request Letter for Urban Beekeeping from Alberta Urban Garden
2. Appendix B – Guidelines for Safe Urban Beekeeping in Calgary
3. Appendix C – Pilot Project for Urban Beekeeping in Edmonton
4. Appendix D - Alberta Urban Garden PowerPoint Presentation

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Approved by:	Troy Fleming General Manager, Infrastructure & Community Services	Date: May 20, 2015
Reviewed by:	Kelly Kloss City Manager	Date: May 20, 2015
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: May 26, 2015