

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER PUBLIC HEARING

REPORT of the Public Hearing held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, B.C. on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor R. Walton
Councillor M. Bond
Councillor J. Hanson
Councillor R. Hicks

Absent: Councillor R. Bassam
Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn
Councillor L. Muri

Staff: Mr. D. Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services
Mr. T. Lancaster, Manager – Community Planning
Ms. S. Dale, Confidential Council Clerk
Mr. C. Rucci, Social Planner

Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw 8211, 2016

Purpose of Bylaw:

Bylaw 8211 proposes to regulate and allow for the keeping of backyard hens in a safe, humane, and sanitary manner that is sensitive to the needs of neighbouring properties and the environment. The bylaw will permit from two up to six hens in the District of North Vancouver in any of the Single-Family Residential Zones (RS), subject to compliance with the bylaw.

1. OPENING BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Walton welcomed everyone and advised that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive input from the community and staff on the proposed bylaw as outlined in the Notice of Public Hearing.

In Mayor Walton's preamble he addressed the following:

- All persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaw will be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard and to present written submissions;
- Use of the established speakers list. At the end of the speakers list, the Chair may call on speakers from the audience;
- Each speaker will have five minutes to address Council for a first time and should begin remarks to Council by stating their name and address;
- All members of the audience are asked to be respectful of one another as diverse opinions are expressed. Council wishes to hear everyone's views in an open and impartial forum;
- Council is here to listen to the public, not to debate the merits of the bylaw;

- At the conclusion of the public input Council may request further information from staff which may or may not require an extension of the hearing, or Council may close the hearing after which Council should not receive further new information from the public;
- Everyone at the Hearing will be provided an opportunity to speak. If necessary, the Hearing will continue on a second night;
- After everyone who wishes to speak has spoken once, speakers will then be allowed one additional five minute presentation;
- Any additional presentations will only be allowed at the discretion of the Chair;
- The binder containing documents and submissions related to this bylaw is available on the side table to be viewed; and,
- The Public Hearing is being streamed live over the internet and recorded in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

2. INTRODUCTION OF BYLAWS BY THE CLERK

Mr. James Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services, introduced the proposed Bylaw, stating that Bylaw 8211 proposes to regulate and allow for the keeping of backyard hens in a safe, humane, and sanitary manner that is sensitive to the needs of neighbouring properties and the environment. The bylaw will permit from two up to six hens in the District of North Vancouver in any of the Single-Family Residential Zones (RS), subject to compliance with the bylaw.

3. PRESENTATION BY STAFF

Mr. Dan Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits, provided an overview of the proposal elaborating on the introduction by the Manager – Administrative Services.

Mr. Milburn advised that:

- Staff have consulted with a number of stakeholders in preparation of the bylaw including the Canadian Liberated Chicken Klub (CLUCK), the North Shore Black Bear Society (NSBBS), other local government who have adopted similar bylaws, Vancouver Coastal Health and the SPCA;
- Staff have completed community consultation;
- Noted that at first reading, Council expressed interest in considering amended provisions that include registration fees, site inspections and the requirement of electric fences; and,
- Advised that staff are available to answer questions.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

4.1. Mr. Bruce R. Lindsay, 4100 Block St. Paul's Avenue: OPPOSED

- Provided a slide presentation in opposition to the keeping of backyard hens, noting large predators including bears, cougars and coyotes are attracted by chicken coops; and,
- Provided examples of wildlife interactions resulting from the keeping of hens.

- 4.2. Ms. Barb Purdy, 1000 Block Chamberlain Drive: IN FAVOUR**
- Spoke in support of the proposed bylaw regarding the keeping of backyard hens;
 - Opined that guidelines will provide safety for hens, residents and bears; and,
 - Commented on the environmental impact and educational opportunities.
- 4.3. Mr. Mick Webb, 1200 Block Harris Avenue: OPPOSED**
- Spoke in opposition to the proposed bylaw; and,
 - Expressed concern that chickens may be a wildlife attractant for cougars, bears and coyotes.
- 4.4. Ms. Judith Brook, 2400 Block Lauralynn Drive: IN FAVOUR**
- Spoke in support of the proposed bylaw regarding the keeping of backyard hens;
 - Commented on other municipalities with similar green belts where residents are allowed to keep hens; and,
 - Suggested that chicken coops be inspected.
- 4.5. Mr. Hazen Colbert, 1100 Block East 27th Street: OPPOSED**
- Noted that chickens have a short egg bearing life;
 - Opined that electric fences will not keep predators out of the coop; and,
 - Spoke to the nuisances of chickens.
- 4.6. Mr. James Gill, 500 Block West King George Highway: IN FAVOUR**
- Spoke in support of the proposed bylaw;
 - Commented on other municipalities that have successfully permitted the keeping of backyard chickens;
 - Commented that garbage and fruit trees will continue to be the main bear attractants; and,
 - Spoke to the environmental impact and educational opportunities that allowing backyard chickens may provide.
- 4.7. Ms. Christine Miller, 1400 Block Emerson Way: IN FAVOUR**
- Noted she is a representative of the North Shore Black Bear Society (NSBBS); and,
 - Reported that NSBBS recommends electric fencing, mandatory inspection and a registration fee for backyard chicken coops.
- 4.8. Ms. Erin Marbry, 2800 Block Wembley Drive: IN FAVOUR**
- Spoke as a representative of CLUCK;
 - Spoke in support of the proposed bylaw; and,
 - Advised that CLUCK can provide educational support to address issues regarding neighbourhood concerns.
- 4.9. Ms. Betty Forbes, 2300 Block Kirkstone Road: OPPOSED**
- Requested that Council review the Keeping of Pigeon Bylaw as it is dated;
 - Spoke in opposition to the proposed bylaw;
 - Expressed concern that chickens have a short egg bearing life;

- Requested the proposed bylaw state that only one coop of any kind be allowed per residence; and,
- Urged Council to consider the financial impact this bylaw may have on neighbouring properties.

4.10. Ms. Heidi DeLazzer, 400 Block West Queens Road: IN FAVOUR

- Spoke to ways of disposing or donating chickens after they stop producing eggs;
- Noted that people take pride in their chicken coops; and,
- Suggested that chicken coops be inspected.

4.11. Mr. John Hunter, 300 Block Roche Point Drive: OPPOSED

- Spoke to the nuisances of hens including noise and smell;
- Expressed concern that hens have a short egg bearing life; and,
- Expressed concern that chickens may be a wildlife attractant for cougars, bears and coyotes and may be a risk to young children.

4.12. Ms. Jennifer Meilleur, 1800 Block Purcell Way: IN FAVOUR

- Advised she is the Coordinator of the North Shore Table Matters Network;
- Spoke in support of the proposed bylaw regarding the keeping of backyard hens;
- Commented on food systems and sustainability; and,
- Spoke to the educational opportunities to help residents understand and care for their chickens.

4.13. Mr. Frank Barazzuol, 2100 Block Riverside Drive: IN FAVOUR

- Commented that it is important for the community to know where their food comes from;
- Commented on positive past experiences of his neighbours keeping chickens; and,
- Noted the importance of educating residents on bear attractants.

Council recessed at 8:00 pm and reconvened at 8:04 pm.

4.14. Ms. Lana Dyment, 400 Block Norwood Avenue: IN FAVOUR

- Spoke in support of the proposed bylaw;
- Commented on the opportunity to educate children on understanding how to care for their chickens; and,
- Noted that most residents are responsible.

4.15. Mr. Benjamin Dyment, 400 Block Norwood Avenue: IN FAVOUR

- Commented that farming skills and animal upkeep can be learned by caring for backyard chickens;
- Spoke regarding the health benefits of eating home laid eggs;
- Noted that manure can be used to grow vegetables in gardens; and,
- Commented on other municipalities that have successfully permitted the keeping of backyard chickens.

4.16. Ms. Sharon Porter, 600 Block Riverside Drive: IN FAVOUR

- Commented on her family's past experience with raising animals;

- Spoke to ways of disposing or donating chickens after they stop producing eggs;
- Spoke to the benefits of raising animals; and,
- Urged Council to support the proposed bylaw.

4.17. Mr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive: OPPOSED

- Spoke to the nuisances of raising hens; and,
- Expressed concern that hens may be a wildlife attractant.

4.18. Ms. Karen Savage, 700 Block East 10th Street: IN FAVOUR

- Commented that when chickens stop producing eggs they will continue to be pets.

4.19. Mr. Bruce Lindsay, 4100 Block St. Paul's Avenue: SPEAKING A SECOND TIME

- Stated that the keeping of backyard chickens is a safety concern; and,
- Reiterated that chickens are a wildlife attractant.

4.20. Mr. John Hunter, 300 Block Roche Point Drive: SPEAKING A SECOND TIME

- Expressed concern regarding the risk of salmonella; and,
- Opined that food security is not a benefit of the keeping of backyard chickens.

4.21. Mr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive: SPEAKING A SECOND TIME

- Suggested that a temporary use permit be required for the keeping of backyard hens in the District.

4.22. Mr. Lucas Highway, 300 Block Sunnycrest Drive: IN FAVOUR

- Commented that chickens can be pets and do not need to be disposed of after they stop producing eggs; and,
- Opined that garbage is the main bear attractant.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the City of North Vancouver, although registration is voluntary has received 233 registrations for coops. Staff also noted that the District of West Vancouver has recently amended its Zoning Bylaw and Animal Control Bylaw in order to allow hens and have three registered coops.

5. COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by Councillor HANSON

SECONDED by Councillor BOND

THAT the May 16, 2017 Public Hearing be closed;

AND THAT "Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw 8211, 2016" be returned to Council for further consideration.

CARRIED
(8:35 p.m.)

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Confidential Council Clerk