

SOLANO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Special Meeting

Meeting called to order at 2:35 by Chair Lester.

Members Present: Russ Lester, Moira Burke, Jeff Dittmer, Lisa Howard, Ian Anderson, Al Medvitz, Barbara Comfort

Members Absent: Bruce Brazelton, Jen King

Guests Present: Ed King, Agricultural Commissioner; Allan Calder, Planning Manager; Jim Laughlin, County Counsel; James Bezak, Assistant Director Resource Management; Dale Crosley; Sean Favero; Will Brazelton; Chris Scheuring; Sean McNamara.

Teleconference Meeting Resolution:

Approved Teleconference Meeting Resolution #2022-02, by unanimous committee vote authorizing the meeting to proceed via teleconference as a result of the continuing COVID pandemic state of emergency.

Approval of the Agenda: Agenda approved with no additions or deletions.

NEW BUSINESS - Review of proposed agricultural zoning text amendments to Chapter 28 of the Solano County Code (ZT-21-03).

Agricultural Education and Research Facilities

After receiving previous feedback from the committee and other stakeholders, staff are proposing to separate the proposed combined Agricultural Education and Research Facility definition. The original Agricultural Education Facilities definition will be reinstated, and the new Agricultural Research Facility definition will be included in the updated amendments scheduled to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in March. This change resolves what would have otherwise resulted in a conflict in the Suisun Valley code did not previously permit commercial ag research. Staff will circulate an amended draft of the changes for further review.

Agricultural Trucking Services and Facilities

Discussion attempted to resolve concerns about undue restrictions on ag trucking operators who do not live on parcels where trucks are stored. After consideration of a possible exception to allow an operator who resides on, or owns, the property to keep 5 or fewer trucks on site the committee decided to favor the original proposed changes which require a use permit for operators who do not reside on the property with the intention of eliminating potential abuses of trucking operations on ag zoned lands.

Agritourism and Agritourism Facilities

Staff explained the previous Agricultural Tourism definition was being implemented in Suisun Valley as allowed by right. Newly proposed Agritourism and Agritourism Facility definitions and allowed uses permit the county to grant an operator of a working farm or ranch the ability to hold ag related events throughout the county in A-20 and A-40 districts upon obtaining a use permit. Discussion followed around various scenarios of small scale events that, by suggestion, possibly should be allowed by right and consideration for expanding agritourism options into the A-80 and A-160 districts.

The committee and other discussion participants agreed an additional meeting is necessary to continue review of the proposed zoning text changes: scheduled for February 28 at 3:00 p.m. Staff will provide an updated packet of proposed changes based on feed back to date by February 25.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 4:56 p.m.