

STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Public Engagement

To ensure a digital presence and public awareness, the Urban Beekeeping webpage <https://stalbert.ca/dev/planning/documents/lub/urban-beekeeping/> and social media content was developed. The website was updated as the project advanced and included the following content:

- Information on and the purpose of proposed Urban Beekeeping Bylaw;
- Display boards from TD Clean and Green RiverFest, and the resulting feedback;
- Links to beekeeping resources;
- A Frequently Asked Questions document; and
- An online survey that ran from May 11 to May 27, 2017.

Corporate Communications also managed the City's webpage and social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter). From May 1 to May 21, 12 tweets and 12 Facebook postings, which advertised Urban Beekeeping at the TD Clean and Green RiverFest and the public survey, were sent out from the City of St. Albert's Twitter and Facebook accounts.

TD Clean and Green RiverFest

In addition to digital engagement, Administration also attended the TD Clean and Green RiverFest on May 13, 2017. The objective of this event was to provide information on the proposed regulations for urban beekeeping, to receive public feedback, and promote the urban beekeeping survey. Administration distributed the Edmonton and Area Land Trust brochures on protecting pollinators and activity booklets for children.

Craig Toth, the president of the Edmonton District Beekeepers Association (EDBA), attended the event. He brought beekeeping equipment, and answered questions from the public on honey beekeeping practices and supplies. The display also included the St. Albert Scouts solitary bee house that they constructed.

Twenty-one (21) people visited the booth.

Online Survey

An Urban Beekeeping survey was available to fill out by iPad (Survey Monkey) or by paper. The questions asked and the responses received are shown in the attachment entitled Urban Beekeeping Survey Responses. Generally, the responses were supportive of urban beekeeping. The supportive responses were similar to the findings of the survey the City conducted through Leger in July 2016 for the proposed Land Use Bylaw and Animal Bylaw changes. The Leger 2016 survey found 70% of St. Albert respondents would support residential urban beekeeping if sufficient bylaws were in place. In addition, 57% of the respondents, like the idea of urban beekeeping in the City and think it is safe.

Internal Meeting

Staff held an internal meeting to discuss the Urban Beekeeping Bylaw and to coordinate with Corporate Communications, Legislative Services, Legal Services, Municipal Enforcement, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Environment, Business Licensing, and the Development Branch. These departments provided comments that assisted with preparing Bylaw 34/2017.

External Stakeholders

Drafts of the proposed bylaw were sent to the parties listed below, with feedback incorporated accordingly.

- The Provincial Apiculturist, Medhat Nasr
- The Edmonton District Beekeepers Association (EDBA)
- Edmonton and Area Land Trust
- Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)

The Edmonton and Area Land Trust provided input stating that it was unnecessary to regulate solitary bees. The rationale provided was that pollinators will populate what they find suitable for them, as their numbers dictate. Solitary bees are native species to Alberta that typically nest in dirt or the cracks of trees. Solitary bees do not produce honey and if you do have a bee house, they require little maintenance.

In addition, the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) provided a recommendation, as shown in attachment entitled Environmental Advisory Committee Advice – Urban Beekeeping Bylaw Recommendation.