CALL TO ORDER
Chair Carl Loewith welcomed the members and called the meeting to order.

1. **CHANGES TO AGENDA** – none

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – none

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of November 29th, 2007. Motion to approve by Cathy McMaster, seconded by Doug Cranston. **CARRIED.**

4. **PRESENTATIONS** – none

5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5.1 **ARAAC Waste Sub-committee Meeting** – The sub-committee and three rural Councillors met with City Staff at Carl Loewith’s farm to discuss the waste disposal needs of the agricultural community. Carl Loewith had gathered several examples of normal waste he produces on his farm that relate to agriculture. Cathy McMaster, Sue Coverdale and Carl Loewith had interviewed several area farms to determine needs, Cathy conducted
an excellent survey and all results were shared with Pat Parker and Anne Winning from Solid Waste Division. The group discussed what is the major issues; however it was unanimous that everyone feels from a household perspective that farms can adhere to the one bag limit. After much discussion asking agriculture operations to meet the current 6 bag commercial limit might be a recommended outcome. Staff from Solid Waste Division were taking all the information and feedback from the subcommittee and farm interviews and will report back to the ARAAC committee at the March meeting.

5.2 Update on Hamilton’s Centre Mall Farmers Market Relocation – Sue Coverdale updated the committee with regards to the relocation of the Centre Mall Farmers Market. Significant progress has been made in that a new Ottawa Street Farmers Market Association has been formed and a location has been found on Britannia Avenue. Two City of Hamilton parking lots have been identified as the proposed location; a rezoning application is moving forward quickly and an anticipated date of March 1, 2008 for the new market. The farmers market is currently negotiating with the Canadian Tire on Barton Street to set up a temporary home effective January 1st for an eight week period. Councillor’s Pasuta and Merulla, along with City staff are all working collectively to ensure the long term future of this farmers market. City of Hamilton has been asked for seed money to help with the relocation and redevelopment of this true farmers market.

5.3 Final Agricultural Action Plan – Update of Council Recommendations and Amendments – Next Steps - Sue Coverdale advised the group that the implementation of the action plan is moving forward. She reviewed each task and identified which projects were underway and identified timelines. Sue was pleased to inform the group that Margaret Walton had agreed to undertake the updating of the Economic Impact and Development Study to reflect the new 2006 census data. She had agreed to do this work as part of the Action Plan fees with a minor rebilling because she felt the work on the plan had not required the time and cost expectations in the original quote and therefore felt she wanted to support Hamilton accordingly by providing this service at no additional cost other than a minor billing. Committee members wanted to extend their appreciation to Margaret Walton for that generous offer and look forward to seeing the outcomes of the update information.

5.4 Airport Expansion Committee November Meeting Update – Doug Cranston was able to update the committee on the first two meetings. Not much to report other than it had taken the majority of the first two meetings to establish the ground work and get everyone on the same page. Doug
did feel that there were a few members of the committee that had specific agendas that were derailing the process but by the end of the second meeting they were getting down to business. His opinion remains that this committee has a good composition and with the right direction and mediator meetings will be productive and have specific outcomes. He will report back monthly to the committee with a written update regardless of whether he can attend our ARAAC meeting.

5.5 Proposed Changes to the Provincial Framework to remove Certificate of Approvals for all Sludge Haulers pertaining to farm site applications - Councillor Mitchell received information that the Ontario Government is looking to change Certificate of Approval (COA) requirements for sludge haulers that allows the spreading of sewage sludge or paper mill sludge on farm sites. The committee discussed their concerns regarding any change to the requirements and agreed that we should send a letter to Kevin Webster, Senior Policy Coordinator for the Ministry of Environment asking them not to amend or change the COA policy and passed the following motion. **Motion:** The Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton supports the mandatory soil testing of farm sites and the continuation of the Certificate of Approval process for the spreading of sewer and paper mill sludge and that the agricultural perspective be taken into consideration at all times as a priority for decision making process. Moved by Phil Krakar, seconded by Doug Cranston. CARRIED.

5.6 ARAAC Members Contact Information – Sue Coverdale circulated an up to date contact information sheet for the committee. Everyone was asked to update their information.

6. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

6.1 ARAAC Committee Member Update - none

7. **ADJOURNMENT** – Philip Krakar moved the meeting be adjourned.