



City of Tucson Urban Agriculture Draft Proposal

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE - City of Tucson Urban Agriculture Public Meeting - Thursday, October 23, 2014, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (light refreshments provided), 1st Floor Meeting Room, YWCA Building, 525 N. Bonita Ave. - Parking on site

Summary

1. Attempts to use local agricultural traditions and current agricultural standards as a guide rather than create new more restrictive standards.
2. Complies with the voter-approved (November 5, 2013) Plan Tucson policy to update urban agriculture zoning standards.
3. Follows the currently adopted city standards on animal cruelty, neglect, and slaughter.
4. Maintains the currently adopted crop production land use class which allows extensive gardening in residential zones and incorporates a passive greenhouse (one without noisy mechanical equipment) as an accessory use.
5. Makes distinctions between passive and mechanical greenhouses for property line setbacks.
6. Allows composting as a permitted accessory use with standards to mitigate nuisances.
7. Creates standards for on-site crop sales that encourage neighborhood interaction but limit city-wide sale events.
8. Clarifies that a community garden is a land use class in the Agricultural Land Use Group of the zoning code and that it is allowed widely in residential and non-residential zones with standards for compatibility.
9. Defines urban farms as a land use type allowed in non-residential zones which currently prohibit agricultural uses.
10. Clarifies that a farmers' market is a common intermittent land use type allowed in residential zones as an accessory use and non-residential zones as both principal and accessory use with standards for compatibility.
11. Clarifies the difference between rural and urban agriculture. For example, regular-sized goats are allowed in rural zones but only miniature goats are allowed in urban residential zones.
12. Creates a definition for small farm animals as a group that can be kept in urban residential areas with standards for pen setbacks and animal density to resemble current local practices with chickens, miniature goats and ducks.
13. Creates a unit of measure for small farm animals used for local food production in urban residential areas called an Animal Unit (AU). The measurement is set up to allow two AUs per every one thousand square feet of property with an overall cap in urban residential zones. Allows for requests to adjust pen setbacks and animal density through a case review and a notification of adjoining property owners, who may consent or appeal a change.