

**Sustainable Code Committee**  
Minutes  
March 28, 2013  
3:00 PM  
Joel D. Valdez Main Library  
101 N. Stone Ave., 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Attendees:

*City Staff:* Adam Smith (PDSD), Jim Mazzocco (PDSD), Frank Dillon, (PDSD), Irene Ogata (OCSD), Bruce Plenk (OCSD)

*Committee Members:* Hank Krzysik, Garrett Smith, Katherine Banister, Rob Kulakofsky, Sophie Davies, Danielle Kontovas Fidel, Joseph Maher, Merrill Eisenberg, and Shawn Cote [alternate for David Godlewski (SAHBA)]

*M/C Aides:* Bonnie Medler (Ward 6)

**2. Overview of the Sustainable Code Project and the draft text amendments**

Staff presentation.

**3. Questions and Answers**

**Committee Member (CM):** Have the farmers' market standards been ground truthed?

**Staff:** No. Staff is hoping Roy Laos will provide feedback on the standards. Staff doesn't want to inadvertently prohibit or limit currently existing farmers' markets.

**CM:** Look at vacant and underdeveloped areas for possible urban farm possibilities.

**CM:** Why is bee keeping not included?

**Staff:** Staff recommends relying on the current rules to govern bee keeping. Making the bee keeping policies more permissive may be controversial.

**CM:** What is the Mayor and Council timeframe for this project?

**Staff:** Mayor and Council did not give a specific timeframe.

**CM:** Are greenhouses permitted in the proposed Urban Farm use?

**Staff:** Yes, but the current rules regarding setbacks apply because the mechanical equipments (e.g. fans) associated with greenhouses can create a potential nuisance to adjacent property owners.

**CM:** Are there any size limits on community gardens?

**Staff:** No.

**CM:** The term “nonprofit” needs to be further defined or clarified. For example, a private business owner establishes a garden on her property that is open to the public to use. Is this a “nonprofit” use?

**Staff:** This issue will be examined as part of this process.

**CM:** Should regulations governing the safety of the food being sold from home gardens and community gardens be added? Concern that buyer would have no idea whether someone used greywater to grow produce, which is potential harmful.

**CM:** State law allows growers to sell directly to people. The labeling of where food is grown is consumer-driven and not a government regulation.

**Staff:** This issue will be examined as part of this process.

**CM:** Concerned about animal cruelty.

**Staff:** The proposed amendments won’t override current laws prohibiting animal cruelty.

**CM:** There have been some issues reported at farmers’ markets that some vendors are not the actual growers, i.e. they are selling produce purchased from the store. Should regulations be added to prevent this?

**Staff:** This issue can be discussed further as part of this process.

**CM:** Regarding the sale of produce grown onsite from a home, the term “event” needs to be further clarified. Is a single “event” 1 day? An entire weekend?

**Staff:** This issue will be clarified as part of this process.

**CM:** Is there an issue with a community-support agricultural cooperative selling produce grown at a residence? Is that residence considered a commercial operation and therefore in violation of zoning regulations?

**Staff:** This issue can be examined further as part of this process.

#### **4. Call to the Audience**

There were no speakers.

#### **5. Next Steps**

After some discussion, it was agreed that staff would survey the committee members via an online poll to determine the date for the next committee meeting.

The meeting concluded at approximately 4:40.