

Urban Agriculture Task Force

Minutes

October 9, 2013

12:00 PM

Ward 6 Office

3202 E. 1st Ave.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

City Staff: Adam Smith (PDSD)

Task Force Members: Colette Altaffer, Ruth Beeker, Cathy Blough, Merrill Eisenberg, Tres English, Danielle Fidel, Ronni Kotwica, and Alice Roe

M/C Aide: Amy Stabler (Ward 6)

Audience: Marc Haberman, Camille Kershner, Steve Murray, Ida Plotkin, Lorien Tersey, and Peter Warren

2. Purpose of the Task Force

Staff explained that the purpose of the task force is to seek consensus on ways to resolve the outstanding issues with the Urban Agriculture proposal.

3. Overview of the Urban Agriculture materials

There were 3 handouts: Issues to be Resolved; Compilation of Issues, Comments, and Questions; and, Draft Urban Agriculture Amendments (September 13, 2013)

4. Issues with the proposed Urban Agriculture text amendments

Community Gardens

Should the sale of produce grown on-site be permitted from a community garden in a residential area?

Comments:

- Yard sale signs may only be posted on private property. Cannot be posted in the public right-of-way (e.g. sidewalk, street signs, and utility poles).
- Restrict online sales to urban farms.
- Make a distinction that online sales for shipping out, not pickup.
- Supports community gardens in the residential area.

Suggested Revisions:

- Add a standard stating that signs must comply with the Sign Code.
- Revise the draft to stipulate that urban farms only may conduct online sales.
- Clarify that online sales are for shipping out, not pickup.

Community Gardens and Urban Farms

Should the keeping of small farm animals be permitted?

Comments:

- Can the type of animals be limited? Restrict to chickens only.
- Consider restricting the number permitted in community gardens.
- Consider requiring an application and fee when proposing to keep small farm animals.
- Who and how to contact the person responsible of a community garden?

Suggested Revisions:

- Prohibit the keeping of small farm animals at community gardens and urban farms.
- Allow the keeping of chickens only.
- Permit the keeping of small farm animals with the conditions that monitoring must occur at least 2 times per day and that a sign must be posted identifying the person to contact with the community garden to report problems.

Composting

Should a setback be required? If so, what should the setback be?

Yes, a setback should be required. Keep the proposal as is.

Farmers' Markets

Should Large Farmers' Markets in residential areas be processed per the PDSD Director Special Exception Procedure or Zoning Examiner Special Exception Procedure?

Comments:

- What is the connection between the community garden and farmers' market? Farmers' market should be the conduit through which surplus produce from a community garden.
- When considering the type of uses and activities that should be permitted as accessory uses, it's important to keep in mind that the proposed uses – gardens, community gardens, and urban farms – are tailored from most- to least-restrictive.
- Create a farm stand use which is separate and distinct from and generally more restricted than a farmers' market. A farm stand is restricted to selling produce grown on-site only whereas goods from various locations would be permitted at a farmers' market.

Suggested Revisions:

- Create a farm stand use as described above.

- In residential zones: 1) when access is taken from a Major Street and Route (i.e. arterial or collector street), the Planning and Development Services Department Director Special Exception Procedure is required; and, 2) when access is taken from a local street, the Zoning Examiner Special Exception Procedure is required. [Note: The distinction between a small and large farmers' market may not be necessary with this revision.]

Gardens

Should gardens in the front yard be required to provide fencing or other measures to deter javelina, rabbits, and other predators?

Comments:

- Concern was expressed that steps should be taken from inadvertently attracting predators to residential lots.
- Note: there didn't appear to be a majority opinion to require fencing of gardens in the front yard.

Due to lack of time the task force did not discuss the rest of the results.

5. Call to the Audience

There were no speakers at the call to the audience.

6. Next Steps

The meeting concluded at 1:30.

The next task force meeting is Wednesday, October 23rd at 12 pm at the Ward 6 Office (3202 E. 1st Ave.).