

Urban Agriculture Task Force

Minutes

October 23, 2013

12:00 PM

Ward 6 Office

3202 E. 1st St.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

City Staff: Adam Smith (PDSD)

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

M/C Aide: Amy Stabler (Ward 6)

Audience: Steve Murray, Eric Shepp, and Lorien Tersey

2. Discussion of 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?

Comment #1: Require that the address of the sale be included on any directional signs or signs advertising the event that are posted off-site, so that the responsible party can be identified if the signs are not removed after the sales event.

Response: While it is staff's opinion this can be included as a regulation in the Unified Development Code, it is best added as an amendment to the City's Sign Code. Staff will inquire with the appropriate staff about whether the Sign Code can be amended to add the proposed standard and have it apply generally to all signs, not just those pertaining to sale of produce at community gardens, urban farms, and residences.

Comment #2: Craft farm stand regulations to resemble a lemonade stand-like operation. The farm stand regulations will apply to the sale of produce at community gardens, urban farms, and residences.

Response: Staff will prepare draft language for the task force to review.

Comment #3: Restrict the on-site sales hours further.

Response: Revise Sec. 6.6.5.G.2 to limit the hours to 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (reduced from 8 p.m.).

Community Gardens and Urban Farms

Should the keeping of small farm animals be permitted?

Comment #1: Further research is needed regarding how community gardens police themselves and whether there are any community gardens in town that presently allow the keeping of small farm animals. One task force member stated that she knew of one community garden that kept chickens.

Response: Staff will solicit the help of those task force members that have contacts with community gardens in town and report back to the task force at the next meeting with their findings.

Comment #2: When located on City property, is a contract or agreement with the City required? Does the City require the managers of the community garden to have a one million dollar liability coverage like what is required of other outside groups using City-owned property.

Response: Staff will research this further and attempt to obtain a copy of an agreement to see what, if any, conditions apply.

Farmers' Markets

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

Comment #1: Revise Sec. 6.6.5.C.2 to limit the hours to 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (reduced from 8 p.m.) to be consistent with the hours of operation for sales at community gardens.

Response: The draft will be revised as suggested.

Comment #2: Annual renewal of farmers' markets should be required, particularly when they are located in the middle of neighborhoods.

Response: Revise the draft to require an annual renewal.

Comment #3: Why are farmers' markets being regulated to the extent proposed? A comparison of the current and proposed regulations is needed for the task force to make informed decisions.

Response: Staff will prepare the comparison charts as requested for review by the task force at their next meeting.

3. Call to the Audience

There were no speakers at the call to the audience.

4. Next Steps

The meeting concluded at 1:30.

The next task force meeting is Wednesday, November 13th at 12 pm at the Ward 6 Office (3202 E. 1st Ave.).