

PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING

October 3, 2011

Time: 4 – 5:45 PM

PURPOSE of the meeting was to continue the discussion from June 3 re: the interest and opportunities to grow and sell produce at Amberley Green.

ATTENDING:

Council members: Leslie McIntosh, Fran Cohen,
Jon Chaiken, Peg Conway, Merrie Stillpass, Louis
Katz, Ed Hattenbach

Hollis Bass- HCPH

Katie Streicher- Congressman Chabot

Scot Lahrmer - AV

David Rosenberg- Wooden Shoe Gardens

Beth Muething – graduate student

Mary Lennard - resident

Catalina Landivar-HCRPC

Michael Taylor-Real Food Dude

David Dyke- OSU Extension, Hamilton Co.

OTHERS:

Karen Kahle-Findlay Market

Joe Corcoran- East End Veteran's Garden

Natalie Wolf - resident

Lisa Hayes- Lt. Governor's office

Bill Lennard - resident

Hollis stated that AV was the Village became the second community in Hamilton County to pass the [WeTHRIVE! Wellness Resolution](#), making a commitment to improve healthy food access and increase physical activity opportunities for residents. A grant program will be announced soon that we can participate in

Merrie shared conversations that have taken place since the last meeting and that several of the people were present. Others who expressed interest and who could not be present included representatives from Cincinnati State, Jewish Family Service, JCC and Urban Harvest, an aquaponics project.

Aquaponics: Bill Lennard arranged for Urban Harvest to visit AG and then group toured demonstration project at Benken's. Aquaponics (DR) has been around for a long time why would this project be successful? A successful project was referenced in Urbana (Lisa), Piketon (DD) and Sweetwater were mentioned (Peg)

Orchard: Joe would like to plant an acre of fruit trees on south facing hillsides at no cost to AV. These would be fruit bearing "standards". Produce can be given to schools, others. Soil testing not necessary. Beth offered to help plant.

Farmers: (Karen) can we train the next generation of farmers? Spin farming anticipates generating \$3-4/sf; ¼ acre = \$25,000 profit.

Farmer's market is not great for farmer. Need a larger distribution center

What can commercially viable operations afford for land? \$1-2,000 -- what would property lease out for?

CSA model

Local food economy—develop system where people do want local food can get it. David suggested getting 6 CSA farmers – economy of scale

Develop a good business plan. ID 100 to 1000 people willing to put up 100% of their food budget to create (DR)

Turner Farm is 60 acres and has 100 members

Infrastructure—deer fencing, water

Greenhouse?

Rezoning?

Showcase at AG, tread carefully with CSA (DD). Have veggie stand, 5 acres production, arboretum, Dog Park with \$100/yr. membership

Write business plan—use SCORE –retired business executives (DD)

Cincinnati Tech, Jobs Ohio help with writing grants; Entrepreneur Center (Lisa) \$ from hydroponics & aquaponics Ohio BLC.org

Next steps:

Joe's suggestion to plant orchard trees

Level of interest in community to support CSA

Network of commercial suppliers for CSA to explore business options

Scot - Action Plan:

Business plan great suggestion, but not with current debt

Network of commercial suppliers

Orchard – some items to cover, but no big stumbling blocks

Getting the right site; soil testing in selected spot

DR: Ag project little to do with financing AG

Need to secure project

Need development plan—this is going to be a green area

Float proposal that will help pay for it

Set up ag in cheapest place with utilities and water

Float bonds?

DD: arboretum—unique. Will follow up with commercial growers

Model on Compton Rd. – look at this one

NW: Community garden--Rent a garden?

Summer camp—start a program

Civic garden help with community garden layout

DR: now is the time to prepare ground for spring farming

Can use collected leaves