

Madison Urban Agriculture Ordinance Workgroup Meeting (10/10/08)

Attendance: Alice Anderson, Nina Mukherji, Chris Anderson, Robert Pierce, Joe Mathers, Rick Roll (guest presenter)

1. Rick Roll (presentation on zoning code rewrite process)

- a. Review of project schedule
 - i. Advisory committee meeting in April 2008
 - ii. Committee meets every month for rest of 2009
 - 1. 24 members
 - iii. Oct 21 2008 – focus on residential districts
 - iv. Nov 18 or 19 2008 – next meeting
 - 1. **November 10th is our deadline to get stuff to Rick to be mailed out to the advisory committee**
 - b. Draft outline of revised code (annotated outline) on the web – see latest agenda for Oct 21st
 - c. 1966 – last comprehensive rewrite of the zoning code
 - i. current code is disjointed, difficult to use, inadequate to adopt the 2006 comprehensive plan for the City
 - 1. comp plan also includes agriculture
 - 2. lead to increased frequency of PUD projects
 - d. goal – quality development within described parameters
 - e. new code
 - i. will have “form-based” elements
 - ii. transit-oriented development
 - 1. will be served
 - 2. may be served
 - iii. sustainability is a key part
 - 1. Natural Step is key element of rewrite
 - a. Solar, wind power, community gardens, rain gardens, density of development, woodlands, etc
 - iv. Make it more user friendly
2. Learning from other cities
 - a. Cleveland
 - i. What doesn't it cover
 - 1. Livestock
 - a. Chickens
 - b. Bees
 - c. Goats
 - d. Rabbits
 - e. Fish farming
 - 2. Noise-related issues
 - 3. Use of power equipment vs. hand-tended
 - 4. Agriculture outside of urban garden districts

- a. Gardening in your backyard
 - ii. What do we like about it
 - iii. Questions
 - 1. How does a piece of land get designated as an urban garden district in the first place
- 3. Our goal for Nov 10th
 - a. Major categories/issues that code should address
 - b. don't need to have the final language all tweaked out
- 4. What are our zoning-specific goals relating to urban agriculture – what questions will it need to answer
 - a. How do we do commercial ag in the City?
 - b. How do we protect and expand community gardens
 - c. How do we accommodate/encourage livestock in the City
 - d. How do build agriculture related structures in a cost-effective manner
 - e. How do we protect against noise and smell problems for neighbors (nuisance issues)
 - f. Overall – making urban ag work for the neighbors
 - g. Protecting soil quality for urban ag from neighboring uses
 - h. Permitting practices that make it easier to use good soil – like raised-beds
 - i. Stormwater issues – containing ag run-off
 - j. Being clear what is and what is not zoning
 - k. Fence height limit
 - l. Planting in the right of way next to streets
 - m. Being able to plant rotational crops
 - n. Distinguish between
 - i. Community gardens (community)
 - ii. Farming (commercial)
 - 1. Contiguous
 - 2. Non-contiguous
 - iii. What people do in their front and back yards (person)
 - 1. Gardening in the right of way next to the street
 - 2. Commercial farming in the back yard
 - 3. Commercial growing in one's own yard
 - a. \$1,000 gross sales is how USDA defines it
 - b. backyard greenhouses or hoop houses
 - 4. leasing or allowing someone to grow in your yard
- 5. What are potentially contentious
 - a. Fence height
 - b. Smells and noise
 - c. Commercial ag
 - d. Visual community standards – relating to lawncare issues – like planting rotational crops

- 6. Next steps
 - a. Build upon Cleveland – adding
 - i. Permitted use in non-urban garden districts
 - ii. Livestock
 - iii. Composting
 - 1. Commercial
 - 2. Personal
 - 3. Accessory use or primary use
 - 4. To run you own operation on site
 - a. Versus composting for sale or for multiple sites
 - b. Research Tasks**
 - i. Alice: Livestock – what does it include – model language somewhere else
 - 1. Milwaukee looking at this – Marcia Caton Campbell – Nina will follow up
 - ii. Robert: private commercial composting in an urban setting
 - iii. Nina’s report – will add a few more cities (by Oct 16th)
 - iv. Greg: protecting existing community gardens, community garden dedication requirement for new subdivisions
 - 1. What is mechanism for parkland dedication requirement – where does it reside
 - c. Agenda for Oct 22nd
 - i. Report back on research tasks
 - ii. Overview of Madison Comprehensive Plan as it relates to urban ag (Chris) – so what we are talking about for zoning addresses all those issues
 - d. Agenda for Nov 4th
 - i. Review, discuss and hopefully approve the first document we send to Rick Roll and Nan Fey
 - 1. Greg do initial draft, other folks comment