



Kevin Flynn
Councilmember

201700830

June 1, 2017

MOTION B

We move that the City Administration, working cooperatively and interdepartmentally, create an Urban Agriculture Stat. Departments within the city should include, without limitation: the Law Department; the Greater Cincinnati Water Works Department ("GCWW"); the Office of Performance and Data Analytics; the Department of Health; the Office of Environment and Sustainability; the Department of Community and Economic Development; and the Department of Planning. Initial objectives should include the following:

1. Creating a plan for incorporating Urban Agriculture into all aspects of city work;
2. Create and publish a map, utilizing the resources of CAGIS, to determine the land owned by, or the under control of, the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County (within the limits of the City of Cincinnati), the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority; Cincinnati Public Schools; and the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority, which is arable and suitable for Urban Agriculture, and further identify parcels containing vacant buildings that may be appropriate for aquaponics and other indoor agriculture ("Potential Farm Parcels");
3. Create a pilot project that can be instituted this year to identify 10 viable parcels that can be put into productive urban farming in 2017 (preferably including vacant land in English Woods; Winton Hills; East Price Hill; and Walnut Hills); and
4. Identify the benefits and any potential costs for an expanded system of Urban Agriculture in the City of Cincinnati.

We further move that the City Administration determine if there are any current plans for development of the Potential Farm Parcels within the immediately ensuing five years and exclude those parcels from the list of Potential Farm Parcels.

We further move that the City Administration negotiate with the other local governmental authorities to achieve their cooperation in developing this program.

We further move that the City Administration identify any of the Potential Farm Parcels that have had an environmental assessment done, that this be an overlay on the CAGIS map and that these studies be made easily available for review in one location on the city's website.

We further move that Potential Farm Parcels be placed through a consolidated review process of all city departments, indicating their availability for:

1. Purchase at the appraised value;

2. Purchase at a reduced value (because of the lack of any other potential use); or
3. Lease for a minimum five year period, with the leases containing renewal options if development of these properties is not identified as a potential use at least one year prior to the expiration of the then existing term.

We further move that in conjunction with GCWW, Potential Farm Parcels with access to a water source, either through an existing water tap on the property or through an existing water hydrant (for which a water meter could be installed) be identified on the CAGIS map, and that GCWW further identify any costs associated with providing access to water.

We further move that the Planning Department identify the steps needed to amend the zoning code to allow for the construction of multiple green houses on Potential Farm Parcels.

We further move that the Office of Environment and Sustainability identify potential financing sources for Urban Agriculture, including but not limited to: property tax abatements; JCTCs; Federal, State, or Local grants for Urban Agriculture; and non-governmental organization grants and in-kind donations.

We further move that the City Administration contact and engage in discussions with local lending institutions to identify low-cost loan sources including Community Reinvestment Act loans and Federal Farming loans.

We further move that the City Administration identify the availability of usable compost from the City and provide other in kind resources including vehicles and other equipment to assist the Office of Environment and Sustainability in completing the composting process on the lands abandoned by Compost Cincy in 2013.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the City Administration determine any costs associated with this initiative, together with any potential sources for the necessary funds, especially from existing uses associated with promoting healthy living in our City.

Statement

Governmental entities own significant land resources in the City of Cincinnati. Many times these lands sit fallow and cost the governmental entities significant expense to maintain the properties. Other times the properties are not maintained properly and contribute to the blight occurring in our communities across the city.

Instead of being a detriment to our city and the governmental organizations charged with maintaining these properties, the properties could be turned into a positive resource.

The City's Health Department, as well as the Office of Environment and Sustainability, have programs for Urban Agriculture. Non-governmental organizations including the Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council, and others, are attempting to promote a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system through the creation of urban farms.

Urban farming, especially in areas that do not have easy access to fresh fruits and vegetables, will provide health benefits to the immediate neighborhoods along with creating jobs in those neighborhoods.

It is the right thing to do and it is the right time to do it.

SIGNATURES

Principal Sponsors:

Vice Mayor David Mann



Councilmember Kevin Flynn

Co-Sponsors:
