

## URBAN AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – 4PM

Grand Rapids Public Library – Adult Center for Computer Learning  
111 Library St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

### Committee Members Present:

**Present:** Carlos Calderon (Committee Chair), Kim Moore (Vice-Chair), Evvia Marshall, Connie Bohatch, Amanda Faber

**Absent:** Dolli Lutes

**Other:** Robert Cloy II (City Staff), Kat Hart (City Staff), Angélica De Jesus (City Staff), Zac (Community Member)

### Mission:

*To educate and empower the community by providing policy review, recommendations, and support for urban agriculture.*

### Agenda:

- Call to Order: 4:05pm
- Determination of Quorum
- Approval of Agenda
  - Motion made by Carlos Calderon, seconded by Kim Moore, to approve the February 11, 2026, agenda was presented. Motion carried.
- Approval of Minutes of the February 11 meeting
  - Amendment to remove Connie Bohatch from Present Committee Members section
  - Motion made by to approve agenda by Kimberly Moore, supported by Evvia Marshall, to approve the March 11, 2026, minutes, as amended. Motion carried.
- Public Comments
  - Zac with GR Documenters introduced themselves
- Old Business
  - 2026 Summer meeting schedule review
    - i. Kat will update the electronic meeting invitation with locations
  - Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit on 4/25/26
  - SP Review format
    - i. Review activities further in depth with Jennifer VanHorssen
    - ii. OS provide responsible parties for food systems work to UAC
      - 1. CoGR departments like DPW

- Kim proposed changing the April 8 meeting to April 15 from 4pm to 6pm at 1500 Scribner. Supported by Connie. Motion passes.
  - i. Kat will schedule April meeting from 4pm to 6pm & confirm with Jennifer V. her availability
- Compost policy review
  - i. Looking to revising the nuisance code to allow more compost methods such as pile composting
  - ii. Evaluate any other changes that could be made such as:
    1. Adjust the accepted material list to allow farm animal waste
    2. Remove “commercially manufactured” language
    3. Adjust size limitations
  - iii. Next step is to identify what UAC is trying to achieve with composting & the restrictions right now in the code. Connie will bring these to City Staff & present proposed changes to UAC.
    1. Connect with Scott Baker to determine how the code should be written to be able to enforce & respond to complaints.
- New Business
  - New appointment – Amanda Faber, *Kendaville Farms*
  - Urban Agriculture Project Update – Angelica De Jesus, *City of Grand Rapids*
    - i. ADJ is requesting feedback on the scoring process for the UAP proposals.
      1. Six viable proposals were received by the March 2 deadline & three finalists were selected based on the scoring rubric outlined in the RFP
      2. Awards are anticipated to be announced by March 16
    - ii. *How would conflicts of interest be addressed?*
    - iii. *Is the focus of the UAP to activate new parks or enhance existing efforts?*
    - iv. *How will the funds be distributed across wards and grant recipients?*
    - v. *Can nonprofits be considered first and before for-profit enterprises?*
    - vi. *How can improvements be made to the evaluation process for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round?*
    - vii. Angelica will share all 6 proposals with the UAC
    - viii. Determine how the UAC will be involved, and what capacity, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of proposal review in Fall 2026?
  - Urban agriculture policy recommendations
  - Determine format for UAC strategic plan review
- Partner Reports
  - None

- Agenda Items for future meeting
- Adjournment 5:31pm

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 15 – 4:00pm to 6pm  
at the City of Grand Rapids Public Service Center  
(1500 Scribner Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504)**