

URBAN AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, July 8, 2026 – 4PM

Kent/MSU Extension Grand Ideas Garden

775 Ball Avenue, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Committee Members:

Present: Connie Bohatch, Amanda Faber, Sarah Larson, Evvia Marshall, Stacy Stout

Absent: Muriel (Dolli) Lutes, Kimberly Moore

Other: Kat Hart (City Staff), Robert Cloy II (City Staff), Angélica DeJesus (City Staff), Kathrine Force (Community Member)

Mission:

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

Agenda:

- Call to Order: 4:03
- Determination of Quorum
- Approval of Agenda
 1. Motion made by Kim Moore & seconded by Amanda Faber, to approve the July 8, 2026, agenda as presented. Motion carried.
- Approval of Minutes of May 13, 2026, meeting
 1. Motion made by Sarah Larson & seconded by Kim Moore, to approve the June 10, 2026, minutes as presented. Motion carried.
- Public Comments
 1. Members of the public introduced themselves
 - i. Kathrine Force, founder of Neighborhood Food Circle Network
- Old Business
 1. Review of updates for the compost ordinance
 2. Policy recommendations for backyard chickens
 3. Neighborhood Match Fund Applications are open at grandrapidsmi.gov/nmf
- New Business
 1. Determine format for the Urban Agriculture Committee (UAC) strategic plan (SP) review
 - i. The SP's priorities are derived from [City of Grand Rapids Code of Ordinances](#) [Title VI, Chapter 73, Section 6.50] that grants the UAC its authority
 - ii. UAC members will prepare feedback on all SP priorities for **August 12, 2026**
 - iii. Determine upcoming UAC meetings to review individual SP priorities

- a. Community Education – **September 9, 2026**
 - b. Community Access – **October 14, 2026**
 - c. Shaping Policy – **November ?, 2026**
- 2. Discussion of 2026 meeting locations
 - i. Amanda Faber made a motion to extend the UAC meetings to 90 minutes for September, October, and November 2026. Sarah Larson seconded. Motion carried.
 - ii. August 12, 2026, *60 min* – MLK Park Community Center
 - iii. September 9, 2026, *90 min* – Blandford? – Stacy Stout will check on availability
 - iv. October 14, 2026, *90 min* – Scribner (large room)
 - v. November ?, 2026, *90 min* – Scribner (large room)
 - vi. December 9, 2026, *60 min* – Scribner (large room)
- Partner Reports
 - 1. City of Grand Rapids Office of Sustainability
 - i. Upcoming stream cleanups in July 2026
 - ii. Neighborhood Match Fund open for applications
 - a. Contracts ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 will be awarded for Grand Rapids resident-led projects that are community focused, inclusive, and promote a deeper sense of belonging among neighbors.
 - b. Past projects have focused on community gardens and/or improvements, and UAC could support potential applicants with agriculture expertise.
- Agenda items for future meeting on August 12, 2026
 - 1. Review chicken ordinance edits from Planning Department
 - 2. Review SP priorities feedback from UAC members
- Agenda items for future meeting on September 9, 2026
 - 1. Determine annual events that are opportunities to promote UAC
 - i. Kat Hart will share City of Grand Rapids 2026 community engagements spreadsheet from Office of Special Events
 - ii. [West Michigan Envirohub Google calendar](#) is another local resource to find upcoming community events in Grand Rapids
- Motion to adjourn made by Amanda Faber and seconded by Sarah Larson. Motion carried.
- Adjournment at 4:55pm

Next Meeting – Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 4pm
at MLK Park Community Center
(900 Fuller Ave SE, Grand Rapids MI 49506)