

URBAN AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 – 4PM

Public Service Center – Grand River Room 2106

1500 Scribner Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Committee Members Present:

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

Absent: Dolli Lutes

Other:

Robert Cloy II (City Staff), Kat Hart (City Staff), Annabelle Wilkinson (City Staff), Scott Baker (City Staff), Joe Sulak (City Staff), Angélica De Jesus (City Staff)

Stacy Stout (Community Member), Rachel (Community Member), Todd Nestell (Community Member)

Mission:

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

Agenda:

- Call to Order: 4:04pm
- Determination of Quorum
- Approval of Agenda
 - Motion made by Kim Moore & seconded by Amanda Faber, to approve the April 15, 2026, agenda as presented. Motion carried
- Approval of Minutes of the March 15, 2026, meeting
 - Motion made by Kim Moore & seconded by Amanda Faber, to approve the March 15, 2026, minutes as presented. Motion carried
- Public Comments
 - Members of the public introduced themselves – Rachel, Stacy Stout; *Blandford Nature Center*, Todd Nestell; *Peninsula Permascapes LLC*
- Old Business
 - New appointment – Amanda Faber, *Kendaville Farms, Mayoral Appointment*
 - Urban Agriculture Project Update – Angélica De Jesus, *City of Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation Department*
 - i. Anticipated award announcement date on 4/28/2026, for two finalists
 - ii. Second RFP round available this upcoming Fall 2026 (\$150,000 available)

- Angélica would like to connect with UAC and City Departments for support in connecting to potential applicants for the second round of funding
 - iii. Public Input ([EngageGR](#)) page for Urban Agriculture Project (UAP) coming soon
- New Business
 - Election of Committee Chair
 - i. Motion made by Kim Moore & seconded by Amanda Faber to table Chair election until next UAC meeting on 5/13/26. Motion carried
 - Determine format for UAC strategic plan review
 - i. Office of Innovation & Continuous Improvement [Project Request Form](#)
 - Urban agriculture policy recommendations
 - i. Scott Baker (CoGR Planning) provided an update on composting ordinance language review. Changes include:
 - Addition of section on commercial composting
 - Addition of section on composting at approved community gardens
 - Addition of size limits for food (32 ft³) and nonfood bins (64 ft³)
 - Removal of “*commercially manufactured*” language for compost bin
 - Addition of “*durable exterior grade*” materials
 - Addition of “*domestic*” to animal waste to allow for farm animal manure
 - Addition of “*fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, and yard waste*” to suggested allowed materials
 - Addition of “*corner lots may have compost bins in the side yard*”
 - ii. Suggestions from UAC members on changes:
 - Why separate nonfood & food compost bins?
 - How can the ordinance account for mixing green (e.g. food) materials and brown (e.g. yard waste) materials?
 - a. Should there be two separate bins with two sets of regulation?
 - i. If food is added, then stricter requirements on size is necessary (¼ in gap maximum)
 - b. One max “exterior size” (64 ft³) regardless of material mix (food or yard waste)
 - i. Addition of “allowed to be subdivided into 3 sections”
 - Addition of “is not limited to” to suggested compost ingredients
 - Change “tightly” to “securely” for compost bin covers

- iii. Questions from UAC members on ordinance:
 - Does this ordinance account for multi-family parcels who might require a larger area to compost?
 - What is designated as food? E.g. kitchen food scraps, fruit tree branches?
 - Can multiple materials be layered in a compost bin wall to create ¼ inch gaps? E.g. metal chicken wire and wooden fencing
- iv. Kim Moore made a motion & Amanda Faber seconded to provide provisional approval to updated composting language. Motion carried

- Partner Reports
 - Annabelle Wilkinson, *City of Grand Rapids Office of Sustainability*, provided that an update on the CAAP's 20 Priority Actions is available to view on CoGR YouTube in [Tuesday Morning Committee Meetings – April 14, 2026](#)
 - Community Development recommendations have been made to City Commission
- Agenda Items for future meeting
 - Evvia proposed reviewing the City of Grand Rapids backyard chicken ordinance
 - i. Evvia will provide list of recommended changes from 2022
 - ii. Office of Sustainability will send out update on approved ordinance changes for backyard chickens and composting
- Adjournment 5:20pm

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 13 – 4:00pm
at Kids Food Basket
(1300 Plymouth Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505)**