

URBAN AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 – 4PM

Kids Food Basket – Community Room

1300 Plymouth Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Committee Members Present:

Present: Kim Moore (Vice-Chair), Evvia Marshall, Amanda Faber (Chair), Connie Bohatch, Stacy Stout, Sarah Larson, Dolli Lutes

Absent: None

Other:

Robert Cloy II (City Staff), Annabelle Wilkinson (City Staff), Angélica De Jesus (City Staff), Katherine Force (Community Member)

Mission:

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

Agenda:

- Call to Order: 4:06pm
- Determination of Quorum
- Approval of Agenda
 - Motion made by Kim Moore & seconded by Stacy Stout, to approve the May 13, 2026, agenda as presented. Motion carried
- Approval of Minutes of the April 15, 2026, meeting
 - Motion made by Kim Moore & second by Amanda Faber, to approve the April 15, 2026, minutes as presented. Motion carried
- Public Comments
 - Members of the public introduced themselves
 - i. Katherine Force
- Old Business:
 - Urban agriculture policy recommendations for compost
 - i. **Email was sent out for committee vote on compost language edits; no response was given – so committee voted on update language.**
 - ii. Sarah Larson: Line E: “The compost bin(s) shall **BE** constructed...
(addition)

- iii. Sarah Larson: is the definition of nuisance condition in any document? Is there a location that people can look for to confirm what is nuisance?
 - Connie Bohatch: yes, there is language in the nuisance code and on our website that citizens can review for the definition of nuisance.
 - iv. Connie Bohatch will go back and answer questions and bring a final draft to the next meeting.
 - v. Motion made by Kim Moore to add this back to old business, seconded by Stacy Stout. Motion carried
- Urban Agriculture Project Update – Angélica De Jesus, City of Grand Rapids
 - i. Funds have not been distributed yet, Kick off meeting in next 2 weeks with awardees. Doing work to prepare for second round of awards – met with Mobile GR to help spread the word
 - ii. When is the best time to go through the process and ask for feedback from the UAC?
 - Waiting until the July meeting to discuss this.
- New Business:
 - New appointments
 - i. Stacy Stout, Blandford Nature Center, 2nd Ward Appointment
 - ii. Sarah Larson, The Hartford Insurance, 3rd Ward Appointment
 - Looking at other farmers markets to identify a potential candidate for the farmers market vacancy.
 - Election of Committee Chair
 - i. Amanda Faber self-nominates for chair. Motion made by Kim Moore, Second by Connie Bohatch. Motion carried
 - Determine format for UAC strategic plan review
 - i. Office of Innovation & Continuous Improvement Project Request Form
 - Motion made by Kim Moore to table this discussion until next meeting, while new committee members have a chance to review the established strategic plan, seconded by Stacy Stout. Motion Carried
 - Urban agriculture suggestions/comments for backyard chickens policy
 - i. Purpose and Findings: “Take out language around two-year pilot”

- ii. Initial chicken permit is valid for 3 years and renewed for another 3-year pilot and this language should be reconsidered
- iii. Is there a location in the code that shows where complaints can be made?
 - Connie Bohatch: information is found on the City website – that information is usually not put in the code
- iv. Connie Bohatch: Size of the chicken coops/enclosures can be discussed – as long as the nuisance issue is addressed.
- v. Number of chickens
- vi. Dimensions of the enclosure
- Motion made by Kim Moore to extend May 13, 2026, meeting by 30 minutes from 5:00pm to 5:30pm, seconded by Sarah Larson. Motion carried
- Motion by Kim Moore to change the June 10th, 2026, meeting to Kids Food Basket from Roberto Clemente Park and extend it 30 minutes from 5:00 to 5:30pm, seconded by Sarah Larson. Motion carried
- Adjournment at 5:20pm

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 10 – 4:00pm
at Kids Food Basket
(1300 Plymouth Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505)**