



District 6 Planning Council

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October 29, 2013

Councilmember Amy Brendmoen
15 West Kellogg BLVD
Saint Paul MN 55102

Dear Councilmember Brendmoen,

At its' October 22, 2013 Land Use Task Force meeting the changes to the City ordinance regarding urban agriculture was discussed. District 6 Planning Council is pleased that there will be oversight regarding the agriculture and market uses.

The more salient points brought forth were the actual regulation of uses of land parcels and that a conditional use permit and site plan should be required for any privately or City held parcel regardless of the size and not be limited to parcels one acre and over; issues can arise regardless of the size of a parcel.

If a parcel is over one acre or in a location that is highly industrialized, a water management plan created with the Capital Region Watershed should be provided as well as testing of soli contents. A water management plan and soil testing will ensure that run off is limited and the soil is healthy enough for growing edible items.

Any permit issued should take into account the use is compatible with the surrounding uses and sufficient buffering is in place so as not to encroach on neighboring parcels. The use as quasi-storage for mulch and other organic material should not be permitted it is aesthetically unappealing and neighbors should not be subjected to it.

Any use of pesticides should adhere to minimal use/ best practices of the industry and the use should be posted on the property and any items grown and sold at a market should list what pesticides if any were used.

In a residential setting Community Gardens should be given priority and there should be neighborhood notification of any agricultural use over one acre in a residential area. In a situation where the user is not a good steward of the land parcel there should be remedies in place to site deficiencies and discontinue the use of the parcel as agriculture, above all neighborhoods should not be subjected to code violations.

Once again we thank Zoning and the City Council for realizing that urban agriculture is an important piece of our neighborhoods, but that the residents and those who have made their homes in the City should not suffer unduly because of mismanaged urban farms.

Thank-you for considering the points made by District 6 Planning Council and if you have questions, please contact the office.

Regards,

Jeff Martens

Jeff Martens
Land Use Chairman
Board of Director's Vice Chairman

Cc: Council President Lantry
Ward Council Offices
Anton Jerve, Planning and Economic Development