

East Point City Agriculture Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 16th, 2020 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Attendees

- **Steering Committee Members:** Permeil Dass, Reynaldo Holmes, Tenisio Seanima, Chelsea Townsend, Sissie Lang, Bill Green
- **City of East Point:** Erin Rodgers, Maceo Rogers
- **Atlanta Regional Commission:** Anna Baggett, Keri Stevens, Sam Shenbaga, Rachel Will
- **Food Well Alliance:** Sarah Benedict

East Point City Agriculture Plan Mission Statement: The East Point City Agriculture Plan aims to cultivate community pride and relationships amongst East Point residents, businesses, and local government. This plan builds, promotes, and sustains East Point's commitment towards socially equitable policies, programs, and sustainable land use practices that benefit the community food system, ensuring economic and ecological opportunity now and for future generations.

Desired Meeting Outcomes

- Discuss any fundamental changes needed in the document
- Determine immediate next steps with respect to the grant.

Minutes *(See Anna's PPT presentation)*

- **Meeting and plan purpose**
 - Focus on fundamental elements of plan and allocation of grant funding through next steps planning
- **The importance of planning commission and city council approval**
- **The draft of the final plan**
 - Focus on changes and level of detail added to plan
 - Additional potential institutional partners for recommendation support
 - Maps and data including LILA, zoning, transportation access, etc.
 - Specific information on East Point zoning elements that may limit urban agriculture
 - Cited specific examples of zoning ordinances from Steering Committee suggestions
 - Added more local partners and existing community assets
 - Added recommendation: leverage public land, schools, and utility easements for growing space
 - Including map
 - Suggestions for fundamental changes
 - What is the feasibility of the restaurant incentives given COVID-19?
 - May need to shift timeline for implementation of that recommendation
 - Amend corner store recommendation
 - For longer timeline, expand to full-fledged grocery store that sources locally. This enhances the food system in a more equitable way – true access to larger resources.
 - Market 166?
 - See their revised impact statements including health of community
 - What are the next steps to maintain momentum? How to use the implementation grant?
 - Suggestions

- **First: Formally create the UAC**
 - Evaluate proposals for projects and spending
 - **Second:** Crafting the RFP and scope for zoning ordinance update
 - **Third:** UAC to develop and approve a catalyst project
 - Ie. Demonstration community garden on park land
 - Larger project ie. Farm
 - On public OR private land
 - Increasing access to home gardening resources
 - Ie. Bucket gardens project
 - Capitalize on growing community interest
 - Tool lending library/seed bank – remove barrier to resource access
 - Little neighborhood lending libraries
 - Facebook page exists with tool lending library from East Point resident
 - Workshops with information on how to grow
 - At a point where Maceo and Erin can seek feedback on plan recommendations
 - Want to share with planning dept. and council prior to any implementation
 - Real first step – getting the plan to the city
 - Focus on promoting existing assets and supporting community access and empowerment
 - Start with co-branding and marketing current offerings
 - Multi-purpose facility/pavilion to accommodate markets, workshops, etc?
 - More structural and would be less maintenance intensive
 - Tool storage
 - Include language that these are recommendations that have been discussed, but are pending proposal/budget review and aren't binding
- **Moving forward**
 - Please return specific written comments to abaggett@atlantaregional.org by Thursday, July 23rd
 - If you would like to talk about the draft rather than make written comments, please reach out to Sarah Benedict at sarah@foodwellalliance.org, and we can set up some time to talk! The July 23rd deadline still applies, so be sure to reach out sooner rather than later.
 - FWA to release grant proposal document including budget worksheets.
 - Present final document to planning commission for input first – September work session
 - Final step to present to council