

## East Point City Agriculture Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Zoom Call

- *Need to upload ARC PPT into Google Drive – link categories to meeting ideas*
- *Rachel from ARC leading meeting*
  
- **Introduction of all parties on the Zoom call**
  - Additional reps from ARC joined to listen in
  - Dom – GIS rep from City of East Point
  - Liz Wilkes – EP resident and WFF
- **Low Hanging Fruit Update**
  - Tenisio, Sissie, and Chelsea toured some city-owned vacant properties
    - Potential demonstration project sites
    - Potential education project sites
    - City parks
    - Sissie to upload map of sites to shared Google Drive
  - Tenisio, Denise, and Holmes discussed community survey data
    - Call with Sarah regarding Holmes' draft survey
    - What version can we distribute out to the community? Petition vs. survey
  - Market 166 update from Permeil
    - Undertaking feasibility survey
      - Looking at sites based on location, size, and affordability
    - Looking to expand membership from 120 to 300 to move forward
      - 50% discount for any Steering Committee members
    - Discussion of what a cooperative is and how it serves the community
      - Owned by community members, pooling resources to form a board with voting rights
      - Control over food sourcing and purchasing
      - See Sevenanda as an example
    - Need to expand Board of Directors from 6 to 9-11
- **Draft Plan - Preliminary Recommendations**
  - Tenisio – need more detail on policy and project recommendations
    - Sam – this is a framework document that will get fleshed out a little more with detail
      - Using the SC, identify short term strategies to tackle within the next 2 years
      - Implementation phase – ideas on how to address specific short term strategies
  - **Improving Access**
    - Develop a corner store incentive program (long-term)
      - Permeil – expand to incentives for grocery stores and mobile markets
    - Leverage existing farm-to-school educational opportunities (ongoing)
  - Maps, studies, data will be linked in appendices in final plan
  - **Supporting Local Growers**
    - Sissie – add incentive programs for Seniors specifically

- Holmes – basic resources for growers ie. Leaves, compost, etc.
  - Erin – corner store incentive program
    - Looking at REAP program – established a separate entity
      - Urban Ag. Citizen’s Commission key to feasibility of projects
  - Dom – City of East Point power department has a tree chipper that could provide wood chips for farmers
  - Chelsea – could one of those vacant properties be a dump ground/pick up location for brown materials?
  - Tenisio – see model in DeKalb county for compost that’s part of their solid waste system
  - **Role of Local Government**
    - Maceo – need to focus on prioritizing ideas before presenting to Mayor and Council
      - Other ways to raise funding, source best practices from communities comparable in size to East Point
      - Revenues are down – just like everywhere else
        - Reliant on tourism for source of revenue ie. Taste of East Point, Wednesday Wind Down, etc.
      - Will work on setting an additional meeting with Kim & Tony regarding zoning/permitting
    - Is 1-2 years a realistic “short term” goal timeline?
    - Tenisio added full Urban Agriculture ordinance from city of Atlanta to Google Drive to use as reference
  - **Cultivating Environmentally Resilient Practices**
    - Centralized compost program
      - Vs. curbside compost program
      - Tenisio – encourage public/private partnership with entity like Compost Now
  - **Branding East Point as a Local Food Destination**
    - Denise – look at free, existing marketing opportunities ie. Information included with utility bills
    - Chelsea – need branding for urban ag initiatives
      - Balance of branding with umbrella concept vs. individual organizations
      - Encourage simplicity
- **Comments/edits to ARC by Tuesday, 5/26**