



Heritage Farm Advisory Team Meeting Minutes



Thursday, September 24th, 2020 4:00pm to 5:30 pm
Virtual Meeting Via WebEx

Advisory Committee: Sandy Brown, Kirk Gresham, Gary Garth*, Rob Freed, Kathleen Perillo*, Bill Zimmerman*

Clark County Food Bank: Alan Hamilton*, Emily Kaleel

WSU Extension: Kristine Perry, Justin O'Dea*, Robert Goughnor*, Annette Vary-Getty*

Friend of the Farm Foundation: Blair Wolfley*, Doug Ballou*, Marc Boldt* (Sandy Brown/Kirk Gresham)

Master Gardener's Foundation: Nancy Funk*, Julie Bruning*

Clark County Staff:

Parks and Lands: Galina Burley*, Kevin Tyler, Patrick Lee, Joe Zimmerman, Laura Hoggatt, Alex Hourani, Chris Walker

Community Planning/Historic Preservation: Jacqueline Kamp*, Sharon Lumbantobing

Facilities: Michelle Murie*

Clean Water: Jeff Schnabel, Marlee Milosevich

Public Works Director/Staff: Ahmad Qayoumi*, Magan Reed*

Council Staff: Kathleen Otto*, Lindsey Shafar*, Marilee McCall

Farm Neighbors/Interested Parties: Judi Bailey*, Lisa Bayautet, Sharon Kenoski, Curtis Knopp*, Chuck McCracken, Linda Nutter, Tracy Pax*, Ila Stanek, Robin Summers*

* Not Present

4:05pm Called to Order – Patrick Lee

Time	Action Item
4:06pm	MOTION BY: Kirk Gresham SECOND BY: Robert Freed
	MOTION: Motion to adopt January 23, 2020 minutes as submitted
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: Unanimous OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

2) Master Plan Update – Patrick Lee

- Council approved the Master Plan update on March 10, 2020 and directed that business and marketing plans be prepared.
- Initial business and marketing plan outreach commenced but has been deferred until additional Council direction is provided. Direction from Council is sought on the following:

- i) Timeline extension until middle of 2021 for business and marketing plan will be requested. Unified vision for the farm and the business/marketing plans including high-level scope and non-negotiables.
- ii) Clear expectations and timelines for staff, council and public involvement.
- iii) Selecting a council representative as the project liaison, communicating and keeping other councilors in the loop of project logistics.
- iv) Direction on internal charges and fees to implement. It should be noted that there is an equity element here with some programs paying nothing now, some having leases, some not. A more systematic approach to fees, leases, and payment phasing should be developed first.
- v) Timeline. Extending the project timeline to mid-2021 to complete the business and marketing plans.
- vi) Business & Marketing Plans. Supporting an RFP to hire a consultant to help with the business and marketing plan. Alternatively, looking at internal and external options for support (*i.e.* WSU business school partnership).
- vii) Core groups membership recommendations. Expanding diversity and perspectives while keeping the number of participants low enough to allow effective contribution.

3) Cougar Creek restoration grant overview – Marlena Milosevich, Clark County Clean Water Program, provided an overview of the proposal (Exhibit Attached).

- a) Kirk Gresham question regarding funds: 1st award is for 500k, applied for another 500k (time frame is 36 month period starting in January and ending in 2023 – writing it for three years with construction happening in 2023- partnering with WSU for outreach), Clean Water fund would also be 500k
- b) Kristine Perry question regarding Cowlitz County Tribe – Jeff Schnabel did reach out to local tribe and had no response – he will attempt to reach out again – Public asked about native and wetland plants, there was a proposal at one time to raise plants on farm but no definitive plans yet

4) Proposals for Use of the Farm – Kirk Gresham, Farm Advisory Committee

- a) Storage issues – Several users of the farm, work groups and volunteers need a place to put their equipment – buildings have been requested which poses challenges such as consistency – will need to coordinate with Historical Commission – Robert mentioned there could be better use of existing buildings
- b) Solar energy proposal – Revenue generating idea – solar energy footprint on hill on south side - met with Kevin Gooley who is the provider of solar energy – nothing has been submitted and in very preliminary stages – would need to go under review to make sure guiding principles are compatible and if it fits with the farm – Public would like a community presentation if this is pursued
- c) Equipment survey and time needs study for farm manager – Need a better pricing scheme for services Joe provides – no decisions have been made
- d) Potential farm model - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/> Tollgate Farm has a full time Farm Manager who coordinates everything – they also have a sustainable revenue stream that covers costs – they have several funding sources such as the university, series of events and animals – we are trying to get practical feedback from them
- e) Friends of the Farm Foundation membership form and donation projects – this is developed and in use – Tiered approach to membership – developing flyer to go with form – Promoting and emphasizing three things; 1) Farm to Fork challenged by funding – people could contribute to this program such as paying for buses, 2) more handwashing stations and 3) identify Harvest Day, tasting setups, concept of getting people exposed to the farm

5) Farm Operations Report – Joe Zimmerman

- a) Food Bank and Churches are having a tough year and are working through the problems – food production won't break any records but did harvest quite a bit – have 1/3 acre of carrots to harvest still
- b) Helping Justin harvest barley, quinoa and mustard seed
- c) Working on the free combine

- d) Cleanup and organization – scrap steel run of well casings

6) Public Comments received - Patrick Lee

- a) Public asked about the grant for Heritage Farm Trail - Laura has been saturated in other grant applications – we were hoping to get further direction from council and have not pursued grants for this year.
- b) Request to see the wetland restoration project slides and have a more detailed presentation as the project moves forward. (subsequent to the meeting, slides were posted on the Heritage Farm web page). Encourage efforts to coordinate with Cowlitz Tribe and CPU stream stewards.
- c) Community presentation on the solar project also requested. (Historic Preservation Commission received a presentation on November 3, 2020)
- d) Question re: the status of fee proposals for users of the farm. Charging for water use may be particularly sensitive.

5:05pm Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chris Walker, Secretary