



Clark County Parks Advisory Board



Agenda Item

Date: 4/12/2022

Agenda Item: **Heritage Farm Economic Sustainability Plan Development**

Action Item
Informational Item X

Overview:

In March 2020 Clark County Council approved a Resolution to adopt the 78th Street Heritage Farm Master Plan Update. At the time of adoption, Council directed staff to explore options for farm self-sustainability and opportunities for further community involvement in farm programs and activities. An outline of this process was presented to Council during the meeting, however work to complete this task was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions and staff turnover.

The Parks & Lands Division is seeking feedback on staff's planned approach to developing the Sustainability Plan along with an approach to analyze alternative revenue sources during the plan development process. The division will use the PAB's feedback to inform the development approach, revise the approach as necessary, then seek direction from Council.

The goal of the Sustainability pPlan is to develop a plan that will identify approaches to secure and allocate resources to maximize services for the property and to improve community use and access. Staff's general approach will be to move through a five-step process:

- Step 1 – Review the approach and potential alternatives to explore with PAB & Council
- Step 2 – Develop a steering committee
- Step 3 – Public engagement phase (staff will engage with the community throughout the process)
- Step 4 – Develop a draft economic sustainability plan
- Step 5 – Council adoption of plan

Staff has identified five alternatives for revenue sources / increased sustainability of the farm for consideration by the PAB and Council:

1. Current Model – No change

Farm maintenance by PLD, WSU Extension Services partnership, etc. Costs are financed by the County's General Fund.

2. Community Park Model

Park maintenance by PLD, development into a regional park with amenities selected through public engagement process. Costs are financed by the General Fund. Community access to the facility is increased. Extension services funded elsewhere.

3. Public / Private Partnership Model

A portion of the site managed through a partnership with a private company. Revenue from private partnership is used to offset the cost of extension services and farm operation.

4. Incubator Model

Farm maintenance by PLD and continued extension services with expanded opportunity for affordable access to land and infrastructure allowing residents to hone farming skills. Some costs recouped from land leases, remainder of maintenance and extension services financed by General Fund.

5. Non-governmental Organization (NGO) Model

Initiate a conservancy group partnership with local partners to support the maintenance, capital development and advocacy for Heritage Farm. Revenue would be raised through a variety of means to care for the park. The non-profit organization would determine how the park would be developed to meet the needs of local communities.

Following input from the PAB, staff we make the necessary revisions to the approach for presentation to County Council in May, 2022. Upon finalization of an approach for the project, staff with the support of consulting groups, as necessary, will begin the development of the Sustainability Plan for periodic review by the PAB and ultimately adoption by the County Council. Staff anticipates the project to take approximately 19 months with a completion date of November , 2023.

Action Requested: None
Attachment: Draft Outline Approach
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