

Date: July 18, 2019

Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Winter Park's City Hall, 2nd Floor Harvard Room

Host: Vanessa Balta

Subject: January 2015 Monthly Council Meeting Notes

Attendees (11 total): Luis Nieves-Ruiz: ECFRPC, Allison Mcgillis: City of Winter Park, Kris Stenger: City of Winter Park, Evan Kiggen: Pasture Brothers, Cara Borowski: City of Orlando, Mary-Parker Scruggs: Intern with Orange County Environmental Protection Division, Vanessa Balta Cook: City of Winter Park, Clayton Ferrara: IDEAS for Us, Lori Forsman: Orange County, Daniel Friedline: City of Orlando Laura Eng: City of Orlando - Green Works

2:30-3:00 - Welcome and introductions: The host Vanessa Balta started the meeting by introducing herself and every attendee took a moment to introduce themselves and their organization.

3:00-3:30 -

Luis Nieves Perez presented his research on urban agriculture. He provided attendees with maps highlighting vacant and agricultural land that is color-coded based on zoning code. He went on to express his concern about urban agriculture activities in the context of their location and how it is important to create an ordinance that is very "context based" to prevent disruption or conflict in its surrounding areas. He also went on to remind the attendees that an ordinance that meets Orlando's needs will be very different for Winter Park, which has a very different set of zoning laws and context.

Clay Ferrara asks about the possibility of animal husbandry (such as introducing goats to urban farms) in Orlando, to which Luis Nieves-Ruiz and Lori Forsman respond that it is best to avoid the topic in this new ordinance, as the county has struggled to even gain consensus on the keeping of hens. Luis and Lori agreed that introducing farm animals into this ordinance was an easy way to reverse its progress and have the ordinance "killed".

Clay and Luis agree that urban agriculture can make way for great economic opportunities and that this can be a great pitch for the urban agriculture ordinance.

Luis mentions that Hillsborough County has done a great job at creating economic opportunity by increasing agricultural activity and highlights it as a good example to follow.

Lori mentions that although it would be ideal to create more opportunities for partnerships between local farms, distributors, and restaurants, it would be very difficult for farms in Orlando

alone to feed tourists (i.e. if Microsoft associates came on a business trip, it would be very difficult for local farmers alone to provide enough food to cater a dinner for 30,000 people).

Luis agrees with this point, but argues that as economic developers it is their job to provide the opportunity and for the market to tackle these matters themselves.

3:30-4:00pm - Laura Eng presents a powerpoint on Article 89 highlighting its purpose and breaking down the Comprehensive Farm Review as well as best practices for soil safety.

After the presentation, Clay brings up the importance of integrating a “florida friendly” landscaping/growing guideline for urban farmers to follow to prevent the disruption of native ecosystems. The group agrees that this is a valid point that is not already addressed in Article 89 and deserves to be brought up in an ordinance for Orlando.

It was suggested that this matter be brought up to UF/IFAS for consulting.

Finally, the group of attendees filled out a quiz and the top 3 with the highest score were awarded prizes gifted by Mary-Stewart.

Group pictures were taken to end the meeting