Thursday, February 10, 2011

Parks and Recreation   **Item No. 17**
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Approve an ordinance repealing Chapter 8-4; replacing Chapter 14-7; and amending Chapter 14-11 to the City Code relating to sustainable urban agriculture.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: D'Anne Williams 974-9456; April Thedford 974-6716

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by Land and Facilities Commission, Sustainable Food Policy Board, and b the Parks and Recreation Board. To be reviewed by PC Codes and Ordinances,Planning Commission, and by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

Prior Council Action: November 19, 2009 – Council approved a resolution streamlining the community garden process and initiating changes to the "qualified community gardens" ordinance.

The current Qualified Community Garden provisions in Chapter 8-4 of the City Code supports community gardens in specific regions of the city with water tap waiver and with permitted use. In the previous 10 years, only two applications were submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department for a qualified community garden: Homewood Heights and Blackshear. At the time this ordinance was adopted, there were funds available to support community gardens being built in the following targeted areas: Community Development Block Grant designated areas or a census tract with more than half the residents below the federal poverty level.

The ordinances related to community gardens on this agenda, will allow certain city property to be made available for sustainable urban agriculture, and they will change other existing qualified community garden provisions in Chapter 8-4 of the City Code.

This ordinance will define a City-supported community garden, establish the process for obtaining a garden permit for a City-supported community garden and license agreement approval, set out requirements and describe the general administration of the community garden and urban farm programs.