

AGENDA



Thursday, February 10, 2011

**Parks and Recreation
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 18**

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending Title 25 and Title 30 of the City Code related to sustainable urban agriculture.

Amount and Source of Funding: 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 Subcommittee, Parks and Recreation Board, Sustainable Food Policy Board, and the Parks and Recreation Board. To be reviewed by the Codes and Ordinances Subcommittee, Planning Commission, Planning Commission, and 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 through water tap waivers and permitted uses in specific regions of the city. 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 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 community gardens as an allowable use for all land districts in which it is currently not a listed use, as well as add urban farms as a permitted use on public lands. It will define parking requirements, and create an application process for temporary water tap permits. This ordinance will allow impact fee waivers, and site plan exemptions for community gardens, and will provide for temporary platting requirement exemptions.