



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Alex Gale, Interim Officer, Office of Real Estate Services (ORES)

DATE: August 23, 2018

SUBJECT: Council Resolution 20180614-069; 4711 Winnebago Lane

On June 14, 2018, Council directed the City Manager to explore the feasibility of developing an agreement with Urban Roots for the use of the property located at 4711 Winnebago Lane.

Preliminary meetings have been held with our colleagues in Austin Resource Recovery (ARR), which stewards the property, Law Department, Office of Sustainability and Austin Public Health to determine if the site would be feasible for use as an urban farm. In addition, staff met with leadership from Urban Roots to understand their programs, phased plan to utilize the property and, the benefits such use would provide the citizens of Austin.

Based on these preliminary meetings, ARR staff in the Brownfields Program, has utilized funding from their operating budget to further analyze the site. A previously completed analysis did not indicate any potential environmental concerns, but given a proposed agricultural use we want to be sure that the site is free from any issues that may affect agrarian activity.

Upon completion of the environmental analysis, a market rent study and proposed terms with Urban Roots, we will bring forward an RCA to Mayor and Council to approve a lease agreement allowing Urban Roots to utilize the tract and provide the public benefits outlined in the aforementioned resolution. The lease will contain a provision requiring the tenant to allow the general public to access the site and that the use of the site must contain features that are accessible to residents, adjacent neighbors, and the surrounding community, as well as additional community benefits. We anticipate bringing the item to Council by the end of November 2018.

If you have any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 512-974-1416.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Sara Hensley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Stephanie Hayden, Director, Austin Public Health
Sam Angoori, Interim Director, Austin Resource Recovery