



David B. Cohen
Mayor

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DRAFT

NEWTON FARM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2009
7:00 pm, City Hall Room 209

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. with the following attendees:

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Harper, Chair, R. Lipof, V. Schnell, P. Lewenberg (**Not a Quorum**)

MEMBERS ABSENT: L. Mottard, D. Lang, J. Hepburn

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Peter Barrer, President, NCFI, Ted Chapman, NCFI, Gene Rubin, NCFI, Ouida Young, Assistant City Solicitor, Jenny Craddock, NCFI, and Yannick Perrette, Education Coordinator

Update on Contract with City: Ouida Young, Assistant City Solicitor

O. Young apologized for delay in getting draft contract to Commission. Summarized the instructions she had been given by Commission which was Commission was interested in giving a 20 year term extension on contract. Currently contract has already been extended to its maximum 5-year term expiring in March 2011. Direction was to extend contract 20 years beyond that date. This would bring the contract to expire in 2031. This is the longest contract City has executed. This contract extends 20 years with 5-year review. Presented Draft Amendment #4. Gives Commission discretion to terminate at end of 5 year review terms. 5-yr. reviews proposed include "review time" starting in September. Commission could vote to opt out or contract continues on. Gives Commission right to engage in renegotiations with Operator for different terms. Scope of review is flexible but gives authority to Commission. Concept of Sole Discretion discussed. Contract much like previous ones and served on top of existing contract. Refers to business plan. Concept is to not lay additional burdens on Operator, but with advantage to Commission to exercise its option to say goodbye. Business Plan calls for mitigation before termination. Goal from operator was for longer time frame for fundraising purposes. Contract is simple, short and achieves goals. Language is open because we have the weight of original contract behind it. Will be helpful for fundraising. Contract is through 2031 with 5-year review periods. Commission and Operator will review for next meeting. Commission thanked O. Young for efforts.

Newton Community Farm Inc. Report of Farm Operations, P. Barrer

Introduced Jenny Craddock, Edu Committee Coordinator and Yannick Perrette, Education Coordinator Growing almost done, season almost over, broccoli almost ready. Some greens will be available for Thanksgiving. Farmstand sales a little bit below budget but OK considering loss of tomatoes. Harvest

Newton Farm Commission

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Festival happened although weather dampened participation. Approximately 100-120 people. Many from Commission in attendance. Didn't lose money because of low attendance but would have made more if weather and attendance had been better.

Financials. Overall doing well and ahead of budget, income from seedling sale way over anticipated. Budgeted for 2 part time positions that were not filled, done with volunteers. Expenses less than anticipated. Construction in process, ThoughtForms converted to depreciable asset at end of year. Warranty reserve should be returned in January. Staff to forward to Comptroller upon receipt of final draft.

Peek at pullet shed. Welcome to Farm display to be in new pullet shed where kiosk is currently. Kiosk to be moved to learning garden and used for displays. Commission expressed concern about blocking stage area and open space in front of stage, which is helpful for large events. Windows could be hinged to open to display farm materials. More information to come later.

Education program. Yannick, Farm Education Coordinator. Started in early June, teaching about container gardening ran Farmer in Training program. Helps with ongoing classes for adults and children. Farm Sprouts. Halloween Festival. Environmental Science program students. Previously worked at Ecology Camp at Friends of Alewife Reservation, Red Tomato, Organic Farm in Lincoln, owned and operated organic restaurant in DC, Brown University.

Jenny Craddock spoke about education and outreach efforts. Commission asked how many children the Farm has touched. 400 Middle schoolers. Commission would like quantifiable metrics.

Purchased fixed raised planting bed and movable table and vertical wall garden with Mayor's grant for people with disabilities.

Created feedback form so farm can hear about people's experiences at farm.

General Business & Announcements

Short of quorum so cannot act on minutes or elections.

V. Schnell complimented Farm Festival. Should we say thank you to Mayor for his support? How?

Motion to adjourn 8:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Ananth, Senior Planner