1. Agenda

   Documents: AGR_20151005_AG.PDF

2. Complete Packet

   Documents: AGR_20151005_PK.PDF

CITY OF FITCHBURG
Planning Department

5520 Lacy Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711-5318

Phone: (608) 270-4256 ■ Fax: (608) 270-4275

www.fitchburgwi.gov

AGENDA
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
Monday, October 5, 2015
4:00 p.m.
Meeting Room

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there will be a meeting of the Fitchburg Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee at ***4:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room*** at City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road to consider and act on the following:

(Note: Full coverage of this meeting is available through FACTv and Streaming Video, accessible on the city web site at http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/677/Government-Channel)

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes
2. Public Appearances – Non-agenda Items
3. City of Fitchburg Agriculture Plan Work Session
4. Staff Report
5. Announcements
    a. Next Meeting Date
6. Adjournment

Note: It is possible that members of and possible a quorum of members of other government bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg WI 53711, (608) 270-4200.

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DRAFT MINUTES

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Planning Department

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MINUTES

Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
Tuesday, August 25, 2015

Members Present: Ed Kinney, Roger Cohee, Tony Hartmann, Tom O'Brien, Tom Thrall, and George Vroman

Staff Present: Wade Thompson – Resource/Project Planner

Others Present: Olivia Parry, Dane County Planning and Development Department and Lloyd Vroman, City of Fitchburg landowner

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Chair Ed Kinney called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Motion by Tom O'Brien, second by Tony Hartmann, to approve the minutes of July 14, 2015, carried unanimously.

Chair Kinney proposed moving agenda item 6. **Yahara WINS Semi-Annual Report** to agenda item 3. Motion by O'Brien, second by George Vroman, to move agenda item 6 to agenda item 3, carried unanimously.

2. Public Appearances – Non-agenda items

None.

3. Yahara WINS Semi-Annual Report

Wade Thompson, at the request of Rick Eilertson, City Environmental Engineer, provided an overview of the Yahara WINS pilot project, stating it consisted of a partnership of various interests designed to reduce phosphorus run-off in to the region's water bodies. Thompson also stated that Ellertson had informed him that an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is being prepared that would expand the scope of the project to cover the extent of the Yahara River watershed, and that said IGA would be presented to the Common Council and potentially be referred out to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

The Committee discussed the Yahara WINS project and requested that Eilertson provide a brief overview of the project and the IGA, prior to the IGA being referred out to the Committee.

Thompson stated he would invite Eilertson to a future Committee meeting to provide an overview.

4. Fitchburg Agriculture Route (FAR) – Olivia Parry, Dane County Planning and Development Department

Olivia Parry, Senior Planner with the Dane County Planning and Development Department, spoke to the Committee regarding County support of the Fitchburg Agriculture Route (FAR) project. Parry spoke to her previous agriculture enterprise experience, including her involvement in formation and development of the Southern Wisconsin Food Hub, Institutional Food Market Coalition, and Program for Entrepreneurial Agricultural Training (PEAT).

Parry stated that the Dane County Planning and Development Department supports the City's FAR project, as it aligns with County goals of farmland preservation and enhancement of the County's agricultural/local food identity. Parry stated she thought the FAR project is unique in that it partners agriculture with recreation. Parry also stated she has been assisting Thompson in brainstorming on very early stages of the FAR project and will continue to provide expertise and assistance, as needed, throughout development of the FAR project.

The Committee and Parry discussed various ideas related to the FAR project, including designation of agriculture enterprise areas (AEA), food hubs and "feed" kitchens (local food processing, preparation, and distribution centers), potential "earmarking" of lands in the City for said centers, and landscaping/maintenance along the FAR corridor.

5. City of Fitchburg Agriculture Plan Work Session

Thompson provided an overview of the timeline for development of the City's Agriculture Plan and stated that a public information workshop/meeting was the next step. Thompson provided a summary of a draft notice to be sent to the City's rural/agricultural landowners, informing them of Plan development, the public information meeting/workshop date, and major issues/questions to be discussed at the meeting/workshop.

The Committee requested minor edits to the notice, including more specific wording regarding allowable potential future agriculture uses, examples of said uses, identification of the FAR study/report that the City will be undertaking in partnership with UW-Madison in the fall of 2015, and potential economic return on production of "local food" commodities versus "traditional" (corn/soy bean) commodities.

Thompson stated he would incorporate the edits in to the notice. Thompson also stated he would include a copy of the final notice, as well as public meeting/workshop presentation materials, etc., in the packet for the Committee's October meeting. Subject to Committee approval at its October meeting, Thompson stated he would then send out the notices to the City's rural/agricultural landowners.

The Committee agreed that October 21 or 22 would be suitable dates for the public meeting/workshop, and will confirm the meeting/workshop date/time at the October Committee meeting.

6. Appointment of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

Motion by O'Brien, second by Hartmann, to designate Ed Kinney as Committee Chair and Roger Cohee as Vice-Chair, carried unanimously.

7. Staff Report

Thompson reported that the Fitchburg Agriculture Route (FAR) trails signs should be completed in the next few weeks.

8. Announcements.

None.

a. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for October 6, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Vroman, to adjourn at 5:35 p.m., carried unanimously.

Submitted by: Wade Thompson, Resource/Project Planner

Approved:

NOTICE
October 5, 2015

Wade Thompson, Resource/Project Planner
5520 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53711
wade.thompson@fitchburgwi.gov
(608) 270-4258

THE CITY OF Fitchburg
AG & RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture Plan –
Public Open House and Workshop

DRAFT - 10-1-2015

DATE: Thursday, October 22, 2015
TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers
Fitchburg City Hall
5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg

The City of Fitchburg's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee has recently begun the process of developing an "Agriculture Plan" to help maintain and enhance agriculture in the City into the foreseeable future.

A major component of the Plan will be identifying new agricultural land use opportunities for City landowners, as well as ways in which the City can help landowners take advantage of these opportunities.

Additionally, the City is currently working with the University of Wisconsin – Madison on a study to explore potential new agricultural land use opportunities in close proximity to the Badger State Trail, as the trial runs through the City's agricultural lands.

The Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will be holding a Plan public open house and workshop beginning at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, October 22, City Council Chambers, Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg. The purpose of the open house and workshop is to gather feedback from the City's agricultural landowners and other interested parties on Plan development.

The open house will begin at 6:30 p.m., with a formal presentation and other feedback activities scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Dear City of Fitchburg Landowner:

The City of Fitchburg's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee has recently begun the process of developing an "Agriculture Plan" to help maintain and enhance agriculture in the City into the foreseeable future.

The City's agricultural land base has many features that make it unique, including proximity to a large urban area that has a high demand for local food production, as well as proximity to recreational trails. This demand for local food production is reflected in the following:

- **The rent that landowner's charge per acre for small vegetable production is approximately two times the rent charged for corn and soybean production.**
- **Many Fitchburg and Madison-area restaurants are buying "locally-grown" food products from farmers throughout the region. As little "locally-grown" food is produced on Fitchburg's agricultural lands, these restaurants are buying "locally-grown" food from other places in Dane County.**

A major component of the Plan will be identifying new agricultural land use opportunities for landowners in the City that take advantage of these unique features, as well as ways in which the City can help landowners take advantage of these opportunities. Similarly, the City is currently working with the University of Wisconsin – Madison on a study to explore potential new agricultural land use opportunities in close proximity to the Badger State Trail, as it runs through the City's agricultural lands.

As such, the City's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will be holding a Plan public open house and workshop beginning at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, October 22, City Council Chambers, Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg. The purpose of the open house and workshop is to gather feedback from the City's agricultural landowners and other interested parties on Plan development. The open house will begin at 6:30 p.m., with a formal presentation and other activities scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Major questions to be discussed at the public open house/workshop include the following:

1. What are some potential new agricultural land uses in the City?
2. What is preventing agricultural landowners in the City from undertaking new agricultural land uses?
3. What could the City do to help landowners undertake some new agricultural land uses?
4. What are some concerns regarding potential new agricultural land uses in the City?
5. What could the City do to alleviate some concerns about potential new agricultural land uses?

Your attendance at the workshop is encouraged.

The City has also prepared an online survey to gather additional feedback from agricultural landowners in advance of the workshop. The survey is located at _____ and will be available until _____.

If you need further information on development of the City's Agriculture Plan, the public workshop, or the survey, please contact Wade Thompson, the City's Resource/Project Planner, at wade.thompson@fitchburgwi.gov, or 608.270.4258.

Sincerely,

_____, Chair
City of Fitchburg Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

DRAFT - 10-1-2015

Ag Plan Public Open House and Workshop – Structure and Content

- **Open House – 6.30 p.m.**
  - Materials
    - Future Land Use Map
    - Ag Resources Map
    - Ag Opportunities Posters (2) – List and Facts
    - FAR Study Poster

- **Workshop – 7:00 p.m.**
  - Welcome – Ag and Rural Affairs Committee
  - Overview of Plan, Timeline, and Process – Wade
  - Breakout groups – General Ag and FAR
    - Breakout group overview/intros
    - Breakout group questions:
      - What are some potential new agricultural land uses in the City?
      - What is preventing agricultural landowners in the City from undertaking new agricultural land uses?
      - What could the City do to help landowners undertake some new agricultural land uses?
      - What are some concerns regarding potential new agricultural land uses in the City?
      - What could the City do to alleviate some concerns about potential new agricultural land uses?
  - Reconvene – Wrap up and next steps

DRAFT - 10-1-2015