

Auburn Agricultural Committee

DRAFT Minutes 10 27 2020

Location: Community Center, Pettengill Park

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: None. Staff support expected to be appointed when vacant position is filled.

Attending: David Bell, Katie Boss, Joe Gray, Dave Griswold, Bill Sylvester, Michelle Melaragno

Excused: Scott Blanchard, Kathy Shaw

Call to Order: 5:38 pm

Public Participation: None

1. **9 22 minutes:** approved.
2. **Committee Information Sheet:** Info Sheet drafted by Dave Griswold reviewed and several minor changes were suggested. Revision will be sent to members with the expectation that it will be approved at the November meeting.
3. **Progress on 5 Priority Strategies from Ordinance 14-12022019:**
#2 Local Food Systems-
 - a. It was suggested that in order to start an inventory of Food/Fuel/Value added activities that a newspaper article be written to solicit input from the public, and that equipment dealers such as United Ag & Turf be asked.
 - b. To determine short and long term food insecurity, Good Shepard, Emergency Food Outlets and the School Department may be good data sources.
 - c. Information about community integrated food systems may be forth coming as the result of a grant to LFLP.
4. **Comprehensive Plan Input:** The committee places a priority on making agriculture and forestry a piece of the Auburn Comprehensive Plan, under revision. It has not been part of the CP in the past. Discussion of the committee's vision to address this need will be a future agenda item.
5. **Other discussion items:**
 - a. Advantages of a full time grant writer at City Hall.
 - b. Hope that the City will bring on a new hire with agriculture background to facilitate promotion of agriculture and forestry.
 - c. Importance of low interest loans for addition of processing and other Ag infrastructure.

6. **Membership:** The committee approved membership for Edmund Michaud, a long term Auburn resident associated with Fox Ridge Golf Course, and an avid hunter and fisherman. The length of his term will be determined at the next meeting.

Action Items:

1. Joe Gray will send out potential language for use to partially address the Comprehensive Plan.

Next meeting: 4th Tuesday, 11 24 20

Pending agenda items:

1. Information Sheet
2. Term length for Edmund Michaud
3. Discussion of AG/Forestry focus in Comprehensive Plan revision
4. Develop plan to address Council Order
5. Draft recommendations to Council from list of discussion topics above and “Is Your Community Farm Friendly” checklist.
6. Possibilities for Education outreach
7. Possibilities for meeting with state legislators

Adjourned: 7:15 PM

