

RESOLUTION

<https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=427568>

NHM Motion Sheet HPC: 4.23.24 Page 1 of 3 1 Housing and Planning Committee 2
Recommendation for Council Action No. 1

3 WHEREAS, an agrihood is a planned community that

4 integrates agriculture into a residential neighborhood; and

5 WHEREAS, agrihoods facilitate food production as well as provide green

6 space, recreation, aesthetics and value for a community; and

7 WHEREAS, the Urban Land Institute defines agrihoods as “single

8 family, multifamily, or mixed-use communities built with a working

9 farm or community garden as a focus;” and

10 WHEREAS, there are numerous examples from around the county of

11 agrihoods being developed in cities; and

12 WHEREAS, in Austin, there are opportunities to utilize some of the last

13 remaining farm properties for agrihoods that focus on affordable housing and

14 improved food access; and

15 WHEREAS, in the draft Austin Travis County Food Plan, the Community

16 Advisory Committee is proposing the inclusion of a Strategy that specifically

17 supports ‘agrihoods’ (Goal 1: Strategy 1.2); and,

18 WHEREAS, best practice points to a need for policy changes to allow

19 incentives for farmer-informed agricultural components, incentives for developers

20 in the design of a community, and public funding to support mixed-use affordable

21 residential, commercial, and agricultural; and

22 WHEREAS, possible partners for any local program to support agrihoods

23 include existing farm owners/ farmers, affordable housing developers, property NHM Motion

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24 management companies, urban farm consultants, school districts, land conservation

25 organizations, and City and Travis County (“County”) staff; NOW,

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSING AND

27 PLANNING COMMITTEE:

28 The Housing and Planning Committee recommends that the City Council

29 direct the City Manager to investigate whether there are existing impediments to

30 agrihood development and best practices for programmatic support or local

31 funding in order to achieve agrihoods that are comparable to those in other parts of

32 the country.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

34 The Housing and Planning Committee recommends the City Council direct

35 the City Manager to explore the use of agrihoods as a pilot program in the North

36 East Planning District (NEPD), given its unique mixture of public land assets,

37 existing farmland, collaborative planning between the County and the City, and the

38 existence of the City’s only current agrihood.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

40 The Housing and Planning Committee recommends the City Council direct

41 the City Manager to explore additional ways to provide local support for

42 agrihoods. At a minimum, the City Manager should explore:

43 1. the feasibility of adopting a zoning typology for the agrihoods concept,

44 2. the availability of local or State tax incentives,

45 3. the availability of partnerships with Federal agencies and congressional

46 offices,

47 4. options to collaborate with the County on agrihood development, NHM Motion Sheet

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48 5. the creation or curation of an agrihoods dashboard that tracks potential sites,
49 needs, and opportunities for agrihoods within the combined City-County
50 geography and establishes metrics for any future agrihoods considerations,
51 and
52 6. increased programmatic support for the Sustainability Office and other City
53 staffing related to agrihoods.
54 55 ADOPTED: , 2024 ATTEST: _____ 56 Myrna Rios 57 City Clerk

BACKGROUND INFO:

COA Affordable Housing Crisis

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