



COLUMBIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia Community Development Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tina N. Herbert	Chair	Present	
Howard E. Duvall	Member	Present	
Will Brennan	Member	Present	

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Columbia Town and Gown Committee - The Honorable William Brennan

Councilor Brennan said the goal of the city is to keep the talent here that is coming through the pipeline of our colleges and universities. He emphasized how Town and Gown can work with city planning staff on pre-development initiatives in areas surrounding the schools as well as connect students with area leaders. Formalization of the committee could be a great asset to work with both the Planning Department and the Mayor's Office. The structure of the committee will be defined by key members of the schools' leadership, local government, student representatives and neighborhood leaders.

Councilor Duvall proposed that we start with USC.

Councilor Herbert agrees that it will be helpful for the community to know what is going on at the campuses.

There was a consensus of the committee members to ask staff to bring back a formalized proposal of the Town and Gown committee structure and to engage with USC.

2. Food Insecurity Solution Initiative Update - Ms. Ayesha Driggers, Director of the Office of Business Opportunities

Ms. Ayesha Driggers, Director of the Office Business Opportunities provided an update on the Food Insecurity Solution Initiative. The proposed agreement will be presented at today's City Council meeting. The recommended vendor is Toms Creek Family Farms, based out of Hopkins, SC. The mobile market will primarily serve the 29203 and 2904 zip codes at multiple locations.



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The market is starting with fresh produce, baked goods, meat, and dairy. The trailer will be customized and outfitted with freezers and coolers and it will be ADA compliant. The goal is to be self-sustained within 18 months. OBO will assist with promotion and marketing materials. We are requiring the vendor to complete quarterly reporting with data reflecting food sales, partnerships, promotional activities, and resources leveraged. These metrics will be looked out to determine the success of the project. The market will accept all forms of payment including SNAP. The trailer is modeled after designs similar to Kroger and will be owned by the vendor. It is an 8.5' x 40' gooseneck trailer, already outfitted for shelving. They will be starting with fresh produce but there is an option to have prepared foods.

Ms. Ashley Page Bookhart, MSW, Food Policy Committee said the Food Policy Committee is excited for this to come to fruition and they are familiar with Toms Creek Family Farms because of their involvement in the Make that Dough event.

Councilor Brennan suggested reaching out to Senior Resources for potential partnership and use of their kitchen.

3. Business License Incentive for Grocery Stores - The Honorable Tina N. Herbert

Councilor Herbert introduced Greenville's ordinance for economic development incentives. There is a rebate off of the business license fee for different retail businesses. Greenville's focus was broad including manufacturing, grocery stores, retail, and childcare. This committee's concern has been food scarcity, so we're going to look at grocery stores with a focus on the 29203 and 29204 zip codes specifically. In addition, this program has an incentive for existing qualified businesses. Grocery stores have left and this is a way to keep our existing businesses here. There are small margins for grocery stores and any amount that we can contribute will make a great impact. What are the business license fees for grocery stores?

Mr. Jeff Palen, Assistant City Manager for Financial Services / Chief Financial Officer said it is \$9,000 to \$22,000 depending on the services provided by the grocery store.

Other considerations:

- Consider adding any retail that consistently provides fresh produce.
- Consider adding doctors, dentists, and ophthalmologists.
- Target food deserts.
- Gather data on areas of need with definitions of grocery stores versus food stores.



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- Create boundaries.
- Advocate for more full service grocery stores.
- Consider a model for mobile grocery stores.

There was a consensus of the committee to direct staff to draft an incentive ordinance based on Greenville's model with a focus on areas of food scarcity.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk