

City of Minneapolis
Request for Committee Action

To: Health, Environment & Community Engagement
Date: 4/4/2016
From: City Coordinators Office
Prepared by: Tamara Downs Schwei
Presented by: Tamara Downs Schwei, Russ Henry and DeVon Nolen
File type: Resolution

Subject:

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council: Community Garden Lease Form Contracts

Description:

1. Amending Resolution 2010R-119 entitled “Delegating authority to make and execute City Community Garden Lease form contracts”, passed April 2, 2010, by striking the language “Pursuant to City Charter Chapter 4, Section 25” and “At no cost to the City”.
2. Amending Resolution 2015R-459 entitled “Delegating authority to make and execute City Commercial Garden Lease form contracts”, passed Nov. 20, 2015, by striking the language “At no cost to the City”.

Previous Actions:

1. April 2, 2010: Resolution 2010R-119
 2. November 20, 2015: Resolution 2015R-459
-

Ward/Address:

All wards

Background/Analysis:

Homegrown Minneapolis is a citywide initiative expanding our community’s ability to grow, process, distribute, eat and compost more healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods.

In keeping with these goals and functions, the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council in consultation with Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) staff recommends that the City Council amend the Community Garden Policy and Commercial Garden Policy pertaining to City-owned property and to remove the phrase stating “At no cost to the City,” as well as striking the phrase “Pursuant to City Charter Chapter 4, Section 25” from the Community Garden Policy.

This update will enable the City of Minneapolis to pay for soil tests for City-owned vacant lots available for garden lease. Lease Agreement Standards for the garden lease program stipulate

that soil testing for all garden properties is required before entering into a garden lease and clean-fill raised bed gardens will be used where required by soil testing. Soil testing will be used to determine presence and level of soil contaminants, including but not limited to lead, arsenic, cadmium and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which have all been identified previously in one or more garden sites and are often present in urban soils.

An initial group of lots was tested through a grant secured by Hennepin County, which did not cover testing all of the lots. CPED manages the City-owned development lots currently being leased and oversees the garden lease program. The average cost of testing the lots in 2016 is approximately \$365/lot.

On April 2, 2010, the City Council adopted City Resolution 2010R-119 “The City Council hereby delegates authority to the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) director or designees for City development properties and to the Department of Public Works director, the City engineer or designees for all other City-owned properties, to make and execute community garden leases with non-profit organizations for non-buildable and non-developable City-owned properties, **at no cost to the City**, for a term not to exceed five years using a form approved by the City Attorney.

On November 20, 2015, the City Council adopted Resolution 2015R-459 “The City Council hereby delegates authority to the Community Planning and Economic Development department director or designees for city development properties and to the Public Works department director, the city engineer or designees for all other city owned properties, to make and execute commercial garden leases pursuant to the Commercial Garden Policy adopted of even date herewith, with market gardeners and urban farmers for city owned properties, **at no cost to the City**, for a term not to exceed five years using a form approved by the City Attorney.”

Financial Review:

No additional appropriation required, amount included in current budget.

Attachments:

1. None