

Councilors Kranichfeld,
Adrien, Shannon, Kaplan, Dober, Keogh, Berezniak, Paul

CREATION OF URBAN
AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE

In the year Two Thousand Eleven.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, a strong community-based food policy can provide benefits to the citizens of the City of Burlington including access to a healthier diet, a stronger local economy, a more robust food supply, and environmental benefits;

WHEREAS, Burlington is home to innovative, community-based food projects including the Burlington School Food Project, the Burlington Area Community Gardens, the Food Systems Spire at the University of Vermont, and the Intervale Center, a nationally recognized leader in food system innovation;

WHEREAS, Burlington residents are engaging in urban agriculture, defined broadly as “the growing of food and related activities within city boundaries,” including urban homesteading, permaculture, gardening, and community farming;

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington currently lacks sufficiently clear regulations or a cohesive policy addressing urban agriculture;

WHEREAS, this lack of sufficiently clear regulations or policy can cause confusion and creates an obstacle to engaging in these activities;

WHEREAS, there currently is no single governing board devoted to review issues related to urban agricultural activities;

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington currently supports the continued development of a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food policy through the Burlington Food Council;

41 CREATION OF URBAN AGRICULTURE
42 TASK FORCE

43
44 NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Burlington City Council hereby creates
45 the Urban Agriculture Task Force (“Task Force”) which is charged with recommending to the
46 City Council a cohesive urban agriculture policy, improved rules and regulations addressing
47 urban agriculture, and steps to better promote and govern urban agriculture in Burlington;

48
49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Community and Economic Development Office is
50 designated as the lead department for providing staff support for the Task Force with additional
51 staff support to be provided as appropriate and as necessary by the Planning & Zoning
52 Department, the Code Enforcement Office, the Parks & Recreation Department, the City
53 Attorney’s Office, and the Public Works Department; and

54
55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall consist of one (1) member of the
56 Burlington Food Council appointed by the Burlington Food Council, one (1) member of the
57 Board of Health appointed by the Board of Health, one (1) member of the Planning Commission
58 appointed by the Planning Commission, and up to 4 additional community members appointed
59 by the Burlington Food Council;

60
61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in particular, the Task Force is to
62 (1) Generate a cohesive urban agriculture policy informed in part by current research, best
63 practices, and the needs of City residents,
64 (2) Review the current rules and regulations that govern urban agriculture in Burlington,
65 including but not limited to city ordinances and zoning regulations,
66 (3) Seek input from residents, stakeholders, and experts as appropriate, such as the Intervale
67 Center and the UVM Food System Spire;
68 (4) Identify potential inconsistencies or gaps in the current regulations and make
69 recommendations on clarifying and improving them,
70 (5) Identify barriers to urban agriculture and make recommendations on how the city can better
71 promote and govern urban agriculture,
72 (6) Make recommendations on how to integrate the needs of city residents with statewide and
73 regional food system development efforts, and

75 #3

76 CREATION OF URBAN AGRICULTURE
77 TASK FORCE

78
79 (7) Create a written action plan including actionable next steps for the City Council and city
80 departments, a timeline and outline of necessary work, and potential funding sources for further
81 policy development and implementation; and

82
83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall provide a final, written action plan as
84 outlined above to the City Council within 1 year after adoption of this Resolution by the City
85 Council, with interim reports to the City Council at three-month intervals describing activities to
86 date.

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

101

102 lj/GB/c: Resolutions/Creation of Urban Agriculture Task Force

103 3/2/11