

**Mobile Farmer's Market  
Community Advisory Group Meeting 1-6-15**

Present: Mark Fowler, Sonda Kennedy, Sonja Sanders, Marci Sigmon, Barry Mosley

Others Present: Commissioner Nancy Wiggins

Ms. Katrina Young of the Planning Department called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm. and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Because mobile produce markets encourage greater consumption of fruits and vegetables, thereby improving the quality of life in the communities within the city and contributing to the nutritional health of the people of Charlotte, Planning staff is recommending adding a new use to the Ordinance.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss feedback received from City Council at the March 17, 2014 public hearing and to review additional recommendations.

Ms. Young reviewed Council Member questions and concerns from 3-17-14:

- Who initiated the text amendment and how did the name change?
- Can the types of items sold be expanded so that it is more like a grocery store (meats, supplies, etc.)?
- Can the vehicle park on the street in residential districts instead of on private property?
- When are health inspections required?
- Can pick-up trucks be included in type of vehicles used?
- How to determine if the quality of food consumers are getting is a good product?

Mecklenburg County did a Food Assessment study of full service food stores in 2010. They found in food deserts, people were paying about \$5 more for food than in a standard grocery store. In addition, residents living in food deserts also are at higher risk of food insecurity and obesity. There are 72,793 people living in food deserts in Mecklenburg County, with the majority living in the northwest.

Ms. Young reviewed the proposed recommendations for mobile fresh produce markets from the PowerPoint:

- Revise the definition of “mobile fresh produce market”: A mobile vehicle or trailer commercially licensed by a Department of Motor Vehicles from which commercially prepared and packaged or uncut perishable fruits and vegetables are sold (excluding alcoholic beverages, homemade food products and goods).
- Revise Section 12.539 for outdoor fresh produce stands to include requirements for mobile fresh produce markets.
- Allow the mobile fresh produce market as a principal use and as an accessory use in the nonresidential districts, with prescribed conditions:
- Allow as an accessory use to a religious institution, school, college, university, hospital or office in Residential, Institutional and Office zoning districts, with prescribed conditions:

Ms. Young reviewed rationale for recommendations:

- Name change: Mobile fresh produce market indicates that most of the items sold will be produce and excludes meats.
- Types of vehicles required: Various types of vehicles are recommended. This is consistent with what other jurisdictions require. Also pick-up trucks and other vehicles are already allowed as a use for outdoor seasonal sales and produce stands.
- Types of items sold: The original goal was to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to the food desert areas that typically do not have them available, to help combat health issues such as heart disease and obesity. Meats are not regulated by the health department.

Ms. Young asked for questions and concerns.

- If you add milk and other products, these products can create sanitation issues. Spoilage of fruits and produce can always be composted.
- Clarify the zoning districts in the PowerPoint and the text amendments. Suggest providing Council with comparison cost of bananas, for instance: convenience stores bananas \$15. to \$.20 per banana. Discount stores are \$.44/lb. Plus, staff could stress the importance of a banana or particular fruit, in terms of high potassium for the diet. Maybe find a nutritionist to come to the public hearing to talk about what fruits and vegies could mean to the family diet.

Ms. Young stated that staff will post text amendment on website tonight.

Next steps are to schedule the public hearing for March 16, 2015, and to Zoning Committee on March 25, 2015, with the decision by Council as early as April 15.

The meeting was adjourned 6:40 pm.