

Urban Agriculture Zoning and Policy 101 session (March 17, 2011, UIC Pavilion)

2:30 – 2:45 Patsy Benveniste, facilitator, introduces the session and participants, explains how the session will proceed, and references several recent publications, including those generated by the City, having to do with urban agriculture practice and planning.

Session Participants

- Kevin Pierce, AIA
Shaw Sustainable Design Solutions of Illinois, LLC
Board Chairman, Resource Center
City Farm (non-profit production farm)
- Amy Beltemacchi, co-founder and creator
Root-Riot Harambee Garden (community farm/garden)
- Paul Hardej
Principal
City Micro Farms, LLC (commercial aquaculture)

Reference Materials

- [Eat Local, Live Healthy \(City of Chicago\)](#)
- [Preamble to the City of Chicago Proposed Zoning Ordinance](#)
- [CMAP 2040 local food system section](#)
- [APA Urban Agriculture: Growing Healthy, Sustainable Places](#)
- [CFPAC Comparative Analysis of other Urban Zoning Codes](#)

2:45 - 3:00 Outline of Urban Agriculture Benefits

Kevin Pierce and **CFPAC representative** review a proposed list of benefits and opportunities associated with urban agriculture and invites input from the audience to expand and refine the list.

Kevin then introduces three common types of urban agriculture initiatives as represented by the above participants.

3:00 – 3:40 Three Case Studies: Non-Profit Farm, Community Garden, and Commercial Aquaculture

Each case study representative will briefly describe how their particular projects are helped, hindered or denied by the current zoning code and/or proposed amendments and invite comments and questions from audience participants.

What are the problems commonly encountered in getting projects implemented given the code? What are the recommended changes that would allow their project to function efficiently and productively?

A zoning attorney and others familiar with the ordinance will be invited to sit in on this part of the program to help clarify issues, participate in ongoing Q&A, and discuss recommendations that are brought forward regarding the proposed zoning code.

3:40 -3:50

Wrap up and preview of the 4 p.m. session that will explore urban agriculture from the perspective of innovation and practices that bump up against existing policy, e.g., . composting and nutrient recycling, commercial urban ag in residential neighborhoods, and alternatives for site prep and soil remediation.

Participant Bios

Patsy Benveniste, Vice President of Education, Chicago Botanic Garden. Patsy oversees community-based programs focused on youth leadership and adult job training in urban agriculture as well as all school, youth and family programs, adult continuing education and horticultural therapy activities and professional training.. Ms. Benveniste has a master's degree from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and thirty years of experience in program development, education and administration in health care and living collection institutions. She serves on the steering committee of Chicago's Advocates for Urban Agriculture and on the board of The Talking Farm, a grass roots non-profit dedicated to local food system development and education. She coordinated the Garden's 2009 World Environment Day symposium, *Urban Agriculture: Feeding the Movement*.

Paul Hardej – a Principal at City Micro Farms, LLC. An architect by trade, Paul has designed and constructed many award winning project including restaurants, corporate offices and housing. As president of Metropolitan Development Enterprises, Inc., he an in-house architectural firm, general construction business, in-house sales and marketing departments and a property management company. His team has won numerous awards for best land planning, best design and best practices in real estate marketing. Paul served as a committee member of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, IL. He co-founded and served as a board member of Polish American Chamber of Commerce and has been involved in many local community organizations focused on revitalization of neighborhoods, zoning and planning issues. In 2008 he received a Citibank Heritage award for his non-for profit community work.

Kevin Pierce, AIA, LEED AP, CEM -- Managing Director, Shaw Sustainable Design Solutions of Illinois, LLC. Kevin has over 20 years experience in high performance, sustainable design of buildings and places. He has helped advance sustainability throughout the region and has played a leadership role in key projects including the Chicago Center for Green Technology, the City of Chicago's flagship green building and the first LEED Platinum municipal building in the US. As Sustainability Consultant for the Green Exchange, he has helping create the country's first commercial real estate development designed for the advancement of green business. Kevin chairs

the board of the Resource Center, a Chicago-based nonprofit focused on sustainable urban food systems, extreme recycling, and creative reuse. A member of the US Green Building Council, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Planning Association, Kevin is regularly invited to speak at national and regional conferences on architecture and sustainability.

Amy Beltemacchi, L.A. – Co-Founder of Root-Riot Harambee Garden in Austin Community. Amy
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NEEDS: Projector and white board or easel pad (if available)