

I want to write in support of the land use amendments to Enabling Urban Agriculture and Local Food Sales. In a way, perhaps it's a good thing I'm not at commission today, as I likely would have taken up way too much time.

With that said, this is important work. Providing opportunities for urban farmers to grow and distribute their produce to Calgarians enables a healthy local food system, where locals can provide basic needs for their community. Urban agriculture can also decrease food waste, encouraging Calgarians to buy what we need rather than being incentivized to buy bulk. These amendments release restrictions from the bylaw and when executed, ensure more food access to nutritious food, and can creatively help Calgarians participate in growing, buying, and eating local. From a planning perspective, these amendments make the connection to food access, food security, and food dignity.

I do think there are a few more things to explore.

1. I am hoping that remnant pieces of land can be included in the land inventory of possible urban farms. I encourage administration and PUD to look at what access to land urban growers have, and if possible, to provide a land inventory to aspiring farmers.
2. To help execute the policy, I think streamlining the DP/BP process or allowing greenhouse relaxations, so that urban growers have less of a barrier when they are start-up mode.
3. I think we need to make the connection to food deserts and urban agriculture. Mapping out the various food deserts in Calgary to identify 'hot-spots' for where urban agriculture can exist and thrive.
4. I would encourage admin and PUD to work with AHS in some capacity, to alleviate restrictions that AHS has on selling food grown locally or bringing it to service agency kitchens.

This is such great work, kudos to Kristi and Laurie for their efforts to make this happen. It's really happening! Also, more breweries always gets the thumbs up from me.

Please formally forward my comments to the SPC on Planning and Urban Development for information.

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