

Grand Lake Farmers Market Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes for January 29, 2020

Location: Family Room, Lakeshore Baptist Church
3534 Lakeshore Avenue @ Mandana

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 29th

1. **Fire Department inspection fees issue.** Kriselle Zevada and Katherine McCain of the OFD attended the meeting and provided an update on the issue [issue having been that starting mid last year the OFD started making frequent inspections and then billing AIM \$1,531 per visit – this OFD/City policy had not been pre-announced and it was happening at all Oakland farmers markets]. OFD will now make an inspection every three months and will charge AIM \$245 per visit; AIM will have to self-govern itself and weekly within one business day submit a 1-page form confirming compliance. Everyone agreed this is a rational approach. AIM will be assessed \$245 for each visit in 2019 prior to September (approximately 5 inspections) when the OFD temporarily halted the inspections until an agreeable program could be worked out. This new process will apply to all Oakland farmers markets.
2. **New AIM / City 5-year agreement status.** AIM will return the latest draft prepared by the City's Real Estate group sometime next week. AIM will be pushing back on a few terms, most notably the responsibility for vector control (i.e. rats – a big problem), responsibility for graffiti removal, and Christmas tree lot commencement timing. In addition AIM will demand that the City be responsible for feces removal each Saturday prior to the set up of the market.

Proposed fees, which AIM is accepting pending a possible adjustment for the OFD fees mentioned above:

- A. One time fee of \$1,940 for administrative process.
- B. One time fee of \$2,800 for something I didn't write down and don't recall.
- C. \$1,000/year for lawn maintenance by the City.
- D. \$1,000/month licensing fee that will go up \$100/year each of the recurring years of the agreement.
- E. Not a fee, but a responsibility to replace the eroded gravel surfaces with unit pavers or some other appropriate hard scape material. Estimates vary but could be in the \$50,000 to \$90,000 range.

Miya Saika Chen (Chief of Staff for Nikki Fortunato Bas) said that it is hoped that RE/AIM will conclude negotiations by mid March after which the agreement will go to a Council Committee (DPW?) by the end of March, and then to the next Council meeting thereafter for approval via the Consent Calendar. Hoping for deal done by mid April!

3. **AIM Report:** Andy Nava-Reis (AIM CEO) and Tanya Wolf (AIM VP Operations) provided a report that included the following.

- a. Waste Stream Management and post-market clean up is a priority. AIM has received a grant from Visit Oakland and will purchase several waste stream set ups (Recycle/Compost/Landfill) to use each week. AIM will also lease from Waste Management a small dumpster that will be kept under the freeway. Coordination with City pick up of trash in the City's containers will work to optimize that pick up time.
- b. AIM will be establishing a revised layout of farmers/vendors to help relieve congestion and mitigate park impact and document the layout with a map.
- c. AIM is completing an Emergency Response Plan for all of its markets, including the Grand Lake. Andy's description indicated that it will be very comprehensive.
- d. Outreach/Community Benefits:
 - i. AIM is adding a new program that will enable qualified elderly residents to receive 'tokens' to buy fruits and veggies. AIM will be continuing a couple of its programs that are helping people who suffer from food insecurity.
 - ii. AIM has a new employee via a grant coming on board in February, 50% of whose time will be dedicated to Oakland educational outreach.
 - iii. A network will be set up to identify and communicate job opportunities with farmers and vendors at the market.
 - iv. AIM is planning four Chef Tastings for 2020. They have had a successful program in Marin for a couple of years and expect there will be interest from local restaurant chef's who will use produce and products from the Grand Lake market.
 - v. AIM would like to set up a rotating booth for local merchants to use to promote their businesses. This will require a sponsor who can provide the necessary insurance coverage, but holds great promise.
- e. Daniel Foster, an experienced AIM market manager, will be taking over for Johnny, who decided to go back to school to obtain his teaching credential with the goal of teaching Geography. Courtney Fisher will continue to be the assistant manager, and AIM intends to bring on another individual to support market day activity. Katie Derrig intends to continue her volunteer work at the market (Big shout out for Katie!).

Everyone agreed that AIM has laid out an ambitious plan that when fully implemented will make the Grand Lake Farmers Market even better, and with greater community involvement and benefit.

Note: Next garden volunteer work party is Sunday, February 23rd from 9:00 to noon.

Committee Chair: Jerry Barclay; jerrybarclay@outlook.com