

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-067**

Approving the Use of Edgefield North, Located at LS Halsey Street and 244<sup>th</sup> in Troutdale, Oregon, for an Emergency Food Garden, Directing the Sustainability Program to Work with Facilities to Create and Implement the County CROPS Emergency Garden Program, Creating an Advisory Committee to Provide Oversight of the Program, and Appointing an Advisory Committee

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. By resolution 04-169, dated November 18, 2004, the Board declared Edgefield North, Property ID Number \$320821 ("the Property") surplus.
- b. By Resolution 05-056, dated April 14, 2005, the Board directed Facilities and Property Management ("Facilities") to sell the Property on the open market.
- c. By Resolution 06-162, dated April 27, 2006, the Board found it was in the best interests of the County to sell the Property to Centex Homes. The sale of the Property to Centex Homes was not completed.
- d. By Resolution 07-154, dated September 20, 2007, the Board found it was in the best interests of the County to sell the Property to Red Shed Properties, LLC and the Reynolds School District. This sale also was not completed.
- e. The economic downturn and subsequent scarcity of real estate financing has decreased the market value of properties in Multnomah County
- f. The current market conditions are expected to continue for a period of a few years.
- g. Selling the Property in the current market would likely lead to a sales price considerably less than what was contemplated at the time Resolution 05-056 directed Facilities and Property Management to sell the Property on the open market.
- h. Approving the short-term agricultural use of the Property for an emergency food garden is consistent with the Property's former use and the produce grown on site would benefit the vulnerable populations Multnomah County is charged with serving.
- i. The Oregon Food Bank reports that 36,000 people access emergency food boxes each month, a number larger than the populations of Troutdale, Wood Village and Fairview combined. 36% of those receiving emergency food are children.
- j. Donations of fresh fruits and vegetables to local food banks are rare, and often consist of items that are past their shelf life and can no longer be sold.
- k. The Multnomah County Chronic Disease Prevention Program has identified hunger as a public health issue because of its links to obesity. Households suffering from food insecurity often rely on cheaper, high calorie foods to cope with limited resources and to

stave off hunger, which can lead to over consumption of calories and a less healthful diet.

- l. The County CROPS program will be financed by a combination of County General Fund and private cash and in-kind donations.
- m. AmeriCorps Northwest Service Academy has pledged support for County CROPS through the approval of a full-time professional coordinator position.
- n. Hands On Greater Portland has committed to recruiting and coordinating volunteers for special planting and harvest days.
- o. The Multnomah County Department of Community Justice's Adult Community Service Program is in need of community service projects for its clients and is able to support County CROPS with a steady source of labor for maintenance and harvest of the garden.
- p. The Oregon Food Bank will assist in the pick-up and distribution of produce to area food banks.
- q. Metro Regional Government has pledged to provide 35 yards of compost to amend the garden soil.
- r. McMenamin's Hotels, Pubs and Restaurants have aided in the development of the garden budget and plan. They will provide ongoing technical support to County CROPS.
- s. Representatives of partner organizations and local farmers have committed to serving on the County CROPS Advisory Committee, and are tasked with providing oversight and accountability to the program.
- t. County CROPS will operate as a one-year pilot program and has potential to serve as a model for other counties with surplus properties and community service programs.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

- 1. It is in the best interest of the County to use 1-2 acres of the Property for the County CROPS Emergency Food Garden for a pilot period of one-year.
- 2. The Sustainability Program is directed to work with Facilities to implement the County CROPS program.
- 3. An Advisory Committee is established to provide oversight and accountability.
  - a. The County CROPS Advisory Committee shall include representatives from:
    - i. The Oregon Food Bank
    - ii. Multnomah County Sustainability
    - iii. Oregon State Extension Service
    - iv. City of Portland/Multnomah County Food Policy Council
    - v. Local Farms
    - vi. McMenamin's Hotels, Pubs and Breweries

4. The following individuals are hereby appointed to the Advisory Committee:
- a. Mike Moran, Oregon Food Bank
  - b. Hilary Eyres, Oregon Food Bank
  - c. Kat West, Multnomah County Sustainability
  - d. Weston Miller, Oregon State Extension Service & Food Policy Council
  - e. Laura Masterson, 47th Avenue Farms
  - f. Patrick McNurney, McMenamins Hotels , Pubs & Breweries
  - g. Dave Barmon, Fiddlehead Landscapes
  - h. Mark Parisien, Fiddlehead Landscapes

ADOPTED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 2009.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
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Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
John S. Thomas, Deputy County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:  
Commissioner Jeff Cogen, District 2