

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

3.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING – 21 Norlan Avenue (Z-9111)

- *(Councillor S. Turner asking for clarification, it seemed pretty clear but access to the site for sales would come off Norlan Avenue and it would not be a farm stand off of Highbury Avenue which seems kind of dangerous.);* Mr. C. Parker, Senior Planner, responding that he does not believe so but perhaps Jeremy can clarify that but he thinks the intent is to actually have it, there is a small entrance there that vehicles actually go on the property but there is a small entrance there where they can put their farm stand but they have not indicated to them where that stand will be but no, he does not believe it is going to be off of Highbury Avenue.
- Jacob Danstra, Director, Urban Roots London – Jeremy Horrell is a fellow Director who is also in the Gallery; thanking the Committee for allowing them the opportunity to speak and thanking staff for a great job with the presentation and with preparing the report; taking this opportunity to thank Jay Stanford, Manager of Environment, Fleet and Solid Waste who Urban Roots has worked closely with over our first three years to develop and grow and navigate the applicable rules and regulations in which they are operating and state that they are looking forward to continue to work with the Urban Agriculture Steering Committee as City Council, staff and including Mr. M. Fabro, Manager, Sustainability and Resiliency, which is an important step that the City has taken to create that position; Mr. C. Parker, Senior Planner, did a great job of describing the work of Urban Roots in the report and his presentation so he will not belabour any points that he made but he does want to emphasise that this recommendation will allow Urban Roots to continue with its work and increase its impact in the community; not only is it consistent with the Urban Agriculture Strategy of the City but it is also an issue of sustainability and resiliency in the City; it will allow Londoners to connect with where their food comes from, walk down the street or stop in after work or on their way to kids sports or other activities to pick up fresh, organic, bio dynamically farmed produce grown just minutes away not hundreds of miles away; they also say that this is an appropriate response to Council's declaration in April, 2019 that we are facing a climate emergency; the more local, convenient affordable options that Londoners have for their produce the lower our collective carbon footprint will be as we reduce the demand for vegetables, herbs and fruits grown in Mexico, South America, Europe and Asia; all of those will require additional packaging, shipping, trucking and excess chemicals or preservatives to make their way to London; instead farm gate sales at Urban Roots London will have a direct and immediate impact by bringing the concept of farm to fork directly within city limits drastically reducing London's carbon footprint that it takes to bring produce onto our grocery shelves; we will also see indirect impacts as more Londoners visit, volunteer with and learn about the work that Urban Roots London does especially our students and youth who then go off to start their own neighbourhood gardens, their backyard produce gardens or their own urban farm projects that with the inspiration and knowledge that they have gained from Urban Roots; finally he wants to mention that because of their model of thirds which Mr. C. Parker, Senior Planner, mentioned every farm gate sale that is made at their market and he should clarify that this will be off of Norlan Avenue and not off of Highbury Avenue, will also be matched by a donation of equal produce to any of their community development partners; they are currently working with Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre, My Sister's Place, they donate into the London Food Bank and the London Vegan Food Bank so every purchase that is made at the Market is matched to an important community development partner; wrapping up by saying that Urban Roots is very proud of the work that they have done in their first three seasons including the support and partnerships that they have developed with, to name a few, the City of London, the London Environmental Network, Urban League of London, Pillar Non-Profit Network, Middlesex-London Health Unit, through which they accept Harvest Bucks which allows low income Londoners to purchase fresh, affordable organic produce with the

use of Harvest Bucks, the London Food Bank, Crouch, My Sisters Place, ATN and the Old Village Grocer, which operates a pop-up market out of their location on Dundas Street selling their produce, Edgar and Joe's Café at Goodwill Industries which also purchases, supports and sells the food that Urban Roots grows as well as the Thames Valley District School Board, the London Christian Schools and Growing Chefs Ontario which sends field trips of young people to their farm to learn about urban agriculture, sustainability and environmental sustainability; opening up farm gate sales at Urban Roots will allow them to expand their direct connection with the neighbours and with all Londoners and to strengthen the work they do with those partners.