

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Building & Planning Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Consider authorizing the Township Manager to enter into an agreement with Farm to City to continue the Farmers' Market Operation for Bryn Mawr Through December 2017

Prepared by: Eric Persson, Economic Development Specialist

Date: October 28, 2016

- I. **Action to Be Considered by The Board:** Approval of 2017 annual agreement for Farm to City (FtC) to operate a Farmers' Market in Municipal Lot 7 in Bryn Mawr.
- II. **Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:** The Township is authorized by the First Class Township Code (53 P.S. §56524) to establish, maintain and regulate markets and market places on public grounds and to contract with any person, firm, or corporation for the erection, maintenance, and regulation of market houses and market places. In order for the market to operate on property owned or under the control of the Township, the operation must be approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- III. **Current Policy or Practice (If Applicable):** This Farmers' Market has been annually approved to operate on this Township property since its inception in 2009. The Board of Commissioners reviews these agreements annually. The draft document for this proposed market closely follows the agreements previously approved for this market.
- IV. **Other Relevant Background Information:** The Bryn Mawr Farmers' Market has been managed by Farm to City (FtC) since its grand opening. The markets weekly seasonal operation is proposed to begin in April and conclude in November.

FtC would continue twice-monthly market operations in Bryn Mawr on Saturdays for the remaining months in 2017. The market will continue to operate in a portion of Municipal Parking Lot 7 nearest Lancaster Avenue. Currently, the estimated number of parking spaces needed is up to fifty spaces. In the case of inclement weather, FtC has previously agreed that Lower Merion Township has no obligation to FtC with respect to parking lot conditions during their use and operation.

Impact on Township Finances: There is no new impact on Township revenues as the market has been operating successfully for nearly a decade. The market pays a fee for the use of the metered spaces used in the lot. It has been Township policy to charge three dollars per day/per meter for the Bryn Mawr market events conducted in Municipal Lot 7. Value-added producers are subject to the Business Privilege Tax.

- V. **Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Board approve the continuation of this agreement. Farm to City has been operating successfully in the Township since 2009. The proposed site location and market operations have been reviewed with staff from Building and Planning and Parking Services Departments. The agreements and proposed location appear to be satisfactory and do not conflict with any specific land uses.