

## **TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION**

### ***Building & Planning Committee***

#### **Issue Briefing**

**Topic:** Consider for approval authorizing the Township Manager to enter into agreement with Farm to City to continue the Bryn Mawr Farmers' Market Operation Through December 2018

**Prepared By:** Eric Persson, Economic Development Specialist

**Date:** October 20, 2017

- I. **Action to Be Considered by The Board:** Approval of 2018 annual agreement for Farm to City (FtC) to operate a farmers' markets 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 had been updated to reflect the calendar for 2018, and 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 opening. Last year was the most successful operating season for this market.

The market's weekly seasonal operation is proposed to begin in April and conclude in November. FtC would continue less than weekly market operations in Bryn Mawr on Saturdays for the remaining months in 2017. The market will continue to operate in a portion of the Municipal Parking Lot 7 nearest Lancaster Avenue. Currently, the estimated number of needed parking spaces would be up to fifty spaces. In 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.

- V. **Impact on Township Finances:** The market pays a fee for the use of the metered spaces used in the lot. It has been the 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.
- VI. **Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Board approve this agreement for continuation.