**MID TERM MEETING NOTES**

|  |
| --- |
| -Food Carts |
| -Indy Re-zone (city's attempt to rewrite all zoning ordinance codes) |
|  -Metro Development } |
|  -City County Council } V-option |
|  -(Office of Sustainability) } |
|  |
|  -Locations |
|  -Distribution issues for farmers - USDA |
|  for database of local farmers |
|  |
| -Bodegas ==> Rolling Carts? |
| -Vendor's license |
|  |
| A. Entrepreneurial |
| B. Business Owner |
| C. CDC? |
|  |
| Elevator is broken -- take the stairs |
|  |
| Need cost analysis |
|  - What is demand |
|  - Truck Farming |
|  - Food Carts at Family Dollar or  |
|  |
| - Needs inventory |
|  - Churches |
|  - Neighborhood Associations |
|  |
| A. Entrepreneurial |
| B. Business Owner |
| C. CDC? |
|  |
| * Elevator is broken -- take the stairs
 |
|  |
| - Need cost analysis |
| - What is demand |
| - Truck Farming |
| - Food Carts at Family Dollar or  |
|  |
| Needs inventory |
|  - Churches |
|  - Neighborhood Associations |

**LONG TERM MEETING NOTES**

|  |
| --- |
| -Plans to develop on Central from 30th to Fall Creek |
|  -MFCCDC is in talks w/a grocer |
|  |
|  -looking for funding to assist this |
|  -MFCDC has applied for grant to assist w/ overall illness from |
|  lack of resources in the area |
|  |
|  Elected Officials - |
|  -can help bring resources & draw attention to the area |
|  -Wed Aug5 @ noon will be approving subsidy to bring Safeway at Avondale Meadow Wood area |
|  -Metro Dev Commission - appointed officials have the ability to help bring in |
|  new grocer - ex. - Marsh |
|  -Utilize the councilman of the area |
|  \* Let's get them here to a meeting! |
|  - they can incentivize & help draw in the businesses |
|  |
| [Mr. Crawford shared some CRA (Community Reinvestment Act) Ratings info with the group.](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2vRZkyrj2R9cVBaR1o2WmV5Y1k/view?usp=sharing)  |
|  |
|  |
| FYI - Metro. Dev. Commission is up for new appointments |
|  |
| Co-ops/Community - Led |
|  |
| \* Rep from Pogue's Run =Alan |
|  \*Store that's mission is to empower the community=live longer lives, be healthy |
|  \*Member-owned |
|  -initial costs=long-term benefits but membership is not required to shop |
|  \*supports local as much as possible |
|  \*Contacts for Pogue's: |
|  mary@poguesrun.org |
|  nate@poguesrun.org |
|  \*also focuses on medicinal herbs & supplements |
|  \*Great opportunity for more than just the food desert issue |
|  \*can also bring in economic boosts from outside people coming in |
|  \*potential to use the space for Farmer's Markets, etc. in meantime between finding land  |
|  & opening Co-op |
|  \*Possibility to do a Sunday afternoon/Evening Farmer's Market (=where farmers who didn't  |
|  sell their produce could sell at discount or donate to fund a co-op) |
| ------------------------------------------------------ |
| A key thing to Note:  |
|  -It's not that we don't have the money of people to support a grocery store, etc. |
|  -Isaiah's reasoning behind closing is not because NO grocer can make money here; HE  |
|  Could not make money here because a lot of the community chose not to shop there.  |
|  (those that have an option)  |
|  |
| KI Eco Center has shared that Isaiah is doing a liquidation on Sept 2nd & is open to talks  |
| on the building. |
|  |
| MFCDC does not really have funds for Co-op or other like that but has lots of resources  |
| for our advancement. |
|  |
| IDEA: Potential to buy the option of first refusal to Isaiah’s property. This is something |
| that the MFCDC could be able to help financially. |
|  |
| \*Work with existing Farmer's Markets to utilize EBT, etc. & possibly collect  |
| donations from those to use at our Farmer's Markets. |

**SHORT TERM MEETING NOTES**

*Let’s create our own food OASIS! Where we can, with a little knowledge: Eat Healthy, Eat Affordably & Live Well for Less!*

We hear a lot about [food deserts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_desert) that impact many of our urban communities throughout the United States. At Urban Patch we are developing an initiative that will take on this critical issue with our local community and local farmers.  As we develop the program we hope to make a real and immediate impact on the access to healthy and affordable food in our community, and perhaps create a model that can be used in other urban communities elsewhere.  So . . .

**Let’s create our own food OASIS!**

**Where we can, with a little knowledge: Eat Healthy, Eat Affordably & Live Well for Less!**



The idea for the initiative began when our Mid-North Indianapolis neighborhood’s Walgreens drug store on 38th and College Avenue closed in 2013. Shortly after a [Dollar Tree](http://www.dollartree.com/home.jsp) store took over the space, joining [Dollar General](http://www.dollargeneral.com/) and Family Dollar to become the third dollar store within a 1-block radius.  Fast forward to 2015, the [only grocery store in the neighborhood also closed its doors for good](http://www.theindychannel.com/news/local-news/all-5-double-8-foods-closed-after-58-years-due-to-declining-revenues). Unfortunately, in our community it is not so easy to come by the much-needed groceries or stores that market and provide healthy, affordable food.  Our community is a “food desert” and that contributes to our local population’s disproportionately high rates of diet-related diseases such as obesity and diabetes.  It is a problem that affects us across social, economic and environmental concerns.

In the longer term we hope to bring high quality grocer or co-op market to our community. But in the short-term, our community needs better food access now. What if we could help to take this resource we already have in our community–a cluster of affordable general stores–to promote healthy food access?  What if people went to the dollar stores for healthy food and other sustainable products, just as much as they did for candy, pop and chips?  How could we help to make the dollar store a healthier, more sustainable part of our community?  We decided to call our “dollar store project” Oasis, to recognize that our urban communities do have resources and vitality within them, and that part of the work is to teach people how to identify, utilize and augment those resources.

Oasis has multiple components:

1. Work with dollar and general stores to identify products that are healthier for their customers.  This includes taking stock of inventories and potentially identifying “healthy/sustainable” sections in the stores to make shopping more convenient.

2. Show people how they can shop healthy at the dollar store, and make healthy choices for their families.  This includes recipes, guides and workshops on healthy food shopping.  These will be cross referenced with home and community gardening, i.e., fresh food from the garden plus dried/frozen foods from dollar store = a healthy, affordable meal.

3. Provide fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers using green carts that would regularly service high-traffic areas in the neighborhood ([similar to a NYC green cart program](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/living/greencarts.shtml)).

4. Advertise healthy food sections in weekly circulars – show deals, include recipes and lifestyle ideas.  This can be distributed to community groups, etc. and have a social media aspect (weekly OASIS deals on Facebook, twitter, etc.) as smartphone ownership is high even in lower-income communities.

5. Develop a long-term socially and economically sustainable plan for affordable fresh food access in our community (a new grocery store or co-op market).