

Proposal to Authorize the Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Work Group (RAFS) to Write a Memo to the Plan Commission and Common Council Regarding [Legistar # 68696, "Approving the preliminary plat of Raemisch Farm Development"](#)

By Rebecca Kemble

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At the October 2021 meeting of the Madison Food Policy Council (MFPC) we reviewed the memo, "Reinvigorating the Role of the MFPC and DCFC in Analyzing, Revising, and Recommending Ordinances and Other Legislation" by Rebecca Kemble and Nan Fey. The memo outlined three items for discussion about how MFPC could pursue work in these areas:

- 1) City of Madison agriculture Leases
- 2) Update to Urban Agriculture zoning text
- 3) Codifying agricultural and open space land use recommendations adopted in Madison's 2020 Comprehensive Plan

RAFS completed work on the first item, City of Madison agriculture leases, last month and MFPC voted to forward their work on to City staff for action.

We are in discussion with the Plan Commission Chair and members about how to best pursue the second item, updating the Urban Agriculture zoning text.

We discussed the possibility of RAFS taking up the third item after their work on the agriculture leases was complete. Last month a proposal for a preliminary plat and the eventual rezoning of 65 acres of agriculture land between N. Sherman Ave and Packers Ave was introduced. It is scheduled to come before the Plan Commission and the Common Council next month. As the timeline for this is short, the full MFPC will not have time to draft and vote on a memo regarding agricultural and open space land use recommendations as proposed and adopted in the City of Madison 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Therefore, this proposal is to authorize RAFS to meet and work on such a memo to be sent to the Plan Commission for their February 7 meeting. It would then come back to the full MFPC for ratification at our February 16 meeting, before being forwarded to the full Common Council meeting of February 22 when the item is currently scheduled to be taken up.