



DATE: April 4, 2022

MEMO TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee

FROM: Rebekah Snyder
Director of Community Engagement & Partnerships

REQUEST: Provide policy direction on potential change in licensee at the Community Garden Site in Waukegan.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections; Organizational Sustainability; Communication, Education and Outreach

FINANCIAL DATA: There is no immediate financial impact.

BACKGROUND: In October 2013, the District entered into a license agreement with Fuller Center for Housing Hero Project Lake County (Fuller Center) to manage a community garden on District-owned property in the City of Waukegan (Garden Parcel). The District acquired the 0.08-acre Garden Parcel in August 2012 through a tax sale. Under the 2013 license agreement, the Fuller Center has been operating and maintaining a community garden and providing environmental education and programming on the Garden Parcel.

In December 2021, staff from Fuller Center told District staff they would like to terminate the license agreement. District staff has had initial conversations with staff from College of Lake County's (CLC) Center for Urban Agriculture and Community Development (Center), which is part of the new Lakeshore Campus development in Waukegan. CLC envisions the new Center as a year-round sustainable agriculture facility featuring programs such as:

- Locally sourced food to address food desert/scarcity.
- Veggie RX (community health).
- Healthy cooking classes.
- Job training, internships, apprenticeships, academic credentials and entrepreneurship for formerly incarcerated individuals, youth, and college students.

CLC is interested in exploring with the District a new license agreement under which CLC would manage the Garden Parcel as a community garden, which fits within the organization's larger goals for their Waukegan campus development. District staff seeks policy direction from the Committee whether to pursue termination of the license agreement with Fuller Center and discuss a new license agreement with CLC.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Corporate Counsel.