



## Land Use & Environment Committee

### Briefing on Commons at Fertile Grounds Future Use - Process and Approach

**Agenda Date:** 10/14/2019  
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#### **Title**

Briefing on Commons at Fertile Grounds Future Use - Process and Approach

#### **Recommended Action**

##### **Committee Recommendation:**

Not referred to a committee.

##### **City Manager Recommendation:**

Receive a briefing on the Commons at Fertile Ground and how best to move forward on a process to proceed with future use planning and partnerships. Briefing only; No action requested.

#### **Report**

##### **Issue:**

Whether to discuss how best to move forward with a process to develop and/or solicit concepts and partners for the future use of the Commons at Fertile Grounds property.

##### **Staff Contact:**

Mike Reid, Economic Development Director, Community Planning and Development, 360.753.8591

##### **Presenter(s):**

Leonard Bauer, Deputy Director, Community Planning and Development, 360.753.8026

#### **Background and Analysis:**

On August 1, 2018, the City of Olympia closed on the property at 911 Adams St, commonly referred to as the Commons at Fertile Grounds. The city purchased this property because the location and zoning make it a good potential location for high-density residential development, economic development use, or as a park, all of which are stated needs in the Downtown Strategy. The City entered into a lease with the Eco-Building Guild to continue the use of the property as a community garden, meeting space, and food nook while a long-term vision for the property can be developed. Conversations with the non-profit group that supports the Commons at Fertile Grounds has indicated that there is interest in some portion of the property being developed for a Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing development. Staff is looking for some direction and input on process to proceed with future use planning and partner solicitation for the property.

**Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):**

The property is currently serving the surrounding neighborhood as a community garden and gathering space.

**Options:**

Discussion Only

**Financial Impact:**

Discussion Only

**Attachments:**

None