

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	July 1, 2024
Action Required:	Approve Resolution (1 reading)
Presenter:	Riaan Anthony, Interim Director, Brenda Kelley, Redevelopment Manager
Staff Contacts:	Chris Gensic, Park and Trail Planner Riaan Anthony, Interim Director Brenda Kelley, Redevelopment Manager
Title:	Resolution to approve an Agreement of Lease with International Rescue Committee (IRC) for property at 410 Old Lynchburg Road

Background

The City, through its Parks and Recreation Department, acquired an approximately 8.45 acre parcel of land located in Albemarle County at 410 Old Lynchburg Road (aka Moores Creek Farm) in August 2023.

At the time of purchase, and currently, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) operates the New Roots Farm on this property. An Agreement of Lease with the IRC is proposed for Council approval to allow continuation of these outdoor gardening activities. If approved, the lease will ensure the existing farm and gardens might remain on the property for up to approximately five years as the Parks and Recreation Department works with the IRC to determine a long-range home and plan for these farm and gardens, and while City staff continues to review lease processes and procedures on City-owned properties.

Discussion

IRC is a 501(c)(3) organization, currently operating the New Roots Farm at this property. They have been operating gardens at this location since Spring 2015. According to their website:

“IRC provides opportunities for refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture, and other immigrants to thrive in America... In Charlottesville and other offices across the country, the IRC helps them to rebuild their lives.”

“New Roots is a multi-faceted food and agriculture initiative that provides land access, material support, and education to help families make a healthy start in their new home. As part of this program, New Roots operates an urban farm, community garden and a neighborhood farm stand.”

More information about IRC and the programs they provide can be found at:

<https://www.rescue.org/united-states/charlottesville-va>

City staff provides the following information relative to this lease approval request:

Property area leased:	approximately 8.45 acres
Current Assessed Value:	\$9,300

The general terms of the Lease Agreement are:

Lease period:	18 months; with option of City or IRC, to renew three additional, one year terms
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Lease rate:	\$3,600/annually; prorated for initial term
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- Lessee accepts Property “as-is”
- The non-exclusive use of the Leased Property shall be for the purpose of gardening and small livestock (chickens)
- Lessee acknowledges that the City reserves the right to open up the property for public trail and park uses. A public trail may be developed by the City and/or applicable City partners at some point on the property

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

Approval of this lease agreement aligns with City Council's Strategic Outcome Areas of Economic Prosperity; Partnerships; and Recreation, Arts, Culture.

Community Engagement

This Lease Agreement has been reviewed by IRC representative(s).

Budgetary Impact

This request does not require any funding from the City budget.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that City Council approve the attached Resolution

Alternatives

City Council could choose to not approve this Resolution which will result in the IRC needing to find another location for its farm and garden operations.

Attachments

1. IRC lease RESOLUTION 070124
2. IRC 410 Old Lynchburg Lease final061824