

To Eastmorland Community Association-Possible Activities Relating to the Voit Farm 1/3/2021

I want to let you and association members know about a project I have been involved in which is going to be getting more active now that the Voit Farm is for sale. We feel it is important to keep your association informed and to get your thoughts and input on this plan as it will affect an iconic part of the Eastmorland neighborhood. Currently referred to as "the Voitlandia project" (name likely to change soon), the project relates to a group of folks hoping to purchase the 64 acres of the Voit property, which includes build-able areas, wetlands in need of protection, a beautiful pond, agricultural land, and is bordered on the west by Starkweather Creek.

To give you a brief history of the project: a meeting occurred last January, brainstorming ideas of how the Voit Farm Property might be developed as a special neighborhood, rather than being just another standard subdivision. Key elements which were raised included offering inclusive, affordable cooperative housing, on site community agriculture, and conservation of the wetlands by Starkweather creek. In follow up to that meeting, a core group of interested individuals started meeting twice a month to explore the idea of collaboratively purchasing, developing, and preserving the 64-acre parcel of land.

An exciting vision has emerged whereby, with the support of the Eastmorland neighborhood, other stakeholders, and the city, the old Voit Farm could be designed to:

- *Provide affordable, sustainable, energy efficient housing for families and individuals of diverse abilities, cultural, racial, and socioeconomic background

- *Provide food and economic opportunity by planting, cultivating and harvesting agricultural crops for local consumption, sale at markets, and donation to food banks.

- *Provide green space commons, accessible to the surrounding community for recreation, spiritual growth, and education, including recognition of the original Native American owners of this property.

- *Restore, protect, and conserve wetlands, perennial pasture, and other natural components of the parcel, as part of seeking harmony with nature and the environment around us.

This is currently just a hopeful plan, and must be successfully tied to major grant and development funding. Such funding will depend on the project demonstrating that key groups in the community support the idea and are in fact involved in making sure that current community issues are being addressed: Issues such as homelessness, racism, access to healthful food, sustainable net-zero carbon / energy buildings, opportunities for marginalized groups to achieve homeownership, wetland preservation, land stewardship, traffic issues, and so on.

We would like to invite your comments and involvement in this effort, and ask if there are issues or ideas you think we may have overlooked. Your support will be a crucial part of our ability to obtain funding and we want to make sure any issues you may have are addressed. You can see our website at savethefarm.net for lots of background information, a survey, and an **invitation to a virtual meeting on January 14th, 6 - 8PM to where you can share your thoughts and concerns.** I will followup with the meeting link; We look forward to working with you in the future.

