



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Submitted By: Kelly Schmidt, Parks & Community Services Director

FMB Meeting Date: 8.26.2021

Agenda Item Wording: Discuss and consider possible action regarding alternate venue locations for the Farmers Market

Agenda Item Requestor: Gouri Johannsen

Summary/Background: The Dripping Springs Farmers Market weekly event has been hosted at the City of Dripping Springs Veterans Memorial Park since its inception in 2009. The Market, like the city's population, has grown exponentially over the last 12 years. But most noticeably in the last two.

City staff has mutually connected with the Pound House Executive Director in seeking the viability of the Pound House grounds as a new home for the Dripping Springs Farmers Market. The distance from the current FM location at Veterans Memorial Park to Founders Memorial Park, is 1 mile; 4 minutes by car and 22 minutes on foot. The proposed site provides solutions to current location deficiencies. Within the 5-acre respite, the following await market vendors and shoppers alike:

- Controlled ingress and egress
- Modern indoor restrooms (no more port-a-potty)
- Ample paved parking (no more potholes to contend with)
- Walkability
- A serene setting (no vehicular noise or smells to negate customer and vendor experience)
- Large oak trees with shade to spare and lush grass
- Shaded playground for children (in Founders Park next to pool)
- No flooding issues and protection from wind gusts
- Shaded picnic pavilion & other park amenities (i.e., trails, pool, skatepark)

Pound House Farmstead – has 2 possible proposed locations: One at the front of their property by the original entrance (lots of sun exposure but easily visible from the entire park) and one at the rear of the property adjacent to the new parking lot and under the oak trees. Either of these locations within the grounds will more than accommodate the current vendor trend and allow for greater flexibility and enhance the market experience and sense of place.





Staff Recommendations: Staff recommends embracing the proposed collaboration and permanently moving the Dripping Springs Farmers Market to Founders Memorial Park and the Pound House Farmstead's incredible grounds. With the exception being the months of February 2, 2021 – March 30, 2022 (9 markets as presented with availability through end of April if desired.) seasonal move to Dripping Springs Ranch Park Vendor Hall. Proposed start date of April 2022 for potential move to Pound House Farmstead grounds.

Attachments: Letter of Introduction to the Pound House Farmstead – from Executive Director Jenny Pack

Next Steps/Schedule:

1. Work with Pound House Executive Director to co-author a Memorandum of Understanding.
2. Submit to City Attorney for review and edits.
3. Submit to Farmers Market Board at their September meeting for review and input and recommendation of approval to Council.
4. After incorporating FMB recommended changes, submit and present to Council for approval at their October 5th meeting.