

LAW AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024

A Law and Education Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Committee Members Present: Martha Ptashnik, Chair
Laura Toy, Vice Chair

Committee Members Absent: None

**City Officials and
Others Present:** Carrie Budzinski, Councilmember
Carter Fisher, City Attorney
Doug Moore, Assistant Director of Public Works
Jerome Hanna, Inspection Director

Additional Attendees: See attached.

1. The subject matter of a proposed amendment to the noise ordinance. (CR 253-24)

The meeting convened at 7:00PM and was led by Committee Chair, Martha Ptashnik.

There were no residents in attendance to speak on this item and will remain in committee for further discussion.

The Committee recommends:

For this item to remain in committee.

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of December 18, 2024**

2. The subject matter of proposed ordinance amendment(s) to the City's Noxious Weed Ordinances to include non-enforcement language for residents who maintain native plant-based gardens and meadows in lieu of conventional lawns. (CR 307-24)

Committee Chair, Martha Ptashnik opened discussion by asking for suggestions relating to native plants and how the city can encourage green thinking while balancing the community look.

Residents offered comments both for and against native plants.

Those against native plants offered the following:

- Problems with animal excrement
- Weeds
- Flooding issues

Those for native plants offered the following|:

- They do not consider them weeds; they are just a different approach to gardens.
- Lawns are non-native
- Friends of the Rouge: "They are part of the green water storm structure to prevent flooding, which is comprised of native plants
- Still want to keep the weed ordinance, but beef up the noxious weed ordinance
- Want the ordinance to allow managed gardens
- Want a strict set-back

It was noted that although many attending residents commented on their opinions pertaining to a specific property, the point of the discussion was to discuss a plan for the entire city.

Comments were made that many communities take a managed planting approach with the following parameters:

- What can be planted
- Where it can be planted
- Education for residents is needed for this topic
- Responsibility and accountability go to the residents to follow the ordinance

City Attorney, Carter Fisher, stated there could be an update to the current ordinance.

A possible plan for the city could entail the following:

- Favorable native plant gardening
- Established set-back
- Enforcement of noxious weed ordinance
- Education for Ordinance Officers, if needed
- Natural plants are left alone, while native plants must be tended to
- Possible registration system for homeowners with native gardens that could be checked by Ordinance
- Homeowners would be obligated to follow the rules

Inspection Director, Jerome Hanna, stated there are many properties in the city and if they are maintained, there are no issues, also pointing out the following:

- Consideration of rodents becoming a problem
- Enforcement could be an issue
- Staffing for enforcement becomes an issue
- There is a need to balance responsible gardening
- Resale of homes become an issue when living near the homes with this type of gardening
- There needs to be management of the areas

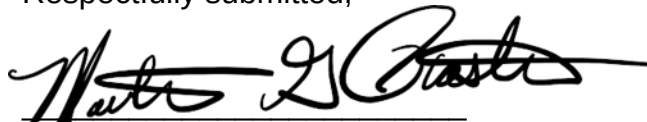
The Committee recommends:

1. For the Greenleaf Commission to propose possible regulations on native plant gardens
2. For the Law Department to draft an updated Noxious Weed ordinance upon receipt of the above-mentioned

Note: This item will remain in Committee.

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of December 18, 2024.**

Respectfully submitted,


Martha Ptashnik, Chair

LAW AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024, 7:00PM

NAME

DEPT OR CONTACT INFO FOR NOTIFICATIONS*
*PERTAINING TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS MEETING

Spaul Vinton
Kam Viree
Bryan Feldman
Patrick Correy
DK Resina Newton
STEPHEN RAY
Jerome Hanna
Douglas Rossi
Betsy Calhoun
Anne Sullivan
Michael Duweke
Andrea Duweke
Derek Shaffer
David Waxer