

LAW AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
March 16, 2026

A Law and Education Committee meeting was held on March 16, 2026, in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Committee Members Present: Brandon McCullough, Chair
Eileen McDonnell, Vice Chair
Martha Ptashnik, Member

Committee Members Absent: None

**City Officials and
Others Present:** Kayleigh, Reid, President
Patrick Brockway, Vice President
Carrie Budzinski, Councilmember
Robin Persiconi, Councilmember
Maureen Miller Brosnan, Mayor
Eric Goldstein, City Attorney

Additional Attendees: See attached.

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

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Noise Ordinance (CR 253-24)

Summary:

The Committee reviewed the proposed amendment to the Noise Ordinance (CR 253-24). The meeting was well attended, with over 30 members of the public present to provide input and observe the discussion.

Council members shared a range of perspectives regarding potential updates to the ordinance. Key areas of discussion included the use of decibel meters for enforcement, the establishment or adjustment of quiet hours, and methods for measuring and regulating bass levels.

Council also discussed the importance of ensuring accurate and consistent enforcement. As part of this effort, there was general consensus to work collaboratively with Administration to evaluate and potentially expand the City's noise metering capabilities. This may include acquiring additional or more advanced equipment to better monitor compliance during events.

Action:

No formal action was taken. The item will remain in Committee for further review and discussion in coordination with Administration.

The Committee recommends:

For this item to remain in committee.

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of March 23, 2026.**

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)

Subject: Proposed Ordinance Amendment to Noxious Weed Ordinances – Native Plant-Based Gardens and Meadows (CR 307-24)

Summary:

The Committee reviewed the proposed ordinance amendment to the City's Noxious Weed Ordinances (CR 307-24), which would include non-enforcement language for residents who maintain native plant-based gardens and meadows in place of traditional turf grass lawns.

The Council Chair provided an overview of the item and shared a sample ordinance template from Wild Ones for reference and consideration.

The meeting included strong public engagement, with a number of attendees offering thoughtful and constructive feedback regarding native plantings, environmental benefits, and implementation considerations.

Council members discussed potential next steps and asked questions related to personal property rights, as well as the importance of developing a clear communication and education strategy to ensure residents understand the intent and guidelines of any proposed changes.

Action:

A formal action item was established directing the Law Department to draft a native plant ordinance for Committee review.

No further action was taken. The item will remain in Committee for continued discussion.

The Committee recommends:

For this item to remain in committee.

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of March 23, 2026.**

3. The subject matter of Charter process improvement. (CR 36-26)
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Subject: Charter Process Improvement (CR 36-26)

Summary:

The Committee briefly discussed the subject matter of Charter process improvement (CR 36-26) as an initial step in exploring potential updates to the City's Charter review process.

Council members engaged in preliminary discussion and directed questions to the Law Department regarding the appropriate procedures to initiate a formal Charter review. The discussion was intended to establish a foundational understanding of the process and identify next steps for future consideration.

Action:

No formal action was taken. The item will remain in Committee for continued discussion.

The Committee recommends:

For this item to remain in committee.

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of March 23, 2026.**

4. The subject matter of residential property enforcement. (CR 37-26)

Subject: Residential Property Enforcement (CR 37-26)

Summary:

The Committee reviewed the subject matter of residential property enforcement (CR 37-26). This item was identified as a housekeeping matter, as it is currently assigned to multiple committees.

Council members acknowledged that continued discussion within this Committee would be redundant given its placement elsewhere.

Action:

The item will be removed from this Committee. No further action is required.

The Committee recommends:

For this item to remain in committee.

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of March 23, 2026.**

5. The subject matter of exterior lighting and luminosity from businesses. (CR 66-26)

Subject: Exterior Lighting and Luminosity from Businesses (CR 66-26)

Summary:

The Committee reviewed the subject matter of exterior lighting and luminosity from businesses (CR 66-26). The Council Chair introduced the item and provided a detailed overview of current concerns related to LED retrofits, including increased luminosity levels and associated impacts.

Several residents addressed the Committee, offering historical context regarding the City's existing lighting ordinances and how they have evolved over time.

Council members discussed the need to evaluate and modernize current regulations to better address emerging lighting technologies and their effects on surrounding properties.

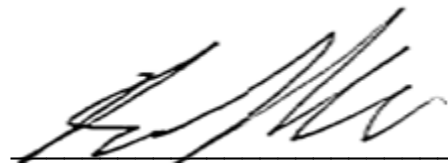
Action:

A resolution was offered directing the Law Department to draft an updated lighting ordinance for Committee review.

The Committee recommends:

For this item to remain in committee.

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of March 23, 2026.**



Brandon McCullough, Committee Chair

**LAW AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 16, 2026 - 7:00PM**

NAME

DEPT OR CONTACT INFO FOR NOTIFICATIONS*

*PERTAINING THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS MEETING

Betsy Calhoun	Greenleaf Commission on sustainability
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BILL CRAIG	EWAKEDZIEK SWA
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SK Rosina Newton	
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Anne Savazin	
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Yvonne Cameron	Wildfires
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Machiko Morishita	
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Kelly Sovacool - Caruthers	} Noxious weeds ordinance
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David Caruthers

Julia Byrd

Dore Otten

Colleen Sturm	- native plant gardens
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LAURA CHAMBERS	Native gardens
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Cindy Fleming	All items
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Lynne Miller	
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Sandra Wallace	Native gardens
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William Shuman	Noise
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Derek Shaffer	Native Gardens
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Michael Dneweke	NATIVE GARDENS
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Matt Richardson	Matthew L Helms - Michigan Naturalist
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Robert - Linda Stucker - Zbizek	
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Robert VAN ORDEN	
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Bryan Garchar	Native Gardens
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ERIN H. DOBBINS	LIVONIA AM Rotary Native Gardens
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Jacqueline KRISTOWE	- Friends of the Rouge - Native Gardens
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Laura Franklin	- Master Gardener M.S.U.
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Over →

Eric Fitzpatrick

outdoor lighting

John Grebke

Greenhouse

BOB HAVSER

Native Landscapes

Evan Rosin

Wild Ones

Veronica Petrocchi

wild ones

Andrea Duweke

wild ones

Patrick Correy

wild ones

Alicia Smith

Government Affairs

STEVE RAY

WILD ONES

Dennis Milet

NATIVE PLANTS CO. CD.

Jim Bigg