



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission

THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director

FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner

MEETING DATE: March 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Recommend Amendments to the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 31-Tall Grass and Weed Regulations

Last year, the Environmental Commission discussed draft amendments to the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 31-Tall Grass and Weed Regulations. The Commission intended to recommend ordinance amendments that would provide property owners with reasonable flexibility to install and maintain native plantings (and other "nontraditional" plantings) while controlling "rank growth" and protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare.

The Commission discussed potential ordinance amendments but was unable to agree on the proposed ordinance language. Commission members expressed differing views on how much authority the City should have in requiring a property owner to remove certain plants (like ragweed) that are not on the state's noxious weed list. The Commission also expressed differing views on what constitutes "rank growth" and to what degree the City should regulate plantings in the public rights-of-way and adjacent to neighboring properties.

The Environmental Commission last reviewed the attached memo and draft ordinance amendments to Chapter 31 at its August 2020 meeting. The City Planner recommends that the Commission recommend that the Council approve the proposed amendments or approve the proposed amendments with conditions. The Environmental Commission does not need a unanimous vote to move a recommendation to the City Council.