

**Addenda
Minnetonka City Council
Meeting of Apr. 20, 2020**

ITEM 12A – Ordinance amending Minnetonka City Code Section 845.030 relating to lawn maintenance

The attached emails were received after the packet was distributed.



14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345 | 952-939-8200 | eminnetonka.com

TO: City Council
FROM: Leslie Yetka, Natural Resource Manager
DATE: Apr. 20, 2020
SUBJECT: Change Memo for Apr. 20, 2020

**ITEM 12A – ORDINANCE AMENDING MINNETONKA CITY CODE SECTION 845.030
RELATING TO LAWN MAINTENANCE**

The following emails/correspondence were received after the packet was distributed.

From: Heather Holm [REDACTED]
Date: April 20, 2020 at 2:40:14 PM CDT
To: "cc: Heather Holm" [REDACTED]
Subject: Ordinance amending Minnetonka City Code Section 845.030 relating to lawn maintenance

Dear Mayor Wiersum and council members,

I am emailing about an item on tonight's agenda to amend the lawn maintenance ordinance. I understand that new language is needed to reflect the state-funded Lawns to Legumes program. I think the staff have done a good job to include the changing values and benefits of pollinator plantings. As a national expert on pollinators and pollinator habitat, I am concerned that the city did not seek public feedback for this ordinance amendment. Some of the language needs clarification and updating to reflect the latest science and I don't think it's ready for a council vote tonight. Therefore, I am requesting that you consider tabling this item, seek public input, and make sure that this amended ordinance provides residents with the most clear and concise guidance.

Thanks,

Heather Holm

From: Larry Wade [REDACTED]
Date: April 20, 2020 at 2:21:15 PM CDT
To: bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov
Subject: Update of Lawn Ordinance

Hi Brad: I was looking through the council agenda agenda tonight and see that there is a proposal to update the lawn ordinance (p.30). I think the staff is headed in the right direction, but there should be the opportunity for public input.

This is a very important issue because native plantings would benefit numerous wildlife species. Lawns are not sustainable and they require chemicals which ultimately end up in a storm sewers poisoning our wetlands. Please motion to table this until the public can be made aware give input. Thank you and hope you are staying safe. Larry Wade 15524 Day Place, Minnetonka.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Li Dvorak" [REDACTED]
Date: April 20, 2020 at 3:06:06 PM CDT
To: "Mtka Mayor - Brad Wiersum" <bwiersum@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Ordinance 2020 re Section 845.030

Hello Mayor Wiersum,

Just today I heard about the state-funded *Lawns to Legumes* program and Mtka City Council's proposed modifications to its lawn maintenance and vegetation ordinance. It is exciting to see the city promoting this opportunity and extending its efforts to encourage homeowners to make their lawns more pollinator and environmentally friendly—kudos to you all! Note that this project would be well suited to being promoted and overseen by a Sustainability Commission.

I do have a few concerns, listed below, which cause me to request that the council postpones approving a final version of the ordinance that would address some or all of the following:

- 1) I believe adding more language describing the benefits to people and wildlife –maybe even climate change mitigation—would have value to help educate residents on the reason for this ordinance update. Also, is there more current scientific information available from the state/elsewhere that could be used to make the case?
- 2) I understand the purpose of signs, but hate to see the use of additional resources that will ultimately become landfill. I propose that residents, instead of requesting/getting a sign, just request/receive an email confirmation or 'certificate' to confirm their land is transitioning. If anyone were to complain, the resident would still be on record with the city and could show the email to the complainant. Also, lots of education and reminders/updates about the program might go a long way to educate residents, so they would understand when they see neighbors' lawns in transition.
- 3) Please consider additional language about transitioning to natural fertilizers to encourage people to start thinking about the negative impacts of chemicals on wildlife—and humans and their pets.

Thank you very much for listening and for the work you do for the people, animals and wildlife of Minnetonka!

Li Dvorak

From: Cynthia Eyden [REDACTED]
Date: April 20, 2020 at 3:57:04 PM CDT
To: Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>
Cc: Cynthia Eyden [REDACTED], Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>, Susan Carter <scarter@minnetonkamn.gov>, Kissy Coakley <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>, Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>, Rebecca Schack <rschack@minnetonkamn.gov>, Bradley Schaeppi <bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Ordinance amending Minnetonka City Code Section 845.030 relating to lawn maintenance

Dear Mayor Wiersum and City Council Members,

I noticed the item regarding amending the Minnetonka Lawn Maintenance Ordinance in the agenda for this evening's meeting. I commend you for addressing the need for amendment. Our understanding of the interdependency of the "natural" world and human needs is certainly growing. The great importance of pollinators is high on that list. That being said, the amendment as stated is really vague and unclear. I am certainly one who has promoted and hope to expand on a more natural habitat within my yard. This amendment does not actually clarify anything to me, a homeowner. And I am unclear what it safe guards. There are many parties within this community that would be able to lend citizen knowledge, their voices and enthusiasm to this amendment. Doing this would be good for our community and the amendment. Please consider tabling this amendment until more voices and understanding can be garnered.

Respectfully,
Cynthia Eyden
16824 Excelsior Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

From: Jerrold Gershone [REDACTED]

Date: April 20, 2020 at 4:27:20 PM CDT

To: Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>, Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>, Susan Carter <scarter@minnetonkamn.gov>, Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>, Rebecca Schack <rschack@minnetonkamn.gov>, Bradley Schaeppi <bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov>, Kissy Coakley <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>

Subject: Ordinance Relating to Lawn Maintenance

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I see that there's an agenda time for the meeting this evening related to the ordinance on lawn maintenance. I applaud efforts to update and clarify language in the ordinance. However, I feel it is important to get citizen and local expert input. I respectfully ask for this ordinance change to be tabled to allow for time for citizen input.

Thank you and be well.

Jerrold Gershone

13111 April Lane

Minnetonka, MN 55305