



Meeting Name: Town Council
Meeting Date: July 24, 2024
Prepared By: F. Davila, CFM.
Item Title: Ordinance 787 – Artificial Turf Definition (2nd Reading)

DISCUSSION:

As part of the Planning and Zoning Board’s 2023 prioritized agenda item list, discussion on Artificial Turf, Town staff brought up the discussion on artificial turf for Board discussion at the February 2024 meeting. At the meeting, the Board reviewed and discussed the Town’s existing guidelines associated with lot coverage, drainage, and landscape requirements, and specifically the appearance of artificial turf. The Board made a motion to have staff propose a definition for the term *artificial turf* by referencing the Town of Palm Beach’s definition and incorporating verbiage that it resemble natural sod.

The Town of Palm Beach defines artificial turf as “ a product manufactured from synthetic materials that simulates the appearance of natural turf, grass, sod or lawn.”

At the February 28th, 2024, Town Council meeting, Council gave unanimous consensus to have staff propose a definition for *artificial turf* based on the Town of Palm Beach’s definition and incorporate verbiage requiring it resemble natural sod.

For the June Planning and Zoning Board meeting, town staff proposed to modify Code Section 34-4 . - Definitions to add the following (additional language is underlined and deleted language is ~~stricken through~~):

Artificial turf is a product manufactured from synthetic materials that simulates the color, appearance and height of natural turf, grass, sod, or lawn. Artificial turf is not considered landscaping and shall not count toward a property’s minimum landscaping or minimum landscaped open space requirement.

At the June 10, 2024, Planning and Zoning Board meeting, the Board reviewed and discussed the proposed ordinance and recommended approval with modifications. The Board’s discussion focused on incorporating a definition for the term artificial turf in the Town’s code and having further discussion on whether artificial turf may be considered as a part of landscape within the Town.

Please see below the Board’s recommendation for the definition of artificial turf.

Artificial turf is a product manufactured from synthetic materials that simulates the color, appearance and height of natural turf, grass, sod, or lawn.

Please note that the proposed definition does not suggest that artificial turf is treated as landscape.

At the June 26, 2024, Town Council meeting, Council reviewed and discussed the proposed definitions as recommended by staff and by the Board. The Town Council, on a 3-2 vote, made a motion to adopt the artificial turf definition as proposed by staff.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Town Council consider proposed Ordinance No. 787 on second reading.

Attachment(s):

- Proposed Ordinance No. 787.