

STAFF REPORT SPECIAL MEETING

AGENDA DATE: May 9, 2024

DEPARTMENT: Community Sustainability

TITLE:

Discussion regarding the use of Artificial Turf

SUMMARY:

Continued discussion seeking policy direction on the appropriate use of artificial turf and whether it should remain prohibited as a replacement for required landscaping

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

At present, the City's Land Development Regulations prohibit the use of artificial turf as a replacement for required landscaping as outlined in the City's Landscape Code. There has been much discussion regarding its appropriate use or not. Provided here are items that previously have been provided to the Commission on this topic. Please keep in mind that the City's Code of Ordinances only prohibits the use of artificial turf when installed in the place of required landscaping. The Code is either silent or implies the allowance of artificial turf in other application types such as exterior decoration of the façade of buildings, pool deck covering where the pool deck is an impermeable surface, sidewalk and porch deck coverings and possibly other applications that are not associated with required landscaping.

Previous policy direction has been to uphold the City's prohibition of artificial turf regarding required landscaping. However, policy regarding the other applications of the material in other instances was not so clear. In addition, there has been much public demand for an opportunity for the public to be heard on this issue.

MOTION:

Move to approve/disapprove continued prohibition of the use of artificial turf in place of required landscaping materials

ATTACHMENT(S):

Fiscal Impact Analysis -N/A
Artificial Turf Workshop Staff Report
Artificial Turf in Neighboring Cities
Attachment A
Attachment B
Tree Board Minutes 03.16.2023

from Commissioner Diaz:
FL Statute – landscaping
UF – synthetic turfgrass paper
Effects of landscape composition paper
Summer heat article
Health impacts paper
Tests paper