

Item 23-0276: Resolution #2-R-23 Resolution to Eliminate No Mow May

Municipal Services Committee

Mon, Mar 20, 2023 4:30PM

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 50:10

Now we get to 23-0276 Resolution 2-R-23 to eliminate no mow may. I know aldersperson Del Toro has something he'd like to say. We're, we're butting up against time. And then I'd like to—and then there's Aldersperson Doran probably has something he wants to say. And then I see people in the audience that probably have something to say. And I'm going to call on the audience, because they have come here. And so please step to the mic. State your name and address and be as concise as you can. And if your opinion has been voiced by somebody else, come to the mic and just say, "I agree with so and so that just spoke." Okay? Giving everybody a chance to speak. So, whoever wants to come first, please come. And we'll do this for 15-20 minutes, and that's it. Aldersperson Schultz.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 51:27

Chair if I may quickly. Park and Rec was canceled for 6:30 this evening. The chair of finance is here for 5:30 Finance meeting. I think we have maybe a little bit of latitude with pushing—

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 51:38

We'll see.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 51:39

Thank you, Chair.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 51:40

Ma'am?

Linda S. (Resident) 51:40

Hi, I'm [Linda S.] I live at [XXXXX] in Appleton. I oppose Mr. Doran's referendum. We have participated as a family in No Mo May for ever since it started. And it's a great, easy way to impact our local environment. It helps pollinators which are in trouble. We know they're in trouble. No one is forced to not mow. There's no cost to it. And No Mow Way raises awareness of how pollinators are endangered. So, I fully—I hope that the Council will continue to support No Mow May. It's important.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 52:26

Thank you. Who's next?

Autumn G.T. (Resident) 52:33

My name is [Autumn G.T.] I live at [XXXXX] I'm going to skip my ecological component. I'm sure others will discuss it. Obviously, it's unbelievably important. But I'm going to talk more about dollars and cents. So, I went to school for environmental studies. I deal mostly with environmental policy. I just sort of looked it up. I've worked at two farms in the area in the past. According to studies done about sort of a lack of pollinators on agricultural—goodness gracious, am I nervous. On agricultural income as a result of loss of pollinators. When you lost one species of bee from an area that had predominantly two species (I'm not saying lose all pollinators just lose one of the two) you lost 2.4-fold agricultural income. I know from the farms I've worked at if we lost

that degree of our production, we would have simply gone under. There are people who depend on that. There are nonprofits who depend on that in our area.

Autumn G.T. (Resident) 53:39

I know there's some concern about, you know, lawn care businesses sort of staple of that particular season. I've studied in other areas in the US. Those businesses are already seasonal. We don't try to stop the snow. They are—lawn care and landscaping is something that can be sort of redesigned. There's other work to do.

Autumn G.T. (Resident) 54:01

As the previous gal said, it costs nothing already. Environmental weirdos already promote it for free. We love it.

Autumn G.T. (Resident) 54:08

My biggest concern is image. I went to one of those ridiculous private colleges like Lawrence University. I was over in Ohio. Like I said, I studied environmental studies. In my senior seminar classes, my professor who is internationally renowned environmentalist, picked Appleton as her case study of sort of effective environmental implementation of a program like No Mow May. We studied Appleton. She went online, she read through all kinds of ordinances. Appleton already is a case study for environmentalists. It kind of put us on a map in a way that I think we don't want to lose.

Autumn G.T. (Resident) 54:53

If I speak to people—I travel all over the US for work and such. If I speak to people and they happen to know Appleton they know us in this order for Lawrence University, Mile of Music sometimes, and No Mow May because they've at some point, read about it or studied it.

Autumn G.T. (Resident) 55:11

We have sort of a spectacular opportunity to be among other internationally known cities. And I think it's foolish to let go of it.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 55:18

Thank you.

Autumn G.T. (Resident) 55:18

Thank you.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 55:21

Please. Who's next?

Ronna S. (Resident) 55:27

And again, [Ronna S. XXXXX] I was part of the original pollinator project with Israel. My backyard is Riverview Gardens, which I fought to preserve, so everybody could take advantage of it. I just heard a presentation by Dr. Bart de Stasio, from Lawrence about water quality, and one of the things that came out was that in 1950 to right now our, temperature here in Appleton has gone up three degrees. Every little bit affects every part of the food chain. I totally support No Mow May. No Mow May to me is about We the People. It's being considerate for everybody for saving the planet. Thank you.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 56:17

Name and address again.

Joan R. (Appleton Resident) 56:18

[Joan R.] at [XXXXXX] I participate in No Mow May the last three years. I'm new to Appleton. I was really happy that No Mow May even happened. I thought, "Wow, I moved to a really progressive town." And the last two years, my neighbors and I, we've all had great crops, and I attribute it to the beehives. And I do have hives. I've had hives for last three years. And I have no problem with it. I'm like 70 years old, almost, another year, and I mow my grass every—at the end of May. And I can do it, and I'll do anybody else's that needs it done. There's no problem. And it's—the kids are all being educated. You're seeing their parents and take part in environmentalism. I support everything these speakers have said and everything Mr. del Toro and Rellena Ribbons have done to have—see this happen. And we are a model for the entire nation. I just came back from St. John in the US Virgin Islands. And there's this exclusive development called Botany Preserved. And I think it's really interesting. They're gonna try preserve the place and someone's asked me if I would help them get bees. And the big problem there is hurricanes blow them away.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 57:44

Okay.

Joan R. (Appleton Resident) 57:46

But thank you.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 57:47

Thank you. Next

Lanie M.F. (Resident) 57:59

Okay, hi, I'm [Lanie M.F.] I live at [XXXXXX] Can everyone hear me okay? Can you guys hear me? Um, I'm here to support No Mow May and to say I've moved back here from New Orleans. I was born and raised here. No Mow May is something that makes me really proud of Appleton and proud to be from here. And I just want to throw my support behind it.

Lanie M.F. (Resident) 58:22

I also want to say it's very, very hard to hear all of you guys. I've had a very hard time this meeting. I also couldn't see because there are all these screens everywhere. I don't know if there's some way to make this a little bit more inviting. But just maybe talk a little closer to your mics so we can hear what you guys are saying. Thanks so much.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 58:42

Next.

Brian P. (Resident) 58:50

Hi, my name is [Brian P.] I'm at [XXXXXX] And I sent you all a note on this. And I think I wanted to say I support No Mow May. And I think it also uncovered another issue that I think you all have to address. I thought the Resolution was poorly worded or poorly formed, and I think it contained some disinformation. And it was disingenuous. And I think, you know, the public discourse—I'm very supportive of public discourse. It's a big issue for me. And I think we need to improve that and it needs to start in our own community. It's so—that's my thing. And I just want to—I sent you that no one I wanted to show you I was here because I think that's an important issue to me.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 59:40

Thank you. Next.

Bob K. (Resident) 59:50

[Bob K. XXXXX] And I would just like to say that I attended the meeting last year on the resolution to support No Mow May. And by way of editorial, I was amazed that it took over an hour to approve something that's very helpful for this entire community. With that, I would like to add that No Mow May does not cost any taxpayer dollars. And it is helpful for our fragile environment. So, with that, I urge this committee to support No Mow May, because it is beneficial for us all. Thank you.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 1:00:39

Thank you, anybody else? Nobody else. Okay, aldersperson Del Toro.

Aldersperson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 1:00:55

Chair, I'd just like to be part of the record that from the emails that we've received, it's about an eight to one ratio pro maintaining No Mow May as part of our community and one against maintaining it. So that's roughly the email by my latest count that we have.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 1:01:10

Okay. Normally, what we do is we have the aldersperson who submits or alderspersons who submit the resolution speak to the resolution. And then we have the anybody in the audience who'd like to speak to the resolution speak. Then we have Council members who are not on the committee speak. And then we bring the matter to the table. And we speak, and then we vote.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 1:01:47

So, I know you have a presentation. And I think you told me 20 minutes.

Aldersperson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 1:01:58

About that.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 1:01:58

And I think what I like to see is wait until the next meeting. I'd like to table this to give you that opportunity to share what you want to share and not feel like some chairman's going to cut you off at some point in time. And I know aldersperson Doran has something to say. So, with that in mind, I'm going to ask—I'm going to make a motion to table this until the next meeting. So, I move to table this to our next meeting. Do I have a second to that?

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:02:43

Second.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 1:02:44

Motion's been made and seconded to table to the next meeting. Is that—city attorney, is that open for debate?

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:02:53

Yeah.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 1:02:54

Okay. Anybody want to debate it? All right. I want to thank everybody who came tonight to speak to this. All in favor to table until the next meeting signify by saying aye. All those opposed? Chair votes aye. Four zero. Which leads us to item number seven.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:03:20

Motion to adjourn.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:03:21

Second.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 1:03:22

Motion has been made and seconded to adjourn. All in favor signify by saying aye. All those opposed? Chair votes aye. Four zero. We're adjourned. Thank you, everybody.