

Item 24-0341: Resolution #4-R-24 Sustainable Use of Pesticides

Parks and Recreation Committee

Mon, Jun 10, 2024 6:15PM

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 00:57

We have no public hearings or appearances this evening. We'll go ahead and get started with action item 24-0341 the resolution 4-R-24 for the sustainable use of pesticides. We have a motion?

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 01:17

Motion to approve.

Aldersperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 01:18

Second.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 01:19

We have a motion to approve and a second. We'll start the discussion this evening. Almost everyone was here for the previous meeting, but just to let Alder Wolff know that this was held at the municipal services meeting prior to this meeting. And let's get started then with Alder Schultz. Is there anything as an author you'd like to add?

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 01:46

I guess just for the benefit of anybody who might be watching this meeting and not have watched the previous, I would just say that part of the reason for holding was, one, we were running out of time. Two, it felt like some more discussion was necessary to answer a couple questions that were brought up by myself as one of the authors and another author and a couple other members present at that meeting.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 02:13

Primarily, the resolution requested five directives. And I don't have to go through them. But essentially, the feeling of the authors in particular was that most of those directives weren't addressed in a way that there were answers given to how the city might deal with those, or at least respond to those specifically as directives, and we felt that the report, though long, didn't quite address the things that the authors were hoping to address with the nature of the resolution.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 02:49

And also, there was some discussion about what the intent was, and I think we need to make it clear that the intent of the resolution is to introduce some transparency into what's being applied to our public lands. The intent is not to strictly prohibit, or, you know, basically give city no tools for dealing with invasive species or dealing with other situations when they need to apply some of these chemicals. That's really not the intent. We certainly left that out in the resolution, and I think there's some discussion that could be had to create a mechanism that the city could continue doing what it's doing, use what it's using, but be more transparent when it's used. And maybe we can create, or have a discussion about creating, a reasonable use list or exceptions list. That would go a long way into allowing the city to continue doing what it's doing.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 03:46

We're not—there really wasn't the intent to just strictly get rid of all chemical pesticides, but help push the community forward and by example. The city's the one always leads these charges with the community and

start maybe projecting the fact that we're taking some of these chemicals seriously and trying to limit them beyond what we already are.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 04:07

It was introduced, at least in my part, because I had two experiences. One is I've walked my dogs on a daily basis, and throughout the summer, I am always walking over particulate matter on sidewalks, which I have no idea whether it's a toxic chemical or organic pesticide or fertilizer. And the only indication I get is a sign. Sometimes it says "Stay off for 24 hours," sometimes it's just the date of application, but there's nothing there for me to reference. I don't know what that stuff is. And as a resident, who I have no other place to walk my dogs I'm taking down on the sidewalk or on the grass, and so they're exposed to that and I'd like to know what the exposure is. I feel like it's my right as a citizen to know what I'm exposing my pets, my family, my kids to in the environment that goes beyond just you know sidewalks into public parks and spaces.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 04:59

I would say I absolutely and unequivocally trust staff to do the job and follow the label of the law. There's no question to me that that is what they are doing. But I think some transparency so that we know what is being applied. In particular, I had another situation happen where I visited the Peace Park and this—I don't remember exactly when it was, but a contracted service which we use did an aerosol application of something. And I said, "Well, that's normal. I don't know exactly what they were doing, but let me find out." An individual had asked me to figure out what that was. So, I'll see if I can dig it up. Contacted staff wasn't able to determine when it was, was told that it was contracted. Contacted the contractor; they weren't willing to give me any information on what was sprayed, what they were spraying for, what the chemical was, or how long it was going to persist in the environment. So, it drove me to like, we need to do something a little bit better to inform our citizens about the toxic chemicals that we're using 99.9% of the time in an appropriate fashion. And maybe there's a situation where weather conditions make it not appropriate to apply, and we'd like to just have that information to work with.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 06:17

Thank you. Alder Meltzer, did you have anything to add?

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 06:21

Thank you. I guess I do have some very specific questions. As we were having our discussion at the previous committee meeting, it was suggested that some of those questions might be able to be answered here. So since only 2 of the 10 chemicals in the resolution were actually mentioned in the staff memo, I am wondering if we can find out at this time, are there any other chemicals on this list that we're not using? I think that we—as the author, you know like, signed on to this resolution, you know, seeing that, you know, it's a large net, and needs to be refined. So, I'm just looking for some direction in that regard as far as...

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 07:06

Is that the only question that you have? Because I just wanted to make sure that if there was anything you had to add before we allow staff to speak on this? And we'll note your question for staff. But was there anything else you wanted to add about the resolution itself? Otherwise, I can come back for more questions.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 07:26

I'll leave it at this at this point.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 07:28

Okay. Thank you, Director Gazza, could we get some information from staff on—I understand that there is a memo, but if there's a way that we could distill some of the issues that you see with it, I would appreciate it. Two? Sorry. Oh, director two. There we go. Sorry about that.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 07:54

Thank you, Chair. Yeah. Out of the multiple, multiple chemicals that are on here, I couldn't tell you without going back getting a list in talking to staff. We have the parks. So, we have the grounds management, but we also have the golf course. And so, two different areas, you know. One of the things that we look at is when using it naturally, doing it to the manufacturer's, you know, specifications so that way it's done in a safe manner. So. But your question specifically was, "What ones do we use and where?" I would have to put that list together.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 08:39

If I could just follow up with you, Director Gazza. It sounds like there's some concerns from the at least one of the authors of this resolution about transparency for application by contracted services. Can you speak a little bit more about how we handle those typically and if they follow our turf management policy?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 09:03

Yes, they would be required to follow the turf management policy, and they would be required to be a licensed professional. Now, if they aren't, and we caught them, then that would have repercussions at that time or for payment or for future. Alderson Schultz noted the Peace Park. I'm not aware of that situation so I'd like to learn more about that. That occurred. Because you know, that in particular, we would have asked specifically, "What is it?" Because one of the requirements they should have had was posting it. One of the requirements of a certified application—

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 09:40

That was gonna be my next question specifically. Shouldn't we know?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 09:45

Yep. So, each time we're required to post it, our staff post it. They're all certified applicators; they gotta go to they gotta go to training for that. So that should have been out there. At a minimum even if you wouldn't have been able to find a person, you would have been able to find that information. So, if you want to answer who you talked to; either that or I'll follow up with you at a time and—

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 10:07

If you could follow up with Director Gazza.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 10:10

Sure, but just a just a quick question coming off of that is posted—what is being posted, I guess, for the citizens who might be living in the proximity of an application? What are they aware of being applied? Is it just that something was applied and the day it was applied? Or does it tell that citizens what was being applied to that property?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 10:27

Should be date and type. There should be the, you know, the placard with the typical general information on there.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 10:35

Okay.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 10:36

My next question would be in a situation like that I've seen previously with lawns and things that if someone comes in spray something on the lawn they typically in in the invoice or in the documentation that asked for you to pay it will tell you what those chemicals are. Do we receive those from contractors?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 10:56

Yes.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 10:57

Okay.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 10:59

One area that goes above and beyond would be the golf course. So, the golf course you would go there, he'll show—he could show you the daily record, the wind speed, the temperature, anything that correlates to that. And because they use, you know, more chemicals to keep it—you know, there not getting rid of weeds. It's actually developing a playing surface. So, a lot of times I think of, you know, a park is you have a lawn, and that's creating a lawn, but when we're talking about baseball fields and soccer fields and golf courses and things like that, you're actually creating a playing surface, and that goes above and beyond and requires more chemicals.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 11:45

Can I ask Director Gazza another question?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 11:47

Sure. Go ahead.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 11:48

This is page 38 and 39 of the report. It's a it's a reporting sheet mechanism that was included. Is this basically filled out by staff or a contracted service provider each and every time a chemical is applied, or a pesticide or fertilizer is applied in the city? And if it is, is this information that's available in some way, shape, or form to a resident who might wonder and say I there was an application on such and such a date? Well, how do I find out what was applied?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 12:14

Director Gazza, this will be a public record, no? If somebody requested these items?

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 12:19

It's page 38 and 39 of that. So, it's—sorry, the pages weren't numbered. I'm just going from the numbering of the document.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 12:33

Management—Operations Manual. Are you talking these?

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 12:35

Yes, exactly.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 12:37

So, these were—these ones were supplied by the golf course. I would have to talk to—in in regards to contractors now, I would have to find out—we're not—we don't give them a form to fill out. They provide us with the information that they have on their own.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 12:59

But just to follow up, if an order or a member of the public would request these items, is that something that they would be provided? Or maybe Attorney Behrens could add something to this. If a citizen requested the records of what the golf course uses as far as chemicals, is that something that falls under public records, Attorney Behrens?

Attorney Christopher Behrens 13:28

In most cases, yes. Public records law promotes transparency. There are limited exceptions that can be used. Without looking at a record specifically, I don't know. I can't think of any off the top of my head that would apply. So most likely the whole record would be available.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 13:45

Okay. Thank you.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 13:47

I would I would have to add in on the grounds in park-side, I don't know exactly what would be available, because we don't retain a lot of that you know, record, once Greg is satisfied that it's done, and it probably is not retained.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 14:05

It's typically a work order situation.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:07

Yeah. It's just something that would be go. So. But if a new procedure was established, say outside of this, and we retain it for up to a year or something, you know, we could definitely, look in in doing that. It's a good question.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:26

May I follow up?

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 14:27

Go ahead.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 14:28

So, I went through that report. And I can see just how many spaces are managed by the city. And it's a lot. And so that would—I feel like there's something that could be onerous there. But I like the discussion that we have some kind of mechanism to report what we're using, but maybe it's more of "This month we used this amount of such and such a chemical," versus "In this little chunk of property that's point five acres on the south side of town we applied such and such on a date."

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 14:55

My intent is not to create a bunch of work for staff because that's always where we are, and we don't want to create the situation we're now adding 5, 10, 15 minutes to everybody's workday because they've got to fill out

this new reporting mechanism that they didn't have to deal with before. But maybe there's another way, and maybe it's a discussion we can continue to have about how we can at least monitor what the city is using and essentially, in in the larger application areas, what was applied.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 15:21

Sorry, I'm one more quick question is when we do contract for outside services, and I don't know how frequency frequent that is for the city to do that. It's probably not very often, but I don't—I know NES obviously is included here. So, they do some service on some of the wild areas around some of the retention ponds. I know the slope on Jones Park is maintained by them. Who is—so there's this robust sort of monitoring and supposedly monitoring how—who is monitoring them as they do these things? I mean, what's the report mechanism to say they did exactly what they said they were going to do, and they did it under the proper weather conditions. Because I can see a situation where a contractor may be scheduled on a Thursday. They come in; it's gonna rain in five hours; or they come in and it's 95, 96 degrees, they shouldn't be applied; or they come in and the wind is seven to eight miles an hour. I can see situations where that could occur. And, like, I want to know, what is the enforcement mechanism or monitoring mechanism by the city when we're contracting outside services.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 16:22

NES in particular is a contract under Department of Public Works. So, we utilize—they oversee it basically, for us. In our department, we would contract none of that out. The only time and only reason you would have had a contractor down at Lundgaard Park was because of the construction project. They would have did the project. And I would even, even as I speak, would have to go back to the project manager and staff to understand if anything actually was sprayed down there. You're saying that there was something sprayed down there. Generally speaking, they're responsible for establishing the turf, but outside of that, I'm not sure they would have done anything to remediate weeds or anything.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 17:07

So, in our case, everything that we apply is in house, or at least 99.8% of it. And that's done by our certified applicators. I would say that the amount that you may have in your mind is to how much has been is being applied is probably much more greater than what's actually applied. We've gotten away from so much chemical application over the years, it's a pretty small percentage of what had once been applied. Even weed removal in parks is done every other year at the highest frequency unless there was a problematic area. So, there's like in the Turf Management Policy, there's categories. So, like something like Houdini Plaza has to be kept more grass, keep out the weeds. But if we have a park that has clover in it, we don't—you know, clover and weeds and whatever long as it's green, we're fine with keeping that established. And so, it might get some routine every other year, some weed removal, but outside of that we're not fertilizing like you know somebody would on a lawn to try to get it to—the turf to build stronger or anything like that.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 18:26

We're you know—things that the golf course naturally, but outside of your general turf, you know, nothing on medians, triangles, boulevards. Most of the places like wastewater and water, all that acreage, nothing's being applied there unless, you know, it's being—in some cases, if there's a problematic area, it might get hit.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 18:52

Okay.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 18:52

But, but yeah, we could definitely identify that that information as to how often and where it would be. The bigger one would be fence lines are a problem. Fence lines are at wastewater plant get a significant amount of

growth. And so, they get a lot of buckthorn and weeds and stuff that grew up through the fence line. So, to preserve that fence line, we'll cut that out of there in many cases and then treat it.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 19:22

Were you the staff member who received the request from Alder Schultz about what was happening in Ellen Kort Park. Or I guess let me ask Alder Schultz. Alder Schultz, who did you speak with regarding the contractor?

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 19:38

I don't remember if you or it was Director—Deputy Director Flick or maybe grounds manager Hoekstra, but someone did response saying it was—

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 19:39

Someone in the Parks and Rec—?

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 19:45

—it was contracted. And then I tried to find out who was contracted by and didn't—really didn't get any information or get anywhere.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 19:58

Was that last year?

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 19:59

Yeah.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 20:00

Okay, I'll follow up with that.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 20:01

Yeah, because it sounds like this is likely not falling under the Parks and Rec umbrella, which is why there'd be a disconnect. And I think that's important.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 20:12

Yeah, that one might have—

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 20:13

That might have been park construction.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 20:14

We were doing the park construction, you know, putting in that. So, the park was, I mean, level years ago, but when we put in that trail they would have had to establish the turf on both sides of the trail. So, the only thing that I can think of is they wouldn't have sprayed the park. They may have done something on each side of the trail. Either that or they were spraying something on the concrete itself like sealer or something that may be been misconstrued. So, I will find out because we generally don't require them to do any applications. It's just basically establishing a turf, and then it's ours from there.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 20:58

I'm heartened to know that we don't do a lot of contracting outside of—I mean, the city is doing most 99% of this work. So that's.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 21:04

Yeah, I think—I just want to make sure that we're addressing the situation that led to this resolution because I think that there's—I think the transpa—well, the majority of it, having that transparency is important even if we move forward with the resolution. This isn't this isn't to say, "We don't need it." It's just I think that that's an important piece before we dive into this further. Alder Smith,

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 21:31

Yeah. Can I continue to ask some questions?

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 21:33

You may. Go ahead.

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 21:35

The emphasis on glyphosate in this—is that because for—I understand there's a difference between the Reid golf course and then the other properties that we manage, but in the other properties that we manage, and which you know best, is it is glyphosate, the main concern that you have in this list, that would be the one that would kind of cut into our standard practices the most?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 21:55

Reading the chemical that are identified, it's only one—I mean, there's a couple in there, I recognize just from, you know, just some experience throughout the years, whether it be at work or other things. But the glyphosate basically is, yeah, for like fence lines and things like that. It's very challenging to maintain that. There is—it really comes down to labor, or something like this, to help you do that.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 22:26

We've weighed it. You know, I'm, I'm very conscientious of the environment myself, and what I look at is, you know, it's applied, applied correctly by a licensed individual, in an area that's generally not very populated. And there are insects, there are animals, things like that, but it's in a controlled—more or less of a controlled—specific area. And it's just a, it's just a balance, you know. If the city says, "Okay, we'll get rid of glyphosate, but I'll tell you what, we'll give you four more seasonals during the summer," but there is a tradeoff. Either that or there's gonna be—I think if you got rid of all the chemicals, or you said, "No chemicals," you'd have a situation where you have 100% of the citizens—there's a big percent of citizens that want them lawns in the parks and throughout well maintained. There's probably a contingency of citizens that would say, "I don't care if the grass grows up on the fences and the grass is coming through the cracks of the sidewalks in in the playgrounds and in landscaping." You're going to have them two contingencies. So, I think the work has to get done one way or the other is I guess what I'm saying. So, if we would get rid of this, I hope there would be a suggestion on then how do we do it, not just to get rid of it and then leave us with a whole new problem.

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 23:45

Okay. And so, it sounds like what I'm hearing from you is your emphasis on the glyphosate, the glyphosate and this is because this would be the one out of that list you recognize would really impact what you do and the time.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 23:57

Yeah.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 23:58

And another question I had is on—early on, there's a list of other agencies, municipalities, and nonprofit groups that that that follow basically our practice. Just want—would you say that Appleton is broadly in line with the Nature Conservancy, City of Green Bay in our in our way of approaching control of invasive species and use of pesticides?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 24:29

I would think so. Because we know some of those people—we're all fighting it. When you go to conferences, these are a lot—these are the main topics because they're always front and up front and present, that people are trying to do this. You know, people have tried flame throwers and burning the weeds. You know, they've tried everything, but it just challenging. Then it adds the labor, you know. It's a balance. But yeah, we're, I think, you know, these large organizations like Green Bay and them are trying to be as responsible as we are.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 25:03

Okay.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 25:03

You know it...

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 25:04

And maybe a third question is the mayor talks about inviting all us to joint experts in the field? I don't know if that was you that he directed that too. But it strikes me that one of the weaknesses in this approach is that we that we have before us is it's not kind of coming out of our knowledge of what you all are doing. And is this something that that—is this invitation—do you know about this invitation? And maybe that would be a way to kind of bring alders and your practices together?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 25:34

Yeah, because the largest use of it is in stormwater ponds, you know, and that's why the invitation was there to listen to the contractor, see what the contractor is doing and so forth. So, but if somebody wanted—you know, say there was a situation where people want to come out to the golf course and have Jeff explain exactly what he does, the precautions he takes, why he does it, very much.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 26:02

You know, it almost seems like a topic that people are, you know—what do I say—get the perception sometimes that it's a hidden thing. It's just transparent. It isn't that we're not transparent. It's just nobody asked—

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 26:16

—you know? Somebody wants to come and tag along with us while we're spraying fence lines, they're more than welcome to. If, you know, we want to put—you know, I'll ask Greg to put together a list of the chemicals uses how much and where, just so I'm more prepared to answer that specific question. But—

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 26:16

Right.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 26:36

Yeah.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 26:37

—but you know, I just have not been asked that specific. And I think part of it is just because we restrict—we've got rid of so much, that rather than looking at it as a positive, it's still is one of those things, it's a negative until it gets down to zero, it seems okay.

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 26:53

And so, it sounds like transparency is something that you're in favor of. I—

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 26:57

There's nothing—I mean, it's really comes down to you know, the citizens' expectations, and what we do is we work for the citizens, and they want areas to look to a particular level. And so that's why we have that turf management policy. And we worked to the Turf Management policy. If the body decides to update the Turf Management policy that would say, "You can't use this," you know, then then we then we have to adjust.

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 27:24

Alright, thank you.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 27:24

So, we do what we're just basically, I guess, or the executive branch—so we do what we're told to do through the policy and budget. So.

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 27:35

Thank you.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 27:36

Okay, I have a follow up question. As far as application of pesticides, do you, do you have certain staff members that apply pesticides and certain staff members who don't? For instance, you know, can all seasonal employees apply all kinds of pesticide? If you could just expand on that further?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 27:59

Yep. It's only our full-time staff.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 28:02

Okay.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 28:03

You know, who receive the training. You know, if there was a situation, I could ask Greg, if he had returning seasonals because he's had people for four years in a row. Whether he sent somebody for training, I'm not sure, but I would—yeah, there's very few of them now. There used to be a lot more returners.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 28:22

Yeah, just given the fact that I'm not sure which of these pesticides require state licensing, I was curious how we handle how we would handle them if they fell outside of that.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 28:35

I should note one more thing that I just thought of. So, we do have a pesticide or what do you want to call a bug company that comes—

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 28:45

A pest control?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 28:46

Yeah, pest control that comes to our buildings, and they put out most traps, you know, the glue boxes. And they do if there's a spider problem, they will spray for it. Yeah, spiders or ants, but we don't have a whole sale you know where the buildings are just sprayed like crazy. You know, it's basically minimal.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 29:06

Okay. Alder Schultz.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 29:08

Thank you, Chair. I just—I want to clarify what my the statement before that, number one, I didn't—I wasn't the original author of this resolution. I was asked to sign on, and my motivation was those personal experiences I had. Having said that, the auth—the primary author is in the room, and I think, if the chair would allow, I think it might be who best to listen to the original author of this too if he has any additional questions or anything to add to the conversation.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 29:33

Would former Alder Del Toro like to speak on this item? If you would, please step to the podium and state your name and address for the record.

Israel Del Toro (Former Aldersperson - District 4) 29:41

He would. **[Gives address]** for the next three weeks. Thanks, Dean. I think that really—and Chair thank you for the opportunity to speak to you all. I in generally applaud city staff for the work that they do, and it's exceptional in so many regards to have gone from such an intensive chemical management practice to what seems to be a more sustainable and positive way going forward. That's excellent.

Israel Del Toro (Former Aldersperson - District 4) 30:08

I think my big objection right now with the recommendation from staff lies in, in the report itself, first of all. The report itself is purely inadequate. It reads like a bunch of amendments put together and glued together, and does not actually address any of the action items of the resolution itself. So, I think that's one of the big comments going forward is going through those individual action items and saying, "This is how staff has responded or is responding to the work that's being proposed here." Communication is key, and here, transparency is missing. This is where the gap exists. Standing from outside and looking at and looking at this right now, there's just no communication and transparency between city staff and, and the average Appletonian. You know, anybody just wanting to know like, is it safe for me to walk my dog next on a rainy pathway after they just sprayed glyphosate—oh, no, my dog will lick that up; is this is this a problem?—those are concerns that everyday people face. And that's the type of information that I'm asking folks to disseminate through this resolution. That is part of the action item that is action item—it's in there, I promise. Therefore, let it be resolved that the city will public—

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 31:33

—publicly release information regarding the chemical pesticides that are used on city owned property.

Israel Del Toro (Former Aldersperson - District 4) 31:39

Thank you. So, there are real action items in this resolution. And I don't place any blame on staff on this. I actually place the entire blame on the Mayor's Office for doing such a crummy job of compiling all this

information and not putting it into a synthetic argument that actually addressed the point. So, my recommendation would be to send this back to the mayor's office and have them synthesize those 126 pages and specifically how they address each one of those action items associated with this report, not just simply saying, hey, you can't do it. That's not—that's not a real response. That shows that the mayor himself is not valuing the work of the staff in appropriately communicating that to the Council.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 32:21

In terms of private contracting, this one's an interesting one. I've run into this one a few times. In asking private companies to tell you what they're putting on a lawn, that is like pulling teeth. A lot of it is proprietary and—

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 32:38

I don't know that that's true. When they put chemicals on my lawn, they hand me a bill that says very specifically what's been applied.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 32:45

That's not always the case, though. And what usually ends up happening is they're veiled under some like, "Oh, this is a proprietary mix of stuff."

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 32:55

I've never seen that before.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 32:56

I've definitely encountered that with fertilizer companies with—what is this?—NES company that was associated with the storm water retention ponds. Those are the types of responses that I get when I talk to people about what they are using. And maybe they're seeing me as like the threatening hippie, right, like, oh—

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 33:15

I'm sorry, just to clarify, because I want to make sure that we're clear. So, do you mean that you've asked people who are out applying those?

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 33:22

Correct.

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 33:22

Okay, not peop—not staff?

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 33:25

No. I've asked—

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 33:25

Okay. Okay. Thank you.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 33:27

—companies.

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 33:28

Okay.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 33:28

And that's proven to be quite difficult. And again, there's that lack of transparency. This resolution gets back down to the point of transparency, communication, and highlighting, and celebrating the efforts of Director Gazza and all of their city staff in terms of like the successes that they've encountered as they've modified their turf management plans and the way they manage the ecosystems.

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 33:53

Before we move forward, since you're the author of this resolution, I just wanted to ask you, the items that are listed on the resolution—one of the items says that one of the documented effects of a certain chemical is autism. And based on—ask any mother who has a child with autism; she'll—she's the number one researcher. Everything I've read doesn't say it gives people autism. It says autism is highly inheritable, but in certain areas within a vicinity of pesticide use, there are higher rates just as similar as near a highway there can be higher rates. So, I have a little bit of an issue with the documented effects here. Can you tell me where you...?

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 34:44

Absolutely each one of these case studies was referred back to actual primary scientific literature and I can provide you a full citation associated with each one of these chemicals. I just didn't want to bog you down with all that, all those details. But a vast majority of them also come from medical studies in—overseas in the EU, in the EU broadly where their state of management of green spaces is so much more progressive than what we have here. And they're not overrun with rats and mice and pests. They're doing it well, and they're doing it using alternatives to the chemicals that are presented here. And so that's what I'm asking folks to explore through this resolution.

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 35:32

But would you—just to be clear, you wouldn't say that people get autism because of pesticides?

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 35:38

Correct.

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 35:38

Okay. Thank you. I think that's important. I, I just don't want this to look like scare tactics. If we if we want to take this on its face.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 35:47

There are associations, right? Just like there are associations with carcinogens and oil refining plants. Some—something is happening there. There's a story there.

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 35:57

They're there—I understand what you're saying. I just want to make sure that we're not saying one causes the other

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 36:02

Correct.

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 36:03

There's some correlation, but there's not a causation, correct? Okay.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 36:06
Correct. 100% correct.

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 36:07
Alder Smith.

Alderperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 36:08

Yeah. If I could ask Israel, so there's a list of pesticides here and chemical compounds. Did you list these because you had a sense that Appleton was actually using these or were these just commonly used pesticides that were out there that you put down?

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 36:26

These are commonly used pesticides for management of large green spaces. That's how I narrowed down my list. I started off with like, "Okay, we have a lot of green space; how do you broadly apply and treat large areas of green?" This list—the original list, I believe came from a 1992 EPA publication, but I'd have to backtrack my source on that.

Alderperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 36:49

So, we don't we don't have any idea that these are things that Appleton is using.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 36:52

And again, there has just been no transparency or communication. And going back to the original intent of this resolution is to increase transparency and communication of what we do actually have and what are we actually using and communicating not just internally but also to the citizens of Appleton.

Alderperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 37:07

Yeah, so I mean, I—Alder Schultz and yourself emphasize transparency, but this really seems—I mean, what I get when I read this is banning these chemicals, and also the implication that these are being used in Appleton seems to be implied by the fact that they're here and we can know, you know—

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 37:23

I think it's a starting point. You know, I think it's a starting point for actually starting to disseminate information—effectively disseminate information of what we're actually using.

Alderperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 37:32

I mean, I. Okay,

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 37:34

—and saying like, okay, let's say we're not using 224D—or, like, I know we're actually using that. But as an example, let's say we're not using that, then tell us that. Say like, okay, we're not using that—safe. And also, this—a big—an important part of this list, as it states in the resolution, is a living document. Okay? So, things can come off it, no problem. But things can also go back on it. As we know, like what is actually being used, we need to be able to update this less than say, like, "Oh, this is actually a perfectly safe alternative." So—

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 38:06

If I could just ask you both to be mindful. When Alder Smith is asking you a question, if you could just allow him to finish his train of thought, I'd really appreciate that. Thank you.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 38:17

Thanks. Thank you. I mean, I feel like the transparency point is well taken and that we could start with that. And you know, but some of the implications of this with the kind of shotgun listing of chemical compounds makes it feel like the city is using these and also builds up a sense that we're that we're not working with the our staff here in taking care of the taking care of the grounds. And I think that a better place to start is from a point of, okay, let's be better about transparency, let's develop methods for doing that, and let's get to know how grounds work is going and this—if that's the intent, we could—but I just don't see that intent in—

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 39:04

Yeah, I think I think I agree with you. I think that there is—I think, looking at some more transparency is important. You know, I was concerned when I started to see citizens saying "We shouldn't be using these chemicals," when we don't even know if we're using these chemicals. I appreciate broaching the topic. I think it's important. I think we can look at transparency. I just think this takes things a little bit too far for me. Alder Hartzheim.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 39:33

District 13, please. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, chair. To that end, I would like us to just look at the therefore be it resolved clauses in this particular item and speak about them each individually. I will just give a brief thought on my part, but if each of you can do the same in your minds and then perhaps amend this resolution to fit what you were speaking of as well, Alder Smith.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 39:56

The first one, "therefore be it resolved that the city recognizes the attached list of chemical pesticides can be harmful." I'm not sure that's necessary. We—the city knows that there are many things that are chemically harmful whether they're on this list or not on this list, so I'm not sure that that is a necessary resolut—or cause in this particular resolution.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 40:18

The second one, "let it therefore be resolved that the city will no longer purchase or use these pesticides." I can't get behind that because there have to be—there has to be a balance of what the city uses and what the city doesn't use and when it's used, how it is used very appropriately, not overused, not spilled, not etc., etc. So, I can't get behind that clause, and I think that that clause can actually be removed from the from the resolution, just in my opinion.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 40:48

The third clause, "let it be further resolved that the city no longer will contract services that include the use of these." Again, I can't get behind that, because it's the same thing as the earlier clause, which is we expect our contractors to do what we have in our policies that is that are set aside to follow what is appropriate in the city. And again, it's a balance of do we need to protect the fence lines and make sure the buckthorn doesn't come back? Yes. Then, are we spreading it all around just for fun? No. So I think that that clause is just is untenable at this point.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 41:24

The fourth clause is "therefore let it be further resolved that the city will public release publicly released information regarding chemical pesticides that are used on city owned property." Ding, ding, ding. This is what we're talking about as far as what is what transparency is required. And I think that that is the vital clause in this particular resolution if the whole idea is that we want people to be aware of what the city is doing and we ourselves as aldermen want to be aware of what is being what is being done. And that way, we can also have

some feedback to the city—oh, we—then then constituents can really email us and say, "Hey, I see that the city is using such and such a thing, and I'm very concerned about that." And then we can have some one-on-one information, discussions about how that is used, and whether there are alternatives etc.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 42:13

And then the last clause is "therefore, let it be further resolved that the exceptions to the ordinance can be formally requested by city staff." If the other clauses that I talked about are seemingly untenable or not useful, then that clause isn't useful anymore, either. So, I would like you to please take that into account as you look at this as a committee, because I think we can refine this to do what is really important for our constituency without putting the city in jeopardy, which is—was the gist of the mayor and that the entire long document that we received in response to this. Thank you.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 42:55

Thank you. I'm in agreement with that. I guess I'd like to hear from Director Gazza—maybe not at this meeting, maybe at a future meeting—about options for further transparency. Do you have anything—with this being your department for the most part, you know, I want to rely on your feedback and you know, what we could do to add a layer of transparency?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 43:27

Well, the one thing, that's what I really wanted to talk to you, because it kind of hearing the discussion, it feels kind of if I was watching I'd think, "Boy, the city's not transparent in what they're doing." They are. They're following the law. The law is—transparency is that you have to post what you spray, and we do that. So, everybody's doing everything they should. Everybody's following the law accordingly. So, the city is very transparent. Staff are being transparent. What you're asking for is something above and beyond that. I mean, is it a billboard on highway 41—"City of Appleton sprayed these chemicals this year"? Is it something you want posted on internet? Is it a letter to each constituent within a mile? You know, what is it? You would have to tell us that, but I think following the law is exactly all we need to be doing. There are higher authorities and higher bodies that govern this, the state, the state level. If we are not doing it correctly, we can be reported to the state and we'll be fined and sued. I'm not sure what it would be.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 44:38

I don't think that—I think where the disconnect is—I don't think that anybody thinks our employees aren't following the law, but I think the hard thing is with this starting—with the resolution starting with a list of chemicals that we didn't know first if your department is using.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 44:53

Well, I shouldn't say that. I know that 24D and glyphosate. There's chemicals on there I've haven't heard have heard of before. If you take a look at—like, there are some examples of chemicals in here, like Weed Be Gone and so forth. There's, you know, five or six chemicals in there. 24D, for example, be the first one that's listed. Below that are these miniscule ones. So, if I told you, you "no," I could be lying, because it could be the fifth chemical in there. So that's why I would go back and ask, but yeah, off the top my head, some of those I doubt we use, because I've never heard of them. Now are they using them at the stormwater ponds? Because it's something that's being used maybe by a water body and it's so it's called something different? I'm not sure.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 45:42

Sure.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 45:43

But yeah.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 45:45

Yeah, I think that's the that's the only issue I'm seeing where I could see people feeling a little concerned is that, because this is a list of chemicals that didn't come from your department, we're kind of working backwards. And when we hear well, you're being transparent, but then we hear we don't know if you use these chemicals that's, I think, where the disconnect lies. And I think that's something that we can easily resolve within the resources of the department.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 45:45

Yeah, if I was a specific person, I think, you know, at the ground level, that's the person that went to the training, and was the one that was applying, I'd be able to answer that question in a second. But because I'm four layers away.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 46:27

Thank you for clarifying. That's what I'm trying to get at. Thank you for clarifying that. Alder Meltzer.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 46:34

Thank you. Yeah, with all of this discussion about transparency, I just, I feel like we're in a very unfortunate place with this resolution with the staff memo that was provided to us. I think that, you know, we all have the same basic question right now that's holding us back, which is, we don't even know if these—if all the chemicals on the list are being used by the city. You know, as I would—as I, you know, received and read this document, that was the first question that I need answered, and it is conspicuously absent. And I, you know, the those the license holders who are trained and stuff, this should be very easy information to provide.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 47:19

It should—it just it's kind of awkward and uncomfortable and embarrassing for me to sit here with this list of chemicals that—this resolution was submitted enough, long enough ago, that I think that this basic question should have been answered in order for us to have a starting point, to have a substantive conversation about the resolution. And I'm not disparaging staff or any of their work at all. I think that in fact, you know, there's, you know, some low hanging fruit that could have been provided in the report that would really have create—that could have created a narrative and highlighted the work that staff does. And I think that, you know, the memo in response to this resolution really created an unexpected situation of obscureness and a lack of transparency that really kind of blindsided me and leaves me struggling with a sense of what exactly the next step forward should be with this resolution.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 48:36

Alder Smith.

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 48:38

Yeah. I mean, I think it's now clear, Alder Meltzer, that we don't—I mean, I think that starting with this list is the wrong way to go, that this list is basically a list of common things that were used at some point in the past, but it has nothing to do with our actual practices. And I would like to see us learn something. If we're concerned about pesticides, we should learn about the what's being used currently in Appleton and then build from there, rather than what seems like a wild goose chase, which is trying to—I mean, I was also using the Google and trying to sort of search these things out. And that—but there's no necessary connection with Appleton in these terms. So, let's extend our hand to work with and which Dean—Director Gaza—has already said, you know, he—this is not

something that's being hidden and that we can we can we can learn about and make choices from there. But I really don't think that this list is the place to start.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 49:36

Yeah, I concur. And I think what, what I keep thinking in my head is, you know, when we make a purchase of a pesticide, is there a way to document the purchase? I think that's probably the easiest place to start. You know, if you could give us some idea of what, what that would look like, if that's feasible—that's what I'd like to hear about. I'm sorry, go ahead.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 49:59

Director 2. Yeah, definitely. And that's something—we buy the same things, very limited amount of different things. So easy enough to do.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 50:09

I think that the challenges is, you know, I am hearing some things that—some different things about the response to the resolution. I guess maybe we weren't clear enough. I think that's where before a resolution is submitted, I always welcome somebody to sit down with me, tell me exactly what you're looking for, you know. I was not contacted, had no previous meetings specific to this resolution that asked me, where—are you using any of these compounds? What ones are you using? I think that would have went a long way. So, I think just this whole process can, you know, can just remind us that the homework upfront before submitting a resolution pays off, saving time once the resolution is submitted and we have to talk about it at this point. So.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 51:02

I'm not quite sure how we act on this when we have an action in another committee. But let me just—let me address this first. So, we have this on hold in another committee. So, any action that would take place here just gets recorded for the Council meeting, but it would not go to Council until the other item as a consolidated action item or how would this work?

Attorney Christopher Behrens 51:30

Not necessarily.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 51:31

Okay.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 51:32

If this committee takes recommendation that goes to Council, then it's up to the full Council to decide what to do with it.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 51:38

Okay.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 51:39

Depending on what action is taken by Council, if that happens, it could become a moot point then if it's held at the other committee.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 51:47

Okay. I think what I'd like to do is make a motion to amend, to just say that at this point, "the Director of Parks and Recreation will gather which pesticides are purchased for the remainder of the summer and report them to

the Parks and Recreation chair." I think that's maybe a good place to start. So that's my motion. We have a motion and a second. So, any discussion on that? Alder Hartzheim?

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 52:24

Thank you, Chair. I'm confused. Are you wanting to remove all the other therefore be its?

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 52:27

Get rid of all of the other therefore. Yes, correct.

[Professor Del Toro says something that is not picked up

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 52:35

You're not an alder anymore, so I don't really—can't really have you speak on the hold, but I'll give you one opportunity to because I think it's fair.

Israel Del Toro (Former Aldersperson - District 4) 52:43

This is my last comment on this. And my last emphasis on this. This list is a living document. If we scratch off everything but glyphosate with this and only replace it with only the things we're using, then that's a step in the right direction. I'm fully supportive of that.

Israel Del Toro (Former Aldersperson - District 4) 52:59

I'm also really supportive of Alder Hartzheim's recommendation. I understand that we're not likely to change the way things are or to move the needle or be more progressive or more sustainable. Achieving the status quo of meeting the law—the low bar of the law—is good enough for legal purposes. But is it good enough for the city of Appleton? Or should you be doing better? Or should you be moving the needle to actually be sustainable, to be—to find an alternative to glyphosate, so you don't go kill the same dang tree every single year and instead find a reason or a way to deal with the problem at its root cause—no pun intended.

Israel Del Toro (Former Aldersperson - District 4) 53:40

But all in summary, I just want you guys to—as I leave Appleton, as I move away from here and think about this city and the potential that it has and the good people that lead it and the departments that work really hard and work their asses off to maintain our parks green and our trails safe and our community healthy, I think it's really, really important that we don't become complacent. And complacency looks a lot like this. It looks like willingness to accept what we've done because it's work, because it's cheap, because it's cost effective, and we stop thinking about the future and sustain—what sustainability actually means. And this is an opportunity to revise that.

Israel Del Toro (Former Aldersperson - District 4) 54:30

I want to point out that this resolution was submitted in tandem with a second piece of resolution. Every single year. I've lived in Appleton since Mayor Hanna was here, I have come to the mayor's office and I have asked for the city website to update their practices on environmental prep—or their environmental sustainability practices.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 54:49

Are you gonna go ou—are you gonna go off on something else after I just gave you a second opportunity to speak on the hold?

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 54:55

No, I'm just saying—

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 54:56

Okay.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 54:57

—this resolution is directly related to the other resolution, and transparency and community education go hand in hand. And I really hope you guys can see a path forward doing that. And I'm really late to a meeting. So, I gotta go. But thank you all.

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 55:10

And I'll just add what I think about this that is important is we have to have a place to start. I don't call that complacency. We don't know—we don't have enough information to be jumping and going anywhere right now, and I think that if we start with just, you know, gathering what we're purchasing and taking a closer look at those labels, I think that that's, that's a reasonable start that that allows us to actually use data to move forward. Alder Schultz.

Alderperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 55:40

Thank you, Chair. I think we're doing really good work at the committee. So that makes me—

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 55:45

Good job, guys.

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 55:45

Thank you.

Alderperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 55:45

—happy.

Alderperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 55:48

You know, where we are now from where we started a couple hours ago, I think is a significant move. I tend to support where you're going with the amendment to strike everything. But I think we would want to keep number four in which is some form of understanding the modality or the methodology for posting that information. I understand that we put plaques up when the applications are in place. But when several citizens come to me and say, "Things happened here," or, "I see something was sprayed," or, "There was an application that the city did," and they're not seeing the information it could be out there; it's very likely that it is, but something seems to be missing then if it's not easily attainable. And then if they say, "Can you find out what was applied?" And then I try to find out what was applied, and I can't get that. So, there's an element of, can we do something a little bit better than we are doing? Even if we're doing really good stuff right now, there's feels like there's maybe something still missing. So, I'd like to continue to include that in this resolution. If this is something we're going to move forward with an amendment.

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 56:54

I think—I hear what you're saying. It's just we don't have that information to provide. That's what we have to do first is we have to gather that information. And once we gather that information, I think we'll be able to make a better determination of how best to disseminate it.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 57:11

I think we have that information. We know what's being applied and where it's being applied. It's a question of how is it being disseminated to the public? So, the question is, does it go on a website? Is there some form that it gets reported out? Are the forms that are included in the document filled out? Is that something that can be accessed? Something more than a sign that citizens may or may not notice or read. That's the question I have. Maybe it doesn't get addressed with this resolution, but it feels like it's a key missing element when residents ask me about something, and I can't get an answer for them. Alder Smith.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 57:45

I agree with your approach, Chair Van Zeeland, that, you know, maybe some information gathering period and then with that information we could turn to some of Alder Schultz's concerns about dissemination. We'd get a sense of what this information looks like and how much of it there is, and then, with that in hand, we could make some disc—we could have some discussions about dissemination. And I just I don't want to let the note about—I don't think that this is we are characterized by complacency here, and I just want to take umbrage at that term, and that that is what taking small steps on pesticide use is what we're about. And change has to start someplace, and there were—I think this is a realistic plan that we've got.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 58:29

Also, the notion that Appleton—I mean, if other municipalities—I mean, I don't know, nobody knows about any of the most of the other stuff he mentions, but for glyphosate, US Fish and Wildlife Service, City of Green Bay, Door County Land Conservation Department, the Nature Conservancy, the University of Wisconsin Green Bay—I mean, it seems like we're in good—it's not that we're meeting the low requirements of the law. But we're actually in best practices that are being used by organizations and institutions that we really—that we admire and that we want to be named with. So, you know, that's where we should start is where we have come and the good that's happening in our community, and not to not to imply that we're just meeting this low bar of the law, because I don't get a sense of that's what we're doing.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 59:16

Director Gazza.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 59:19

Thank you for saying that because even if we didn't do—say, we were complacent as a city, we weren't doing none, we improve every year because not only is the federal and state regulations getting tighter, the industry as a whole and their chemicals are getting better. But on top of that, we are continually looking for alternatives and we are continually finding ways of doing things where we're treating less areas, we're doing—we're just—we're looking. So, I'm glad you said that.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 59:49

I think the other thing is that I kind of always ask in these situations is—and a former alderperson submitted it—but what is the public looking for? And I'm always out there serving the public. So, you know, if we do something like this, what are we doing? Why are we doing it? How are we doing it? When are we doing it? You know, answering a lot of those questions so we're meeting this customer expectation. I can say that if I let a park go get weedy, the phone will be ringing off the hook.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:00:24

We'll hear about it too, I'm sure.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 1:00:27

I hear about it on a regular basis already, why there's so many weeds, and my kid's playing there, and what are those weeds? And, you know, it's amazing. So, remember that that who are we doing it for and why are we doing it is it very important. And so, when I look at—we're balancing. We're trying to be as safe as possible with every chemical, but yet still meeting them needs to hit them expectations that our that our constituents want. So, I just look at that. It's kind of like—and then the last thing I would say it'd be kind of like if something—the resolution talked about getting rid of it, versus just the transparency, you know, and then it kind of went to transpare—but it's kind of like saying—now this is an analogy—"No more plow trucks. They give off too much exhaust. No more plow trucks. Staff, have a good day." But there's an expectation still to get that snow plowed. Give us give us—what are we supposed to do if that's the case? So, if we're going to get rid of glyphosate and we're not going to be able to use it on fence lines and things like that, what do you want us to do? You—will you give us more staff to cut the weeds and things like that? So, I just want you think about those things from our from our position. But we are trying to be as con—environmentally conscientious, and you know, not only environmentally, but mainly we're talking about people's health.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:01:54

Thank you. Alder Fenton. Eight?

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:01:57

Please. Thank you, Chair. You're doing a much better job than we did a municipal services and of handling this, and I am—

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:02:10

You were very crunched for time.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:02:12

I was. And I was—I felt like we were at a disadvantage by not having Director Gazza at—and I kept pushing things off at that meeting. My only objection to simply changing the resolution to just ask staff for a list of what chemicals are being used is that I think we lose—I am not in favor of saying "We do not buy these chemicals." I am not in favor of saying, "Our city contractors do not buy these chemicals." And I'm not in favor of some of these. However, I do think—and not to go where you didn't want to Alder—former—Dr. Del Toro going. Um, we do have a resolution in another committee. We do have a new website coming up that I understand is going to make it much easier for city departments to publish information. So, you won't have to have a consultant and pay somebody a bunch of money to redo a page on the city website. So, I'd like us to keep our minds open to—because I'm in hopes that this new website is going to give us much more transparency about everything—you know, what our street closure schedule is and what you know, et cetera, things, the sweeping schedule, things that can be modified. So, I'm in hopes that maybe in conjunction with that, we can go to something, okay, you know, "Erb park is being sprayed for—was sprayed for—with this today." Or "Along the fence line, we sprayed Round Up here," kind of thing. So, and that's my only concern about losing everything but the request for the list.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:04:16

Thank you. And I'll just add as the person who made the motion to amend, I'm in agreement with that. I just, I think that it's hard to put together a policy for how to disseminate information on things we're doing when we aren't aware right now of what those things are. You know, we want to have some data with which we can figure out how much staff time it takes, or maybe it's minimal. But in order to do that, I think we have to start somewhere. I saw Alder Wolff had his hand—or did you want to—okay, go ahead.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 1:04:53

Thank you, Chair. Can I direct my questions to the—?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:04:57

Sure.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 1:04:57

Thank you. Um, I haven't talked in a while. So, Director Gazza, your point about us asking you to do something without giving you solution is very well taken. I think that a lot of times here, including myself, we asked directors to do something without necessarily having the answer right away. And while I do think maybe if we find out that some of these chemicals are being used, we—I think that we can find a solution to replace them. So, I do think that this is the right way to go. Just getting the list of things that we are using could help us in a different direction.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 1:05:42

I don't know—one other thing to add here, maybe you can, maybe you can't. But some of the contractors, if they're using chemicals like on apartment buildings and those terraces in that area, if we can figure out what they're using there, because I know a lot of times the people who live in apartments aren't notified of what's going on there. I obviously know that that's nothing to do with the city. But I'm just putting it out there because I've been thinking about it a lot. So yeah, thank you.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:06:13

Alder Schultz.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:06:14

Thank you, Chair. After all of this discussion and sort of considering what's in front of us and the notion that we might significantly pare this down, and if we remove one or two things that kind of defeats the purpose of the resolution. I'm—

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:06:30

Just to remind you, that's what we would do here. The other item still stands at Municipal Services.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:06:38

If an action, um, this is—can I direct a question to Attorney Behrens? If an action were taken here to receive and file this at this committee, how does that affect the hold at the other committee?

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:06:48

Other committee can still have their stick at it and do what they want.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:06:53

And okay, so just to help me remember, if we were to receive and file, if the other committee did the same, could we bring something back within this calendar year? Or is it essentially this is kind of done for this year?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:07:10

Can I clarify for you?

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:07:12

Sure.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:07:13

Are you talking about doing something like the amendment in...?

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:07:18

Well, if we were to come back with a much cleaner version that said, "Here are two things we would like to direct staff to do. One has compiled this list. Two is to come up with a mechanism for reporting that out." It just feels like this is a really grimy situation right now with this document to come back and say, "Well, we finally pared it down to these two things." Maybe that's the way to do it. But maybe there's a cleaner way to do it. I'm open to either and I guess I'd lean into committee and staff to or committee to decide which way is cleaner, better. I just feel like—

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:07:33

Without having the language, I worry about Attorney Behrens being able to give us an actual answer.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:07:56

Well, I can just—procedurally if this, if this gets acted on by both committees, and it's received and filed or Council votes it down, the one-year rule goes into play. One Council your rule. If you bring something back within that year, it's really going to be at the chair's discretion. So, the mayor, in other words, through resolution to decide whether or not it's substantially different from what's before you here. And if the mayor would decide, it's not substantially different, and therefore, I think it's out of order, then it's up to the Council decide if they want to try to override that ruling. But that's kind of how it would play out.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:08:46

Now, we've got one other committee that's put this item on hold. This committee has a number of motions kind of in play right now. I've heard some discussion about interest in bringing something back. If this committee were to hold it, that would allow time to work on—what we have right now on the floor here's basically an amendment by substitution. But if you want more time to try to work out some amendment by substitution to bring back through one or both of the committees, you'd have that ability to do that. Or you can go ahead and act on what you've got pending right here too. I just kind of put that out there.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:09:29

Did you have anything to add?

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:09:34

Sure, just—we could do those things. We could also shelve it and work directly with Parks and Recs to do the things we're asking without having to bring forth the resolution. So, there is that other option that's always on the table. So.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:09:47

Here's my thought about this, then we'll go to Alder Meltzer. The reason I think moving forward with the amended version would be good is that gives us this summer slash early fall to gather more information so that if we do want to act on things, we can act accordingly. Alder Meltzer, you are 14 is that correct?

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 1:10:13

Thank you. I would encourage the committee to hold this.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:10:17

Okay. Anyone else on the amendment? All right. So, hearing none—

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:10:25

Can you restate the amendment chair?

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:10:26

Yes. So, the amendment would be, instead of what we see here for "therefore, be it resolved" that it would just be, "therefore, be it resolved that the Parks and Recreation Department will keep track of purchased pesticides and report to parks and rec to the chair."

[Attorney Behrens speaks off microphone.]

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:10:48

Okay, well, go ahead. Sure.

[Attorney Behrens speaks off microphone.]

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:11:04

Sure, I had noted "at purchase," so going forward when we're purchasing these items to be used, that we are keeping track that way. That way, there's documentation; there's a record, and then perhaps we could look at, going forward—not in this amendment, but going forward—we can look at how those were used. What specific purpose they were used for. Who they—who used them? Were? etc.

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 1:11:32

Would it help to add some of the mayor's language about the opportunities for alders to join experts in the field? That could be part of the information gathering. We just had that opportunity?

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:11:44

I think that I—I don't think I'll add that just for the purpose that I'm—we don't need an action to make that happen.

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 1:11:52

Okay.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:11:54

I try to restate

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:11:55

Go ahead.

[Attorney Behrens speaks off microphone.]

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:03

I'm sorry.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:05

Yes.

[Attorney Behrens speaks off microphone.]

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:12:06
—forward.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:07
Yes.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:12:08
—how they were used, by whom, and report back to committee at the end of summer.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:16
Yes, sure. That works. That works for me. I mean it's a little more than I intended, but I think as long as Director Gazza doesn't think that that will be too time consuming.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 1:12:29
No, I think that would be fine. I mean, it really comes down to if a kid—one of our kids has a bees nest in a pavilion, are you wanting him to report out the pesticide or the use of the can to take down the bees nest? I mean, that—how far do you want us to go? I think you're—what you're relating to is the turf management portion—

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:52
Correct, that's correct.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 1:12:53
—not insect control. So.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:54
That's correct.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 1:12:55
Okay, the turf management. Then then I think we're on the same page,

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:58
Because I would—I think we're going to find is that within the turf management policy, we already have certain pathways, but given that we don't know for sure, I think that that would be helpful. So that is the amendment. Any questions or discussion on the amendment before we vote? I'm sorry, go ahead.

[Attorney Behrens speaks off microphone.]

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:13:25
—types of turf management.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:13:29
Correct.

[Attorney Behrens speaks off microphone.]

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:13:34

I real it's really more of a, I guess, by position than by person. You know, it's—the type of employee would be reasonable.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:13:54

Correct.

[Attorney Behrens speaks off microphone.]

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:14:00

That's correct. Thank you. All right. Anything else? Alder Schultz, I probably shouldn't ask, but I'm gonna ask you.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:14:08

I think we're really close to the intent. And this is our starting point, and it does those two things. It tells us what we're using where and also begins the reporting mechanism, and then we can figure out if it's lacking in some way, shape, or form and how we can address that perhaps with something on a website or a public notice. So, I think we're there, and if that's where this goes, I'm okay with it.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:14:33

Okay. All those in favor of the amendment say aye. Aye. Any opposed? The amendment passes five zero. And Alder Wolff.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 1:14:44

Call the question.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:14:49

Attorney Behrens.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:14:51

Okay, so you've amended it by substitution. Now I think we need to vote on the item as amended.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:14:56

Correct

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:14:57

So, understanding that, I'm gonna clear this, and there would be a motion and order for approving the item as amended.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:15:08

So, I'll make a motion to approve the item as amended.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 1:15:11

Second.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:15:11

Second.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:15:11

We have a motion to approve the item as amended and a second. Any discussion?

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 1:15:16

Just to be clear for myself, this is what you just read that we're—

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:15:18

Correct. That's correct. To approve the amendment we just approved. Okay. Hearing none, we'll vote. All those in favor say aye. Aye. Any opposed? That motion passes five, zero.