



Memorandum

Date: September 19, 2019

To: West Linn Mayor and City Council, City Staff and Readers

From: Eileen Stein, City Manager

Subject: City Manager's Weekly Report – September 19, 2019

Schedule Items

- September 23 Executive Session at 3 p.m. and Work Session at 4 p.m. See posted agenda.
- October 7 Executive Session at 3 p.m. This is to complete the City Manager's 2019 evaluation.
- Town Hall. The date of the next Town Hall is now set for October 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. and will be at the Adult Community Center.

Information Items

Short Term Rental Policy. Some have asked whether work is happening on a short term rental (e.g. Air BnB) policy. Work is happening in the background which staff expects to bring to Council this fall. Due to staff capacity, we have been holding off for some. Additionally, we have been monitoring the work that Lake Oswego is doing to refine its policy. Short term rental regulations/taxing *are* already identified on the Planning Docket. We can make a report at the next City Council/Planning Commission joint meeting. With a now full Planning Staff it is likely this and other docket items will gain more traction.

Herbicide and Insecticide Use. There has been some recent inquiry about the City's use of herbicides and insecticides prompting Ken to draft this overview. Every year as the tolerance to weeds and less than perfect turf and landscaped areas grows, we strive to reduce the areas we spray and are basically trying to work our way down to those areas where there really won't be much of an option as in the case with invasive plants in some cases in partnership with the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Nature Conservancy, some aged curb lines that have gaps where weeds can take hold and therefore causing damage to asphalt. Though there are some alternatives to Round-up, most are geared toward the scale of home care, and have not proved to be effective or practical in a larger setting. Even as new products develop, our goal is to minimize the amount of herbicides used period.

The last time an insecticide was used, other than the occasional yellow jacket nest, was about 20 years ago when we had an infestation of European Crane Fly that basically ate all of the turf at Skyline Ridge Park. As it relates to Bee City, we do not spray anywhere near the pollinator gardens or even the less formal areas where pollinators may happen to frequent e.g. clover in our turf and other landscape areas. Because of the huge volunteer effort at Mary S. Young Park we rarely spray there with the exception of specific problem areas above. I did see a claim that a dog had entered the fenced area that is the pollinator garden at Mary S. Young Park and it was reported that it contracted lymphoma. That area was sprayed approximately two years ago prior to planting, at the recommendation of the Xerces Society, and hasn't been sprayed since.

All of our applicators are licensed, and when we do spray, we either do post the areas sprayed or stay on site to make sure people do not enter those areas. When possible, we also try to minimize the amount

of surface area we spray by trimming or cutting back our targets prior to spraying. We continue to look for alternatives and have been fortunate to receive the help of so many volunteers willing to tackle these problem areas, thereby eliminating the need for herbicides in certain spots. At some point, I would like to be able to say we have the entire City covered by different volunteer groups, or that our citizens don't mind the weeds, so we have no need for herbicides.

Legislative Conference Calls. Activity for the 2020 Legislature is starting to bubble up and so our legislative conference calls with our lobbyist, Doug Riggs, are about to start up again. These will begin in October, every other Monday morning at 7:30 a.m. The Mayor regularly participates in these calls, but if others on Council are interested in calling in, please let me know.

That's it for this week.

Eileen