



**MINUTES**  
**Town of Atherton**  
**Environmental Programs Committee**  
**DECEMBER 15, 2022**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

Chair Miles-Holland called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM

**ROLL CALL**

**Committee Members:** Chair Miles Holland (Present), Vice Chair Farrell (Present), Frederick (Present), Loew (Present)

**Council Member Liaison:** Hawkins- Manuelian (Present), Mayor DeGolia (Absent)

**Staff:** Management Analyst Londer (Present), Sustainability Coordinator Kim (Absent), City Clerk Suber (Present)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – *None.***

## AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consideration of Proposal from the American Green Zone Alliance (AGZA) for a Workshop for Professionals Transitioning to Battery Electric Land Care Equipment and Operations

Committee member Frederick introduced the proposal and his process for reaching out to landscapers, homeowners, and other stakeholders. He expressed community interest for training about electric land care equipment. He shared community concerns around the training relative to landscapers operating without a business license among other privacy issues.

Committee member Farrell and Frederick discussed having landscapers coming in pairs with their landscaper. Focusing on the audience of homeowners and landscapers.

Committee member Miles expressed concerns around timing as it may impact staff's priority items and capacity. Additionally, communications about the event may get lost or confused with Earth Day. Recommends using Earth Day as a time to promote an educational event. This event could happen after Leaf Blower Ordinance is considered at Council at February 2023.

Councilmember Hawkins Manuelian agreed that the training proposal could go to Council in February along with Leaf Blower Ordinance. Councilmember Hawkins Manuelian agreed that the Earth Day event would be a good opportunity to spread the word on the training.

The committee discussed the benefits and downsides of hosting the training in March.

Councilmember Hawkins Manuelian asked whether AGZA would bring the equipment. Committee member Frederick confirmed that AGZA will bring 6-8 equipment manufacturers. Not available for direct sale. Councilmember suggests that the equipment specifications be added to the proposal.

Councilmember recommended inviting Bright View, MCE, Circus Club, and Schools. Councilmember Hawkins Manuelian asked that all Town landscaping contractors and subcontractors be invited.

Suber shared that the Town owns both gas and electric blowers.

Committee member Farrell requested staff reach out to vendors. Suber shared that we can reach out to vendors after EPC and Council makes a decision.

Committee member Frederick shared that finding equipment with co-benefits demonstrates values to landscapers. Equipment that makes the job faster and easier are more readily adopted.

Councilmember Hawkins Manuelian asked the committees opinion on inviting neighboring jurisdictions. Committee member Frederick recommended that we invite attendees that live or work in neighboring jurisdictions.

Committee member Frederick requested that we ensure that Zoom is added to proposal as Holbrook Palmer does not have wi-fi or a technology set up.

Chair Miles Holland opened the meeting for public comment.

Member of the public recommended doing a series of videos on YouTube highlighting the manufacturers and their equipment to promote the event.

Committee member Miles Holland asked if there is a maximum number of attendees. Frederick shared that he wants a focused group looking at 15 – 45 attendees.

Committeemember Miles recommended that we add buffer costs to budget to avoid going back to Council and recommended building in a mechanism with this company to reschedule if attendance is not high.

Chair Miles Holland moved the group to recommend that staff finalize proposal and bring to Council for their consideration. EPC voted affirmatively for staff to bring training proposal to City Council.

- Loew – Abstains
- Miles-Holland – Yes
- Frederick – Yes
- Farrell – Yes

## **COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS**

### **A. Review of Subcommittees – Oral Reports Only**

- Electric Landscaping Tools / Sustainable Landscaping Technology (*Formerly Leaf Blower*) – Frederick & Farrell  
-Agenda Item #1 centered around the work of this subcommittee. No additional reports given.
- Reach Codes – Home Electrification – Miles – Holland & Farrell  
- No Report
- Water Conservation – Frederick & Farrell  
- No Report
- Earth Day – Farrell & Miles- Holland  
- No Report

- Sustainability Website – Miles -Holland
  - No Report

## **FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

1. Discussion on education and outreach for the Town's new reach code requirements.
2. Deciding on new Chair and Robert's Rule of Order training for New Committee Members

## **NEXT MEETING DATE CONFIRMATION**

<b>2023 Meeting Dates</b>
January 19, 2023
March 16, 2023
May 18, 2023
July 20, 2023
September 21, 2023
November 16, 2023

## **ADJOURN**

Chair Miles Holland adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.