



## Item No. 2 Town of Atherton

### **CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA**

**TO:** HONORABLE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**FROM:** RACHAEL LONDER, MANAGEMENT ANALYST II

**DATE:** MAY 18, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Review the Battery and Electric Landscaping Training with the American Green Zone Alliance (3/29/2023)

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the EPC debrief the training and discuss the next steps

### **BACKGROUND**

The Electric Landscaping Tools / Sustainable Landscaping Technology Subcommittee worked with Staff to host training for local landscapers and residents on electric and battery equipment such as mowers, blowers, and a variety of trimmers. The workshop was facilitated by industry experts, the American Green Zone Alliance, and Gardenland.

### **ANALYSIS**

There were 22 residents and landscapers who attended in person and 15 attended online. There were also more than a dozen representatives from the industry including equipment manufacturers, the American Green Zone Alliance, and local retailers. Attendees were able to look at electric and robotic lawnmowers, electric leaf blowers, electric trimmers, and more. Attendees learned about the benefits of going electric, how to address common in-the-field challenges such as safe and reliable equipment charging, and how to operate equipment efficiently to save time and money. The EPC will formally debrief the event and determine any next steps during their next meeting on May 18. The key takeaway from the event was a call for local landscapers to participate in the State's incentive program for battery and electric landscaping equipment linked here: <https://californiacore.org/how-to-participate-professional-landscape/>. Committee Member Frederick provided a summary of the event that is attached.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The City Council allocated \$6,000 for the training including marketing, refreshments, and trainer fee. Total cost for all of these activities came to \$5,550.13.

## **GOAL ALIGNMENT**

This Report and its contents are in alignment with the following Council Policy Goals:

- Goal Area F – Be Forward-Thinking, Well-Managed, and Well-Planned

## **POLICY FOCUS**

The training provides education on electric landscaping equipment that supports the Town's updated Noise Ordinance banning the use of gas leaf blowers.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town's electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town's electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders –to include, but be not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, service providers (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

## **COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL**

This item has not been before a Town Committee or Commission

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Committee Member Frederick Report on March 29 Training
2. A recording of the training is available here: [Town of Atherton Community Event - American Green Zone Alliance Workshop](#)