

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Planning & Development Services

TO: David L. Corliss, City Manager

FROM: Planning Staff

Date: February 7, 2012

RE: TA-4-6-11: Synthetic Turf; Draft language to permit the limited use of synthetic turf through Alternative Compliance to meet landscaping requirements in Article 10 of the Development Code

Attachment A: Letter from Mr Joe DiGeronimo with recommendations on standards.

This memo updates two standards for synthetic turf which are listed on the original staff memo. Staff had contacted Mr DiGeronimo, an expert in the synthetic turf field, for assistance in drafting the standards. Upon reviewing staff's recommendation, Mr DiGeronimo provided a letter with recommendations for revisions to two of the standards found in Sections 20-1011(b)(3 and 5). (Mr DiGeronimo's letter is attached.)

The minimum infill height was listed in Section 20-1011(b)(5) as "75% of the height of the turf or a minimum of 1.5 ". Mr DiGeronimo explained that this should have been the maximum and he provided a recommended minimum. He also recommend that the term 'Durafill' be removed from the approved infill materials as it is a proprietary term.

The standards listed in the IBR have been revised as noted below based on Mr DiGeronimo's recommendation":

(deleted text shown as ~~struckthrough~~, new text as **bold**.)

20-1101(b)

- (3) Infill medium shall consist of ~~Durafill~~ or coated sand or 70% rubber/30% sand by volume. Rubber infill made from old tires is not acceptable.
- 5) Minimum infill height: ~~75% of the height of the turf or a minimum of 1.5.~~ **Not less than 40% of the fiber or pile height or .75".**
- 6) **Maximum infill height: Not to exceed 75% of the fiber or pile height or 1.5".**



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Ms. Mary K. Miller, Planner
Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Office
P.O. Box 708
Lawrence, KS 66044

January 31, 2012

RE: Synthetic Turf Requirements

Dear Mary:

Jane Eldridge asked me to review the proposed standards on synthetic turf.

Having done this, I would like to take this opportunity to further suggest or correct any misunderstanding of my earlier recommendations to you.

Two items stand out as a concern to me. I would like to further clarify or recommend that the infill levels be set not to exceed 75% (or 1-1/2" as it relates to the fiber height). In addition, I would like to suggest that you also include a minimum requirement of not less than 40% (or approximately 3/4" as it relates to the fiber height). This range is more consistent with the products available on the market. It should be the manufacturer's specifications that fit within this range.

As my second concern, I would recommend that you use the term "coated sand" and avoid the proprietary use of "Durafill". This would better describe the intent of your standard without being proprietary or allowing for a single manufacturer to take advantage of any purchaser.

I hope this will help you understand my position on this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,
DI GERONIMO-MIKULA ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.

Joseph W. DiGeronimo, STC
Principal

Cc: William J. Mikula, PE
Louis A. DiGeronimo, AIA
Rusty Abell, STC
Jane Eldridge, Esq.

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