

**ITEM NO. 3      TEXT AMENDMENT TO CITY OF LAWRENCE CODE; SYNTHETIC TURF (BJP)**

**TA-18-00466:** Consider a Text Amendment to the City of Lawrence Code, Chapter 18 & 20, regarding the use of synthetic turf. *Initiated by City Commission on 10/16/18.*

**STAFF PRESENTATION**

Becky Pepper presented the item.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**COMMISSION DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Willey asked about the maximum square footage.

McCullough said it was at the discretion of the Planning Director. He said they were trying to avoid the wide scale use of it in place of living plant material. He said an applicant could appeal a denial decision from the Planning Director.

Commissioner Willey asked if synthetic turf was permeable.

McCullough said yes. He said it was appropriate in small scale projects.

Commissioner Willey wondered if it was possible to put a size description on 'small scale' or limit it to instances where the grass or other surface would not be appropriate.

McCullough said in practice the language had served well. He said when plants are required or necessary there should be live plants or landscape material used such as rock or mulch. He said the uses approved so far had not been for landscaping use but rather for a dog run or playground field area for children.

Commissioner Carttar asked about the appeal going to the Board of Zoning Appeals instead of Planning Commission.

McCullough said it was part of the site plan process. He said many standards go through the Board of Zoning Appeals before an administrative determination on a site plan so it would align with current practices.

Commissioner Kelly said he would vote in favor of the text amendment.

**ACTION TAKEN**

Motioned by Commissioner Struckhoff, seconded by Commissioner Sinclair, to approve the proposed Text Amendment, TA-18-00466, to the City of Lawrence Code, Chapters 18 & 20, regarding the use of synthetic turf and forwarding to the Lawrence City Commission with a recommendation for approval.

Approved 9-1, with Commissioner Sands voting in opposition. Commissioners Butler, Carpenter, Carttar, Kelly, Paden, Sinclair, Struckhoff, Weaver, and Willey voted in favor of the motion.