

**Observer Report****Planning and Development****October 25, 2021****Observer:** Sue Calder**Date:** October 25, 2021

**Aldermen Present:** Revelle, chair; Wynne, Suffredin (for part of the meeting), Nieuwsma, Reid, Burns and Kelly .

**Staff Present:** Nyden and one other who presented the report on P 3.

**Start:** 5:44pm

**End:** 6:39

Public Comment Revelle announced that they would be heard at time of the agenda item

For Introduction

P1 Extend the time for applicant to obtain a building permit for 1900 Sherman. One public comment opposed to the project. The extension was requested because the plans need a major adjustment -seems the soil is not strong enough causing structural problems for the current design. The City will have to step in on some of the upgrading of the soil. Applicant will go to the Plan Commission on Wednesday. Kelly thought coming to P&D before the Plan Commission was premature. Others explained that this timing has happened before and there will be two issues - timing and revising the plan, Reid suggested lengthening the time of the permit process but Nyden said although extensions are sometimes needed, a 12 month period helps to push the developer to keep moving forward. Passed.

P2 Amend the leaf blower policy to remove "leaf blowers" from "noises prohibited" to "health and sanitation." Canal Shores suggested that they are already using battery operated blowers for the greens (as in the proposed ordinance) but would like the area specified to be expanded to "in play" area, which includes the fairways, but continue to use gas blowers for the rest of the area. Their plan is to gradually phase out gas blowers in the next few years. Nieuwsma made an amendment to the original motion, which passed with Reid voting against. Other discussion included 1) how will it be enforced: property owner or landscape company (definitely not the lawn guys themselves), 2) should the fines increase with each offence, 3) companies would have to register with the City - should they get decals for their trucks, 4) need to educate residents that this is a health issue. City is looking into buying battery blowers in bulk at a lower cost and then sell them to companies to reduce their burden. This will not go into effect until April 2023. The amended motion passed unanimously.

Items for Communication

P3. Lessons learned: Greenleaf Shared Street Pilot Project. Barriers were put down to set up a bike lane and to see if that would help both vehicular traffic and walkers. The barriers had little impact and people frequently moved them and then City had to replace them to the proper spot. 68% of people preferred bike lanes to be protected. Overall the pilot was expensive. Other projects will be explored: Church and Dodge to McCormack (high school) and Chicago from Davis to Howard.

P5. Electric Scooter regulations and electric scooter share rides (think Divvy). Some problems with electric scooters: currently don't have turn signals, not well lit (should have a headlight and brake lights). Chicago is also exploring options and Evanston is working with them and will try to get some of our concerns adopted by Chicago, which is a much bigger market.

