

ITEM NO. 5 TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PARKING LOT PERIMETER SCREENING (MJL)

TA-12-00207: Consider Text Amendments to the City of Lawrence Land Development Code, Chapter 20, Article 10, to change the parking lot perimeter screening standards. *Initiated by City Commission on 8/21/12. Deferred by Planning Commission on 2/27/13.*

STAFF PRESENTATION

Ms. Michelle Leininger presented the item.

PUBLIC HEARING

No public comment.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Commissioner Hird asked if the net effect of the text amendment was to add the option of a continuous row of evergreen shrubs.

Ms. Leininger said yes.

Commissioner Hird asked if staff was satisfied that was a suitable option.

Ms. Leininger said yes.

Commissioner Culver inquired about removing fence from the landscaping options and what it would do to existing properties.

Mr. McCullough said the fence item was proposed new language.

Commissioner Liese said some of the least attractive photos showed dead plants.

Mr. McCullough said the plants may be dormant for the season. He said the text was meant to be an evergreen shrub. He said dead/damaged plants could be enforced by complaint or when a revision to a site plan is proposed.

Commissioner Liese asked if the plants at Central Middle School and Auto Exchange were not evergreens.

Mr. McCullough said some of the plants were in combination with a berm, wall, or fence. He said they would have to look at each case individually.

Commissioner Britton asked if the pictures with evergreen or other shrubbery were either in conjunction with a berm and voluntarily added by the property owner or may have been pursuant to waivers.

Mr. McCullough said it could have been under different codes, pursuant to waivers or variances. He said many times the property owner will go above and beyond the Code with landscaping.

Commissioner Britton asked if landscaping could be enforced with a complaint or with site plan revisions.

Mr. McCullough said that was correct.

ACTION TAKEN

Motioned by Commissioner von Achen, seconded by Commissioner Hird, to approve the proposed amendments, TA-12-00207, to the Land Development Code, Article 10 and forward to the City Commission for approval.

Commissioner Britton thanked staff for the additional information and pictures.

Unanimously approved 8-0.