

RESOLUTION NO. 20130523-078

WHEREAS, the City of Austin strives for landscaping that is aesthetically pleasing, as well as environmentally sustainable with regard to water quality, air quality, urban heat island effect, and water conservation; and

WHEREAS, because some native plants may prefer mineral aggregates that mimic their natural habitat, while others prefer organic mulches that hold more moisture, there could be appropriate, sustainable uses for aggregate materials in Austin's landscape; and

WHEREAS, City Code Section 25-2-1003(D) allows a required landscaped area to include features such as brick, stone, and aggregate if they do not predominate over the plant materials; and

WHEREAS, city criteria limit and discourage the use of aggregate materials in landscaped areas based on the ability of more common, organic mulches to retain moisture, lower soil temperatures, and reduce heat island effects; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to promote landscaping that incorporates sustainable design features, minimizing treated water use, reducing storm water runoff, enhancing infiltration, and reducing building energy use; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to work with stakeholders to review the city code and criteria requirements regarding aggregate materials in landscaping and make any necessary recommendations for code or criteria manual changes.

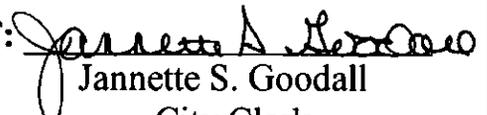
The stakeholder group should include, but not be limited to, licensed landscape architects, civil engineers, commercial property owners, environmentalists, and ecologists. Additionally, representatives from the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, Building Owners Management Association of Austin, the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, the U.S. Green Building Council Central Texas – Balcones Chapter, and other similar groups and associations should be invited to participate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to present the stakeholder group's findings to the Environmental Board for recommendation, and then report the findings and Environmental Board recommendation to the City Council no later than September 17, 2013.

ADOPTED: May 23, 2013

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk