

Alternate Equipment Subcommittee Meeting

11 August 2022

9:30 AM

Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

- Co-Chair Michael Braiman
- Co-Chair Ghida Neukirch
- Tessa Murray
- Beth Brucker

Absent

- Hall Healy
- Chuck Myers
- Fred Wacker
- Brian Rener
- Alison Winslow (joined at 10:08 AM)

The group reviewed the draft report prepared by Tessa Murray. The report was developed based on research the committee conducted on the following topics:

1. Noise comparisons
2. Power Comparisons
3. Time comparisons
4. Cost comparisons
5. Environmental impact comparisons
6. Community policy types
7. Ban considerations for electric equipment charging
8. Ban considerations for electric battery recycling
9. Ban exemptions or phase-outs
10. Financial incentives
11. Educational outreach

Discussion:

Information about gas powered blowers versus raking will be elaborated.

It was discussed that an evaluation of wet leaves versus dry leaves has been discussed given that heavier leaves have been a factor for gas powered equipment. The subcommittee will request that Dan Mabe, AGZA, address this issue.

The Village of Wilmette has contracted with AGZA to provide information about cost differentials and battery run times.

It was stressed that reference from the EPA report on decision making was important as they are a respected, informed source.

The final report will include a consideration on community policies and time frames for suggested bans. It was suggested that we confirm with the subcommittee evaluating community regulations that they are identifying if citations are issued to the worker, landscape company or the property owner.

It was reported Ace Hardware corporate is compiling information about a buy-back program to offer to municipalities. The information will be included in the report as a consideration. Municipalities or other entities would then consider a partial cost-share. The Illinois Landscape Contractors Association may want to consider a partnership to help offset a portion of the buy-back program as well.

It was suggested that the final report include a notation that communities would be able to take the educational information, such as door hangers, and have it translated in other languages. A sentence could be noted at the bottom of the door hanger in Spanish or other language, inviting the reader to contact City Hall for questions about the notification.

Additional considerations will be moved to best practices, such as businesses must be licensed to do business in the community.

The final report should include an exhibit identifying those municipalities that have license requirements in place so communities can contact them for ordinance and application information.

Mike will use the report that Tessa drafted to prepare a final report for the Regional Working Group.

Next Steps

The Working Group meeting will be postponed from August to September 26, 2022 at 3 PM.

Respectfully,

Ghida S. Neukirch
City Manager, Highland Park, IL