

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION **PRESENTED:** May 10, 2017

TITLE: 6817 Winstone Drive – Appeal of Natural Lawn Application Denial. 1st Ald. Dist. (46541) **REFERRED:**

REREFERRED:

REPORTED BACK:

AUTHOR: Chris Wells, Acting Secretary **ADOPTED:** **POF:**

DATED: May 10, 2017 **ID NUMBER:**

Members present were: Richard Wagner, Chair; Dawn O’Kroley, Cliff Goodhart, Rafeeq Asad, Lois Braun-Oddo, John Harrington, Tom DeChant, and Amanda Hall.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting of May 10, 2017, the Urban Design Commission **GRANTED FINAL APPROVAL** of a previously denied application for a natural lawn located at 6817 Winstone Drive. Appearing on behalf of the project was Janette Rosenbaum. Rosenbaum stated that staff approved her permit in February after an unusually exhaustive interrogation of her yard. Approval was then overturned by objecting neighbors. The permit then passed to the Urban Design Commission to decide if it should be upheld or if the objection of her neighbors constituted illegitimate grounds to bar her from doing what the City of Madison has officially encouraged since 1978. At the last meeting the preliminary decision was that her application reflected a legitimate natural yard plan. She submitted pictures show that she bought a yard filled with non-native species, aggressively mowed and pruned into unnatural forms, which she replaced in 3 years with native species and natural forms. Kyle Bunnow of the Building Inspection Division stated that the fines associated with this application have been paid through monetary payments or community service. There are still outstanding orders that have been issued by the department. The orders from their perspective are to either remove the fence or install an approved fencing material and to reduce the height of the shrubs for the vision clearance at Pilgrim and Winstone, as well as around the property to the appropriate heights, which still has not happened.

Comments and questions from the Commission were as follows:

- I have to agree that about the fence, but that’s not really what a natural lawn is about, right? The pictures I don’t have a problem with but I can understand why the neighbors are upset about the fence and the shrubs. I don’t know that we have anything to do with that. I’m looking at the pictures of the interior of the backyard, I don’t see a big issue.
- We can approve the appeal subject to the plans with all the other requirements that the City has.
- (Alder Harrington-McKinney) The City has been very diligent, the resident has been very diligent. The issue of the fence is something that I will be sending an official letter; she was told it was compliant, she paid for it and those particular things we’ll be trying to get them to have some responsibility because she

did pay those costs. The neighbors were opposed to the maintenance of the natural lawn, not the existence of the natural lawn. As long as the resident is in compliance I am OK with it.

ACTION:

On a motion by Hall, seconded by Braun-Oddo, the Urban Design Commission **GRANTED FINAL APPROVAL**. The motion was passed on a vote of (6-0-1) with DeChant abstaining.

The motion provided that the applicant shall clear all other City requirements.