From: Glaeser, Janine
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 3:39 PM
To: Tucker, Matthew <MTucker@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Cleveland, Julie <JCleveland@cityofmadison.com>; Firchow, Kevin <KFirchow@cityofmadison.com>; Ethington, Ruth <REthington@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: UDC 7/18/18 - Legistar #52475 Zoning Text Amendment

Matt, for the 7/30/18 PC packet - here are the UDC Recommendations on the zoning text amendment.

Julie, please send the (4) public comment items (redacted) to Matt for inclusion with the Plan Commission Packet.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Commission does not support use of stone as a mulch in any case. Do not support ordinance change.
2. Add provision to zoning text that the UDC can require wood mulch on projects under our review.
3. If does allow stone mulch, special review required for exception.
4. Forward email public comments from Landscape Architects to PC and CC.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Janine Glaeser, AIA, LEED AP
Planner, Urban Design Secretary
Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development
Planning Division
126 S. Hamilton Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2985
jglaeser@cityofmadison.com
T: 608.267.8740

-----Original Message-----
From: Darrel Morrison [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 1:59 PM
To: [redacted]
Glaeser, Janine <JGlaeser@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Gravel beds vs. organic mulch in small urban spaces

To the Urban Design Commission:

As a current resident of Madison, I am writing to register an opinion on the use of gravel beds versus an organic mulch (e.g., shredded bark, preferably with planting) in small open spaces within the urban fabric.

I am attaching four photographs, taken today, July 18, 2018, at Sequoya Commons, where I live, for you to compare and contrast. The first three show the gravel bed approach; the fourth shows the alternative. I think they speak for themselves, but offer the following brief commentary:

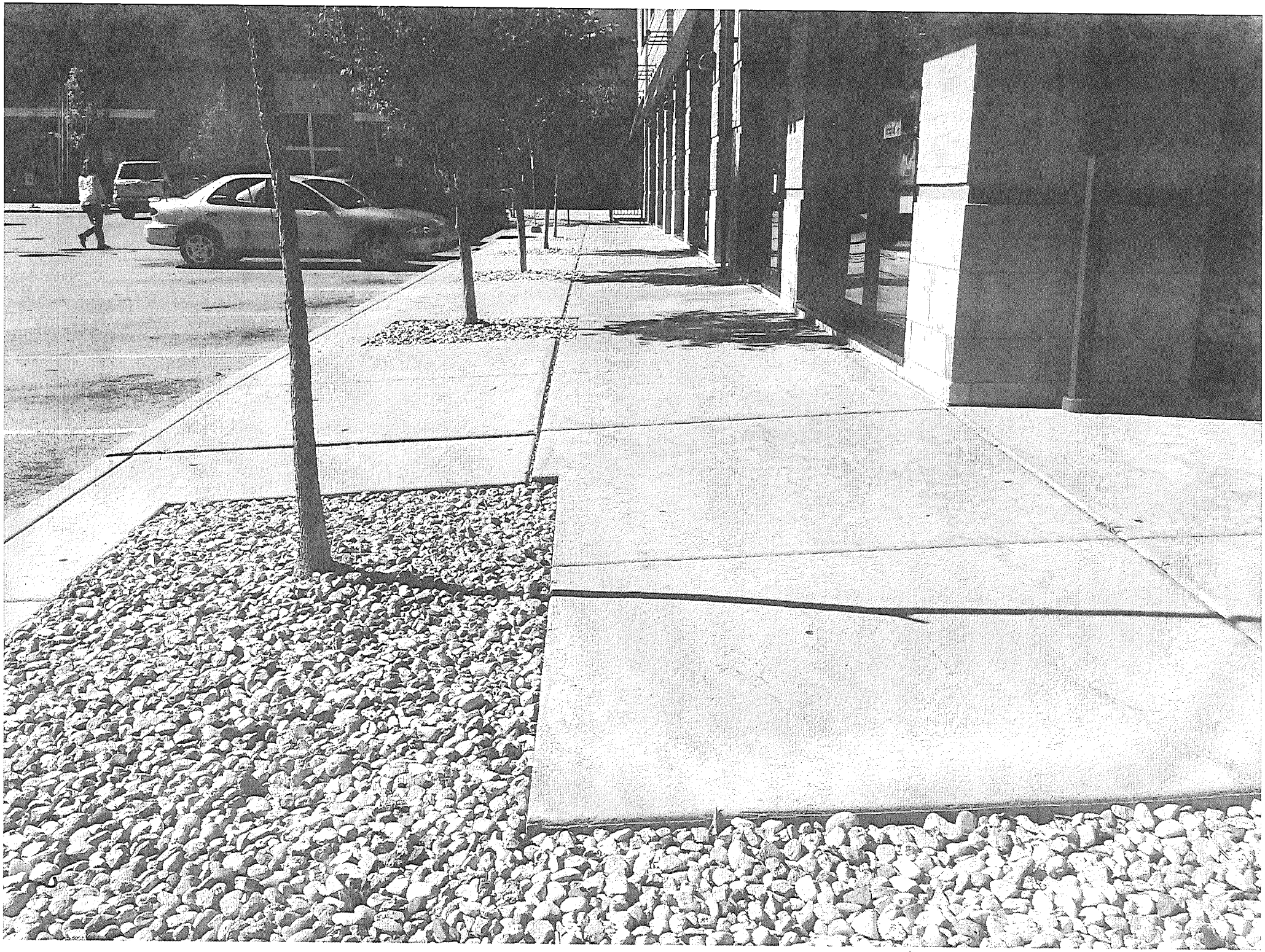
The gravel beds are obviously lifeless; they lead to a buildup of heat during the day, which then re-radiates overnight. The organic mulch on the other hand insulates the soil; it absorbs rainfall, slowly releasing it to plants that are planted into it. Evaporation from the mulch itself, combined with transpiration from the plants has a cooling effect.

But in my opinion, the key advantage of an organic mulch with planting is that it brings life into the city. Not only the plants, but also the bees, butterflies and other pollinators which are attracted to them potentially bring beauty and joy to people in the city which too often is a sea of paving—and gravel "mulch".

Respectfully,

Darrel Morrison
Fellow, American Society of Landscape Architects, Professor and Dean Emeritus, University of Georgia College of Environment & Design
(currently) Senior Faculty Associate, UW-Madison, Dept. of Planning & Landscape Architecture


FANCY NAILS

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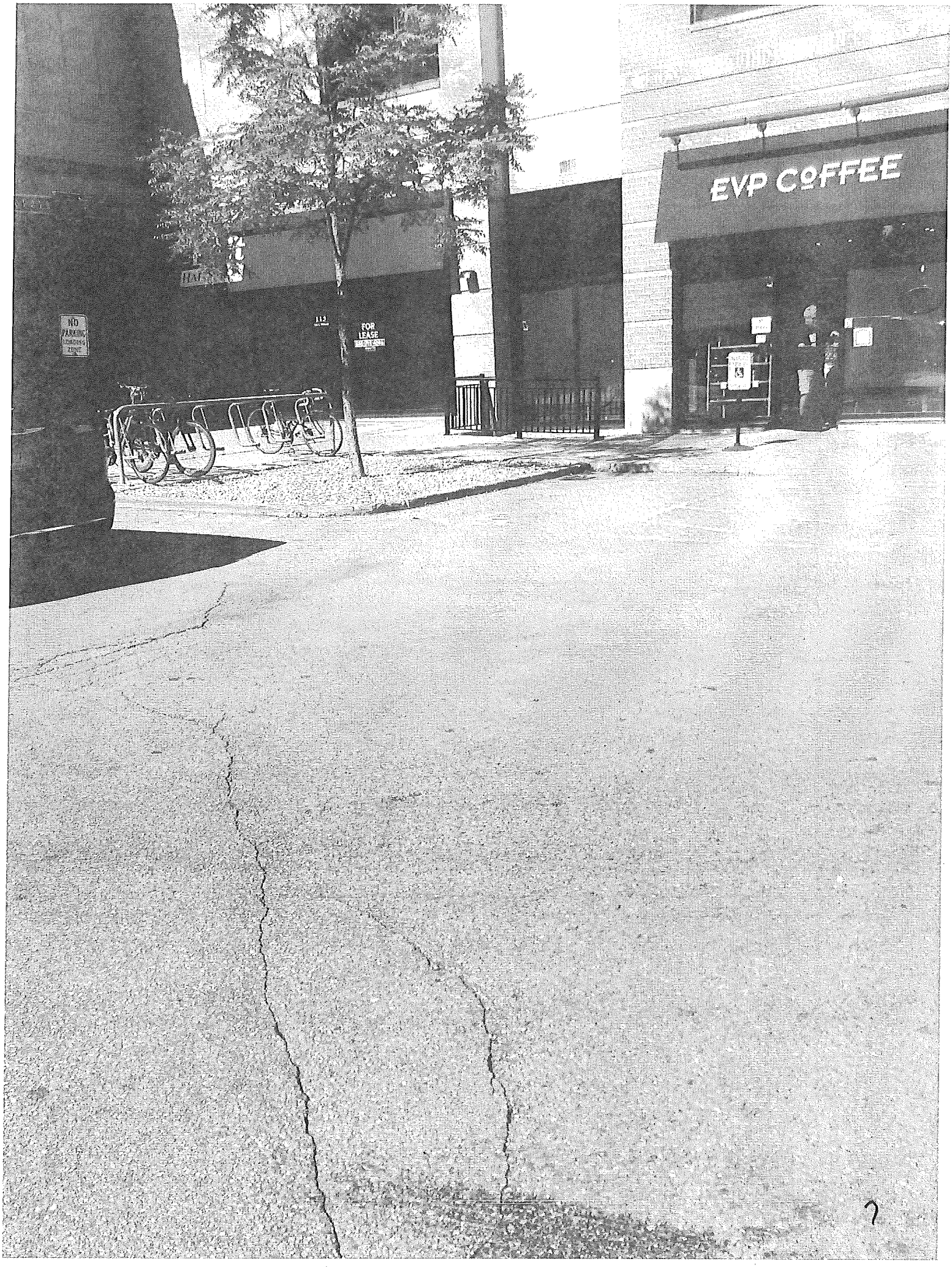
EVP COFFEE
NO PARKING LOADING ZONE
FOR LEASE


FOR
LEASE
SaltCo

From: John Harrington
To: [redacted]
[redacted]
Subject: Re: zoning text amendment re: mulch
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 1:32:33 PM
Attachments: Organic mulches.pdf
ATT00001.htm

Hi Janine
This amendment on stone mulch is disappointing. The past three landscape architects on the commission advocated for this and under some discussion it was adopted. To see it be rehashed is frustrating. Yes, stone mulch may mean less redressing than that required of bark and may have a "cleaner" look for *some,* but that is about it. Stone is really not a mulch but a decorative element. Stone heats up in the day and cools rapidly at night which is hard on roots. Stone reflects heat onto plants, it does not support microbial growth or maintain soil porosity in the manner of bark mulch nor does it maintain a consistent level of soil moisture. The decomposition of bark mulch is a plus for the plants.

The zoning ordinance was meant to encourage the use of shredded bark mulch and not bark chips. Unlike chips, the movement of shredded bark mulch out of beds is limited, but can occur, but this also occurs with stone. Personally, I would rather step on bark mulch that has made its way to the sidewalk then trip on stone.

If the UDC has questions about the advantage of bark, I suggested that before commissioners vote they visit several sites with stone mulch around perennials and young trees/shrubs and compare those to plantings in shredded bark mulch. A prime example is Sequoya Commons. These should be sites that have been in for a least one year. I would also suggest that if stone become acceptable that a reevaluation of another requirement, having 75% of a bed in vegetative cover, That seldom happens with stone.

Both mulch types have their pros and cons.It comes down to what is valued most, convenience for project management or the encouraging of significant vegetation growth in the urban area. You may provide my comments to UDC members.

As a past board president and a landscape architect, I totally agree with John Harrington's statement about stone mulch. Stone is not a growing medium. It the lazy way out of maintaining planting beds, because they also use weed barrier fabric under the stone which inhibits plant growth as well. Take care of the plants the proper way and they will grow and thrive and beautify the landscape.

Bruce Woods

Janine,

The referenced item was brought to my attention today. In an effort to be as passionless as possible with this issue; I will address my thoughts/concerns as they are appear in the legistar file.

1. The copy states 'stone...for use in appropriate situations'. There are two situations that I would consider appropriate:
    a. areas that DO NOT have any plant material
    b. beds specifically designed and maintained as gravel gardens (refer to Jeff Epping, Olbrich Gardens for criteria)
2. Mulched areas that are 'prone to water runoff'. This issue is better addressed with the grading design. Gravel that migrates to paved areas (which it will) poses a much greater safety issue for pedestrians.
3. Bark mulch can 'attract and provide habitation and sustenance...promote vermin entry into structures'. It is possible to provide larger stoops at building entries and/or zones of plant-free stone beds separating planted areas from entries.
4. 'Pets can have a tendency to eat bark mulch'. Sounds like a fabricated problem...hang up the cell phone and pay attention to your pet. Also...spraying poison on lawns and beds should be a greater concern.
5. 'Landscape architects should be empowered to make the appropriate decisions about mulch design at particular site or location'. This makes it sound as if they are also so 'empowered' by the Owner/developer. Let the landscape architect present their appropriate decisions before the Urban Design Commission on a case-by-case basis. Plant-free: stone runnels designed for the conveyance of runoff; rock gardens; and stone beds are all fine for the use of stone. Area with plant material must receive a layer of compostable bark which continually enhances the quality of the soil.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Richard

Richard L. Slayton, RLA EDAC ASLA
Senior Site Planner/Landscape Architect

From: Ron Shutvet [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, August 4, 2018 8:14 AM
To: Veldran, Lisa; All Alders; Mayor; Eskrich, Sara; Carter, Sheri; Baldeh, Samba
Subject: Ordinance 52049 Use of stone as mulch

Regarding agenda item 52049 for your August 7 Common Council meeting. Please do not allow use of stone for mulch for the following important reasons:

- Stone (with or without a weed barrier) eventually will fill with soil and debris and allow weeds to grow there. It is extremely difficult to weed and clean up stone areas that have filled with debris and weeds. Just look at all the "for free" ads that exist on Craigslist where people who have older stone mulched landscape areas around their houses beg for anyone to come take the stone away for free because the area is ugly, weed choked, and impossible to maintain so that it looks attractive. These ads stay up forever because no one in their right mind would want to try to dig up; clean up; haul away; and reuse those stones elsewhere. It is just too much work.
- Stone is a lazy way to mulch an area that is supposed to provide greenspace. It looks sterile and uninviting. Often the plants in stone mulched areas don't grow well and die back leaving nothing but stone and weeds to look at. Even the prettiest stones look ugly when surrounded by nothing but debris and weeds. Ever try to get debris out of a stone mulched area? It is very hard to do!
- Around the world, look at societies that are experiencing social issues with protests and riots breaking out in the streets. The first thing that happens when these protests get out of control and turn violent is that anything heavy that you can fit in your hand becomes a dangerous or lethal projectile which is then thrown at police officers or between two protesting groups. Car and building windows get broken by the hundreds or thousands. If there is not a supply of thousands of stones laying on the ground, any protest that gets out of hand has less chance of causing serious injuries. Madison has had its share of violent protests in the past. Don't provide readily available projectiles for future ones.

Please! Don't use stone for mulch, ANYWHERE.

Ron Shutvet