

From: J ZUK <flinthills6@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2022 1:22 PM
To: Judith Storandt <JGStorandt@msn.com>
Subject: Re: **City proposed "Tall Grass" Ordinance changes**

City Commissioners: I live next door to 105 South Race Street and am writing to express my views on the proposed changes to city ordinances with regards to lawn care and landscaping.

Since I am the only person who actually has to look at the Storandt's yard, I feel I have more dog in this fight than the average citizen.

I have watched with interest the creation of the Tall Grass Prairie in their back yard since its inception. I don't find it an eyesore and in many ways it is more beautiful than the average yard planted with fescue or Bermuda grass. The flowers are a bright addition.

I have no increased rodent traffic through my yard and I feel their cats and my dogs are doing a fine job of keeping any rodent population down. The Daylight Donut shop probably has more problems with rodents than we do.

Prairie roots burrow deep into the soil where they can access water thus lessening the fire danger it would seem to me. I can understand your desire to push native plants back from the front of the house but it would seem to me that what they put into their backyard landscaping is between them and their neighbors.

Again, since I am the only one who can see it and I like it, you would seem to have no grounds to force the destruction of the prairie.

I find it historically interesting that when the tallgrass prairie was destroyed during the first World War so that more land could be cultivated, it was followed by the Dust Bowl which came about because the prairie grasses weren't there to hold the topsoil down anymore.

It seems to me, we have enough problems with climate change as it is.

The Storandt's small slice of prairie isn't going to combat climate change but it is an aesthetically pleasing way to keep their yard healthy.

I am also concerned with the new need for a detailed landscaping permit. If you require a permit for some, don't you need to require it for all?

I don't believe the City of El Dorado should be in the HOA business, but that is what this ordinance would create. What comes next, fees to homeowners? Fines?

As I drive around El Dorado I am frequently appalled by the lack of care some take in their property. Many houses need painting and landscaping. If you require some to create the yard you want them to have, how much further is it to require people paint colors that you approve of.

This ordinance is a slippery slope of unintended consequences. I ask that you rethink it.

Sincerely

Janice Zuk
125 Race