

From: [Patrick Kelvie](#)
To: [George Rodericks](#); [Council](#)
Subject: No Ban re Leaf Blowers
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As reported in the Daily Post, two paid staff/consultant members (Anothy Suber and Douglas Kim) are leading their own agenda to ban leaf blowers. Perhaps they are also the ones that circulated an utterly fatuous poll on this topic. That poll methodology was pure nonsense, without any considered thought as to the implications. We could just as well have asked folks if they would like a goose that lays golden eggs, have trees that shed actual money, or anything else. The poll made no effort to inform readers of the tradeoffs, as one should expect with pros and cons and in-depth exploration of the issues.

This is a council decision or should be a voter decision, and not based on the uniformed agenda presented. But no decision is even really necessary.

We do not need more divisive issues before us as in the proposal by Suber and Kim to step in front of technology's cutting edge. Electric tools and cars are becoming more and more common as improvements are made. Many carpentry and other power tools are now the professional's and homeowner's choice because of the convenience and acceptable or even superior performance. But ... that is simply not the case with leaf blowers yet. Lithium batteries for tools have improved dramatically for tools in the last five years, but they just don't perform long enough to operate acceptably powerful leaf blowers. Heck, sustainable fusion actually appears on the horizon, but it is not here yet. We need to face reality, not vote on dreams that cause hardship for others.

Gas-powered leaf blowers will naturally phase out in just several years without any legislation, including that promoted by Marc Berman. For many, the use of gas blowers makes more sense on the weekend when one wishes to clean up briefly for entertaining, enjoyment of one's yard, or simply that is when the gardening maintenance is done. My gas blower clears the leaves from the roof, the leaves from the pool cover, the lint out of my dryer exhaust, and myriad of other uses that electric leaf blowers do not do or do not do as well.

Gardeners, homeowner and professional, should not be expected to purchase new (yet inferior) equipment and stacks of batteries. Let this naturally happen, as it will when technology and innovation catch up. Are Suber and Kim offering to pay for this? Have they factored in the cost to homeowners and professional gardeners? No, apparently not. Atherton does not need what is analogous to another tax.

Table the blower issue. It is not its time.

Would be glad to review this with any of you, but I am not able to make the Council meeting this week.

Thank you,

Patrick

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Patrick Kelvie |

