CCC Air Quality Subcommittee Meeting Notes

20200103

Participants: Larry Cooper and James McGinnis

Discussion Items

- Collaboration with Ashland Hardware Electrical Landscaping Equipment. This will need to be a generic offering, not to a specific business. A business can independently offer these services and educational programs.
- Education around leaf blowers. In connection with Earth Day (3-way contest – e-blower, gas-blower, rake) – set it up as a flash mob? Video it and make it available as part of Larry's video library. Other opportunities during peak leaf blower times in fall around town as a flash mob. Is this legitimate for the CCC to sponsor this or does it need to be purely citizen driven?
- Research on other cities. (https://www.nonoise.org/quietnet/cqs/other.htm, https://hdsupplysolutions.com/s/leaf_blower_noise_regulation Then select Oregon). Larry will follow up with those cities and new cities that have banned or otherwise leaf blowers.
- Research on health regarding leaf blowers (asthma, noise, and fumes).
    - Hearing: https://www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/blog/2017/08/lifestyle-eco-actions-gas-powered-leaf-blowers
    - further studies: https://www.salon.com/2017/10/08/noisy-but-that-is-not-all_partner/
    - health Threat Seattle: https://www.seattleglobalist.com/2017/09/25/leaf-blowers-flagged-as-polluters-possible-health-threat/68802
    - Health and environmental impacts of leaf blowers: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/health-and-environmental-impacts-leaf-blowers
    - Further studies 2019: https://www.zmescience.com/science/leaf-blowers-health-noise-hazards/
- Carrot vs stick? Ordinance vs other means of encouraging use of e blowers/suckers or rakes. Blowers are best at removing leaves from landscaping, but what about Japanese garden rakes that do the same thing? Then there is the "added overhead costs" in labor in raking vs blowing. Then there is the health factor of dust, and fossil fuel fumes.
- Check in with Ahimsa Gardens Ashland to see what they are doing in lieu of leaf blowing. James will follow up.