



Report Number: EC2023-0328

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2023 March 22

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Notice of Motion – Addressing Foxtail Barley, EC2023-0328

Sponsoring Councillor: Councillor Spencer

WHEREAS Foxtail Barley (*Hordeum jubatum*), a perennial plant species, has increasingly become a reported issue of concern for The City of Calgary;

AND WHEREAS Foxtail Barley can spread rapidly through airborne seeds, if allowed to mature, and is known to thrive in recently disturbed soils and areas of high salinity, and often first to emerge as a pioneer species;

AND WHEREAS conditions for the spread of Foxtail Barley are increasingly creating large tracts of the plant, particularly in recently stripped lands, in or adjacent to developing communities;

AND WHEREAS Foxtail Barley poses a danger to animals, especially dogs, when their spreading seeds (awns) are ingested, inhaled or embedded in the fur;

AND WHEREAS other jurisdictions in Canada have designated Foxtail Barley as a nuisance weed because of its spread and danger to pets and livestock;

AND WHEREAS The Province of Alberta has not designated Foxtail Barley under the Weed Control Act for mitigation as either a Noxious Weed or Prohibited Noxious Weed;

AND WHEREAS The City of Calgary, through Community Standards, has the responsibility and authority to regulate neighbourhood nuisance, safety, and livability issues;

AND WHEREAS penalties (under BYLAW 5M2004, sec 46(1)) do not address large commercial or developing properties;

AND WHEREAS proper Foxtail Barley mitigation is crucial prior to the plant reaching 15 centimetres in height;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to draft Amendments to the Community Standards Bylaw to address Foxtail Barley, with a focus on larger non-residential parcels;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to develop a public education and awareness campaign for pet owners to understand the risks of Foxtail Barley and actions that can be taken to protect their pets;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to report back to The Community Development Committee in Q2 2023.