

**YAC Report # 14-2
June 13, 2014**

**YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: Playground Surfacing Options for Future Playgrounds

DISCUSSION: The Committee considered this referral at their November 2013 meeting and revisited the matter at their June 2014 meeting.

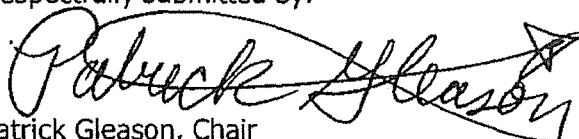
Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) and Rubber Mulch have many similar qualities—both require borders and need replenishing—yet EWF is a natural product that falls in line with the city’s rich history as a natural oasis and it is almost \$7.00 per square foot cheaper than its counterpart. In addition, when maintained properly, EWF is considered accessible while rubber mulch is not.

Wood Fiber does not warrant the chemical concerns that Rubber Mulch or Poured in Place surfaces engender. The Committee recognizes there continues to be a need for further research on potential effects associated with poured in place surfacing. However, the Committee understands the value of using poured in place surfacing in some instances when installed in suitable locations because of reduced maintenance costs and the value of providing ADA accessible surfaces.

RECOMMENDATION: The Youth Advisory Committee recommends use of Engineered Wood Fiber on city playgrounds or poured in place surfacing when appropriate, such as shaded areas or other not in continuous direct sunlight.

Vote 5-0

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Gleason" with a star at the end of the name.

Patrick Gleason, Chair
Youth Advisory Committee