

**City of Lake Forest Park – Special Tree Board Meeting
Draft Meeting Minutes: October 12th, 2022; 7:00-9:00pm
Hybrid Meeting Held in the Forest Room at City Hall and Virtually via Zoom**

Tree Board Members present: Marty Byrne, Richard Olmstead, Mande Parker, Doug Sprugel

Staff and others present: Riley Bushnell, Assistant Planner; Steve Bennett, Planning Director; Councilmember Larry Goldman; Drew Foster, The Watershed Company

Members of the Public present: John Brew

Tree Board Members absent: None.

Call to order: 7:03 PM

Short Reflections: None.

Introductions: The Tree Board members and City staff introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Chair Olmstead introduced an amendment to the agenda. Ms. Bent motioned to approve the amendments to the agenda, Mr. Sprugel seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: None.

Public Comment: John Brew from the Stewardship foundation spoke about the bus rapid transit lanes and the scheduled tree removals. He said he had no further comment at this time.

Communication:

Next Meeting

Chair Olmstead spoke to the next meeting scheduled for November 2nd at its regularly scheduled time. Mr. Sprugel talked to the ability to meet more in-person. Ms. Byrne mentioned that either way works for her. Ms. Parker said she would to be open to meet in-person and discussed wearing a mask. Chair Olmstead reaffirmed this meeting would take place at its normal meeting time of 7 P.M. and that board members should be there in-person if possible.:

Announcements

New Assistant Planner: Riley Bushnell introduced himself as the new Assistant Planner, mentioned his background and expressed his eagerness to get started in his new role.

Arborist: Director Bennett provided an update on the Arborist position and the candidate pool and the hours demanded of the role. Mr. Sprugel asked why the previous Arborist left the position. Director Bennett responded that the previous arborist had found it difficult to deal with applicants' frustrations with the City's tree regulations and permit process. Ms. Byrne asked why applicants have a problem with the tree code. Chair Olmstead provided a perspective that he felt intimidated when he first applied for a tree permit and he also illustrated how, in the end, it went smoothly. Director Bennett emphasized having an in-house arborist helps with the issue of applicant confusion

1 when applying for a tree permit. Mr. Sprugel mentioned it might be worthwhile to talk to citizens
2 about what within the tree permit process is the most frustrating/hard to understand.

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4
5 **Old Business:**

6 McAleer Creek Restoration – Julia

7 None.

8
9 2022 Tree Inventory – Planning Staff

10 Director Bennett discussed how hard it has been to keep the tree inventory on schedule without an
11 in-house arborist. Mr. Foster summarized the scope of work for the tree inventory and the
12 challenges of re-doing a tree inventory from 2010. He also mentioned the plot-based sampling
13 approach to the inventory, that 110 plots were put into iTree database and that larger trees
14 throughout the city were focused on in the inventory.

15
16 Mr. Foster noted the difficulties in completing the full inventory in 2022 without a city arborist and
17 discussed that there were only 44 of the original plots that his team had permission to access at this
18 point lots. He expanded on the logistics of accessing lots and homeowner outreach and talked about
19 the importance of plot centers for the inventory and that going forward there will be an emphasis on
20 hardscape features and reference points in the inventory. He mentioned how citizens engaged him in
21 small talk while taking inventory in the field and how that, paired with problems accessing
22 properties, took up unanticipated time. He indicated that 62 lots must be re-measured but only 55
23 can be re-measured due to denial of access to properties from owners. He noted that he has
24 prepared an amendment to the scope to include additional outreach efforts to include more
25 homeowners to collect better data in order to match the 2010 inventory.

26
27 Mr. Foster mentioned outreach strategies that are planned and that extending the data collection
28 until the spring of 2023 would provide more data on the characteristics of trees and how they
29 change throughout the seasons.

30
31 Chair Olmstead mentioned how a councilmember who was not present was avid about marketing
32 for trees. Mr. Sprugel expressed desire re-measure plots. Mr. Foster agreed. Chair Olmstead
33 mentioned the timeline of the tree inventory and it being delayed due to the pandemic.

34
35 Tree Code Amendments Update

36 Chair Olmstead talked about how data from the inventory would help with the tree code in terms of
37 tree size. He noted that recommendations had been made to the Council and that some of those
38 recommendations were put on hold until the inventory is complete. Councilmember Goldman
39 mentioned that he looked forward to the tree species and tree diameter data which would be among
40 the larger concerns that will come from the inventory.

41
42 Director Bennett mentioned the waiting period for appeals that was recently addressed by Council
43 and the origin of that amendment which from a specific case of an approved tree removal permit
44 that was appealed.

45
46 Replacement Tree Plantings in City

47 Chair Olmstead mentioned he has no updates. Mr. Sprugel stated Sound Transit might provide
48 funding for the neighborhood tree program. Chair Olmstead was not aware of the funding. Director

1 Bennett mentioned that he is working with Sound Transit staff on a method for the agency to fund
2 off-site replacements.

3
4 2022 Arbor Day Event

5 Chair Olmstead discussed Horizon View Park and the tree to add for the event. For the event, he's
6 not sure on whether to pursue it this fall or next year's Arbor Day. Director Bennett discussed the
7 location and reaching out to the park's department about the logistics.

8
9 Public Outreach Plan

10 Chair Olmstead mentioned that the public outreach plan would be generated from Sandy and the
11 media calendar will be available soon and will cover the next few months' events and information
12 graphics for the event will be posted.

13
14 **New Business:**

15 Tree Board Website Link Updates

16 The Board discussed updates to links on their page on the city's website, including a map of the
17 canopy over the city would be added to the website. Ms. Parker mentioned she's working on tree
18 information integration into the website. Chair Olmstead expressed his joy in that update.

19
20 LFP Farmers Market Booth in October

21 Chair Olmstead discussed having a booth at the LFP Farmers Market and the viability of that
22 happening so late in the year.

23
24 Heat Island Effect & Town Center

25 Chair Olmstead discussed a proposal he had to increase the number of trees in the Town Center to
26 reduce impacts of the urban heat island effect within the Town Center and its vicinity.

27
28 **Reports and Announcements:**

29 Frontlines

30 None.

31
32 Councilmember Goldman's Report

33 Councilmember Goldman provided an update on the work that City Council is focusing on. This
34 included the work with Sound Transit and updates to the tree code.

35
36 Preliminary discussion about 2022 Tree Inventory Data

37 Mr. Foster mentioned LIDAR data and tying it to plot data for the tree inventory.

38
39 **Agenda for Next Meeting:** Same as above.

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42 **Adjournment:** Mr. Sprugel moved to adjourn. Ms. Byrne seconded; and the meeting adjourned at
43 8:08 PM.

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45 APPROVED:

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A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Richard Olmstead" in a cursive script. The first name "Richard" is written in a fluid, connected style, and the last name "Olmstead" follows with a large, prominent 'O' and a trailing flourish.

Richard Olmstead, Chair