City of Lake Forest Park – Tree Board Special Meeting
Special Meeting Minutes: July 8th, 2026; 7:00-9:00pm
Hybrid Meeting Held in the Emergency Operations Center at City Hall and via Zoom

Tree Board Members present: Victoria Kutasz, Stacey Spain, Mark Phillips, Ross Baarslag-Benson, Richard Saunders, Doug Sprugel

Tree Board Members absent: Minda Martin, Kyle Gati

Staff and others present: Larry Goldman, LFP Councilmember; Christi Bishop, Urban Forest Planner; Mark Hofman, Community Development Director

Call to order: 7:01 p.m.

Short Reflection: Board Member Phillips shared a quote from Myred Craighead about tree roots.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Board Member Baarslag-Benson moved to approve the agenda; Board Member Saunders seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:
June 03, 2026, Meeting Minutes
Board Member Phillips moved to approve the minutes as amended to remove Board Member Spain from members present and edit line seven under New Business to state that members will provide feedback individually; Board Member Saunders seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Reports and Announcements:
Cmbr. Goldman announced that Council voted to send levy lid lift on public safety to the November ballot.

Ms. Bishop shared with the board the final decision on replacement trees for the roundabout project.

Board Member Baarslag-Benson shared that the tree walk video with Richard Olmstead was recorded with help from board member Martin.

Old Business:
KCD map
Ms. Bishop addresses request to add stream buffers to PlanIt Geo KCD treplotter map. Due to lack of access to GIS and funds to access GIS, the shape files are unavailable to provide to the PlanIt Geo GIS specialist. Ms. Bishop agrees to look into the possibility of adding more layers in the future.

Mr. Hofman reiterated Ms. Bishop's remarks on GIS access and budget. He mentioned the CD departments work load capacity and the goals for the next year. Goals are to understand and implement code, launch KCD map, solidify good standing in Evergreen Communities program, and complete updates to tree list.

Cmbr. Goldman mentioned that a GIS specialist has been a budget item priority in the past and for the 2025-2026 budget, based on community feedback, decided a Climate Coordinator was the choice over GIS specialist.

Tree Giveaway

Board Member Phillips stated that he has a contact at 300 Trees (Barbara Braun) and that its too early for concrete arrangements.

Board Member Sprugel asked if Sound Transit can plant their mitigation trees on private property. Cmbr. Goldman and Mr. Hofman shared that they are working on the ordinance for clarification of where those replacement trees can be planted.

Board Member Phillips reminds the board that Big Trees in Snohomish has offered to provide the City with a large tree. Board Members discussed where a big tree could be planted.

Outreach Check-In

Board Member Kutasz stated that the August 26th climate conversation on wildfire is on hold with no rescheduled date. She also mentioned the August 23rd Farmers Market and September 12 Picnic In The Park tabling. Board Members discussed tabling shifts.

Updates on Articles

Next article to be written by Board Members Baarslag-Benson and Saunders. Must be submitted by July 29th end of day.

Drought resistant trees was mentioned as a topic for next article.

New Business: No new business.

Next meeting: The next meeting occurs on August 5, 2026.

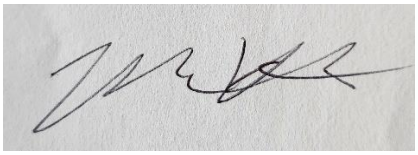
Agenda for Next Meeting:

July 8, 2026 agenda items will include KCD map, Tree Giveaway, Outreach Check-In, Updates on Articles.

Adjournment: Board Member Spain motioned to end the meeting and Board Member Sprugel seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

APPROVED:



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Victoria Kutasz, Chair