City of Lake Forest Park – Tree Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes: May 06, 2026; 7:00-9:00pm
Hybrid Meeting Held in the Forest Room at City Hall and Virtually via Zoom

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

Staff and others present: Larry Goldman, LFP City Council; Christi Bishop, Urban Forest Planner; Elizabeth Talavera, Associate Planner; Mark Hofman, Community Development Director (via Zoom)

Members of the Public present: No members of the public present.

Tree Board Members absent: Richard Saunders, Minda Martin

Call to order: 7:02 PM

Short Reflection: Tree Board member Phillips gave a reflection on a quotation from Pleasures and Regrets by Marcel Proust.

Introduction: The Tree Board Members and staff introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Board Member Phillips motioned to approve the agenda; Board member Gati seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:
April 01, 2026, Meeting Minutes
Board member Phillips motioned to approve with amendments; Vice Chair Spain seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment: No public comments.

Next meeting: The next meeting occurs on June 03, 2026.

Reports and Announcements:
Councilmember Goldman announced that the city council is working on adopting regulations for the limitations on AI at city hall. City council is also continuing work on the budget.

Old Business:
<u>KCD and SFI Grants Updates</u>
Ms. Bishop gave an update on the KCD grant, including that she gave Planit Geo the shape files. The Tree Board members also gave a summary of the grant process to the new Tree Board members so that they were looped in on the process and how the KCD map will benefit the city. Board member Phillips volunteered to reach out to KC to see if it was possible to include streams as a layer on the map.
Mr. Hofman discussed the status of the SFI grant. Mr. Hofman gave an overview of the grant and how currently the money was reallocated. The Tree Board members then discussed how to move forward with updating the Urban Forestry Management Plan without the SFI grant.

Event recap for Arbor Day and Green Fair

Vice Chair Spain and Board member Phillips gave an update on the Green Fair. Chair Kutasz mentioned that during the event she received questions on right-of-way trees and trees on utility agency properties. Chair Kutasz also mentioned that attendance for the Arbor Day event was approximately 45 people. Board member Baarslag-Benson mentioned the idea of videotaping the tree walk and putting the video at the Climate Hub for viewing. Board member Baarslag-Benson also mentioned that at the event, the question of permitting for invasives was brought up by members of the public.

Updates on Articles

Vice Chair Spain presented the draft article on ivy. The Tree Board members discussed possibly shortening the article to meet the word count. Board member Baarslag-Benson volunteered to help draft the next article on holly. Board member Sprugel discussed the idea of an article for tree care, including drought tolerant tree care tips. Board member Phillips and board member Baarslag-Benson also volunteered to help draft this article.

Work Plan Check-In

Chair Kutasz discussed checking in with the work plan. Board member Phillips discussed that the tree giveaway during the Fall can meet the goal for the tree planting section of the Work Plan.

New Business:

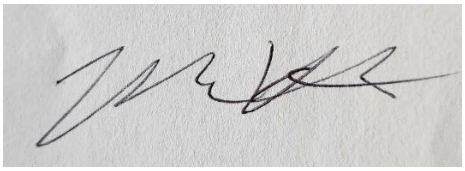
Agenda for Next Meeting:

June 3rd agenda items will include KCD map, Tree Giveaway, Outreach Check-In, Updates on Articles.

Adjournment: Board member Sprugel motioned to end the meeting and board member Baarslag-Benson seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

APPROVED:



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Victoria Kutasz, Chair