

1 City of Lake Forest Park – Tree Board Meeting
2 Meeting Minutes: May 3rd, 2023; 7:00-9:00pm
3 Hybrid Meeting Held in the Forest Room at City Hall and Virtually via Zoom
4

5 **Tree Board Members present:** Marty Byrne, Chair Richard Olmstead, Sandy Levar, Doug Sprugel
6

7 **Staff and others present:** Riley Bushnell, Assistant Planner; Councilmember Larry Goldman;
8 Hannah Swanson, City Arborist; Steve Bennett, Planning Director
9

10 **Members of the Public present:** John Brew, Betsy Ormond, and Mark Phillips
11

12 **Tree Board Members absent:** Mandee Parker
13

14 **Call to order:** 7:04 PM
15

16 **Short Reflection:** None.
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18 **Introductions:** The Tree Board members, City staff introduced themselves and so did the members
19 of the public present.
20

21 **Approval of Meeting Agenda:** Chair Olmstead talked about the change to the current agenda due
22 to events that took place in the last month, Mr. Sprugel's report on replanting and the city's
23 amendments to the tree code. Chair Olmstead proposed to adopt the agenda, Mr. Sprugel moved,
24 Ms. Byrne seconded.
25

26 **Approval of Minutes:** Chair Olmstead proposed the approval of the minutes from the previous
27 meeting. Ms. Byrne moved, Mr. Sprugel seconded.
28

29 **Public Comment:** John Brew presented a problem with Douglas fir bark beetles. According to Mr.
30 Brew, three different citizens have had issues with them, one has used traps. He also talked about a
31 tree removal that took place on 155th St. Per Mr. Brew, the subject trees got cut a week ago.
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33 Mr. Brew also brought forth the Sound Transit Bus Rapid Transit (ST3) project and said we should
34 come together as a community on the matter.
35

36 Betsy Ormond spoke about her experience with trees as a potential board member.
37

38 **Communication:**

39 Next Meeting

40 Chair Olmstead and Assistant Planner Bushnell spoke to the next meeting taking place on
41 Wednesday June 7th at city hall and via Zoom.
42

43 Announcements

44 None.
45

46 **Old Business:**

47 2023 Arbor Day Event

1 The ceremonial Arbor Day tree planting at Horizon View Park took place last month, with a lot
2 of the tree board members, councilmembers and people from the public present. The tree looks
3 good and is flowering per Chair Olmstead's report.

4 5 Lake Forest Park Green Fair

6 Ms. Levar and Ms. Byrne recounted their time at the Green Fair. They both sat at the table in the
7 morning and Mr. Sprugel with former member Julia Bent sat at the table in the afternoon. Ms.
8 Byrne talked about the materials that they passed around, the activity and questions asked by the
9 public. Ms. Levar talked about the content of the materials and the tree board discussed the types
10 of materials that should be administered and distributed by the tree board going forward.

11 12 "Unheralded Properties"

13 Mr. Sprugel spoke about undeveloped properties that are publicly owned aka "unheralded
14 properties". He thinks they're nicely forested already and therefore aren't available for tree
15 planting. He thinks they can maybe plant a tree here or there within the margins but not in large
16 numbers. Planning Director Bennett touched on how knowing the conditions and whereabouts of
17 these properties is important for when the council adopts new tree regulations.

18 19 **New Business:**

20 Tree Code Amendments Update

21 Planning Director Bennett shared the draft of the new tree code regulations. He addressed the two
22 types of right of way permits proposed in the new regulations. He explained definitions provided in
23 the tree code. He emphasized that the goal of the code, both current and proposed, is canopy
24 replacement. New regulations regarding off-site tree replanting were discussed between Planning
25 Director Bennett and the tree board.

26
27 The nuances of the proposed right of way corridor permits in the new regulations were brought
28 forth by Planning Director Bennett and he asked the tree board for their input. Chair Olmstead
29 brought forth the sound damping property of tree corridors regarding the ST3 project. The board
30 discussed with Director Bennett how the City of Shoreline has managed their tree replacement for
31 the light rail currently being built and parallels to the ST3 project as the new tree code amendments
32 are being adopted.

33
34 Tree permit application requirements are also being updated in the code. Planning Director Bennett
35 explained what the difference between a standard tree permit and a right of way permit would be.
36 The need for a list of street trees was discussed. The tree board discussed how to determine the right
37 of way without a surveyor.

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39 Planning Director Bennett discussed the circumstances necessary for the granting a right of way tree
40 permit under the proposed regulations. A tree in the right of way must meet certain conditions in
41 order for it to be removed. Chair Olmstead and Planning Director Bennett discussed the rights the
42 city has in order to plant trees in the right of way. The City has the right to plant in the right of way
43 per Planning Director Bennett.

44
45 The proposed right of way corridor project permit applications regulations was explained in more
46 detail by Planning Director Bennett.

1 Planning Director Bennett and the tree board discussed their impressions of the proposed tree
2 code amendments. Planning Director Bennett discussed where in the process these tree code
3 amendments were.

4
5 Councilmember Goldman asked the tree board what they would like to bring to the city council
6 for their next meeting. The board discussed what they would like him to present to the council on
7 behalf of the board.

8
9 **Reports and Announcements:**

10 Frontlines

11 The report for tree permits was passed around to tree board members present in-person. The
12 Arborist spoke to different permits applied for on the list. She also spoke to her other duties this
13 month and getting someone from Sound Transit to come to the June meeting to help explain the
14 ST3 project.

15
16 Councilmember Goldman Update

17 Councilmember Goldman discussed alternates for the city's boards including the tree board.

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19 **Agenda for Next Meeting:**

20 A new agenda order was discussed for next meeting.

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22 **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM

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APPROVED

Richard G. Olmstead, Chair