



CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, June 05, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Meeting Location: In Person and Virtual / Zoom

17425 Ballinger Way NE Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING THIS MEETING VIRTUALLY:

Join Zoom Webinar: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83065993349>

Call into Webinar: 253-215-8782 | **Webinar ID:** 830 6599 3349

The City Council is providing opportunities for public comment by submitting a written comment or by attending in person to provide oral public comment.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE WITH ORAL COMMENTS:

If you are attending the meeting in person, there is a sign in sheet located near the entrance to the Council Chambers. Simply fill the form out and the Mayor will call your name at the appropriate time. Oral comments are limited to 3:00 minutes per speaker. Oral comments are not being accepted via Zoom.

The meeting is being recorded.

HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS:

Written comments will be submitted to Council if received by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting; otherwise, they will be provided to the City Council the next day. The City Clerk will read your name and subject matter into the record during Public Comments.

As allowed by law, the Council may add and take action on items not listed on the agenda. For up-to-date information on agendas, please visit the City's website at www.cityoflfp.gov

Meetings are shown on the city's website and on Comcast channel 21 for subscribers within the Lake Forest Park city limits.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND/OR ACTION

A. Interview of City Council Candidates: Ashton McCartney, Fiaz Mir, and Richard Saunders

- Candidate Introduction (5 minutes per candidate)

- City Council pre-determined set of questions (14-21 minutes per candidate)

- Follow-up questions for candidates (4-11 minutes per candidate)

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Council will not be accepting online public comments. This portion of the agenda is set aside for the public to address the Council on agenda items. However, the Mayor or Council may not respond to comments from the public. If the comments are of a nature that the Council does not have influence or control over, then the Mayor or presiding officer may request the speaker to suspend their comments. The Council may direct staff to follow up on items brought up by the public. Comments are limited to a three (3) minute time limit.

5. FURTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND/OR ACTION

- A. Executive Session - review of City Council candidates' qualifications per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (h)
- B. Possible selection of a candidate to temporarily fill the vacancy of position 2 on the City Council

6. ADJOURN

FUTURE SCHEDULE

- Monday, June 9, 2025, 6:00 p.m. City Council Special Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*
- Thursday, June 12, 2025, 6:00 p.m. City Council Work Session – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*
- Thursday, June 12, 2025, 7:00 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*
- Thursday, June 19, 2025 – Juneteenth, City Hall Closed
- Monday, June 23, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*
- Thursday, June 26, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Budget & Finance Committee Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*
- Thursday, June 26, 2025, 7:00 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*

This is a special meeting of the City Council. Action may only be taken on items listed on the agenda.

Any person requiring a disability accommodation should contact city hall at 206-368-5440 by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting for more information.

Name: Ashton Alvarez McCartney

Are you a registered voter?: Yes

Are you a resident of Lake Forest Park?: Yes

Length of residence in Lake Forest Park?: 35

1. List your educational background.: LFP Elementary, Kings/Kellogg, Shorecrest University of Washington Foster Business School
Insurance Designations, REBC & GBDS

2. Please state your occupational background, beginning with your current occupation and employer.: Employee Benefits Consultant / Broker - DiMartino Associates (11 YRS) Employee Benefits Consultant / Broker - Hays Companies (3 YRS)

3. Describe your community activities and volunteer work.: Planning Commission, Past Chair (2022 - Current)
Board of Directors, Trustee, Goodwill (2023 - Current) Worship Team, Drummer (2015 - Current)
Host LFP Horizon View Park Egg Hunt & North Pole Post (2023 - Current)

4. Describe your special qualifications applicable to the City Council.: Multiple years on Planning Commission with emphasis work on the recent Comp plan and middle housing needs. Professionally, have consulted for 10+ years on WA Counties fund from a strategic, planning and legislative lens related to employee benefits.

I was born in LFP and my husband and I decided to raise our family near my childhood home. I have lived in LFP for over 35 years.

5. Why do you want to serve on the Lake Forest Park City Council?: am motivated by a desire to be a direct voice for our diverse community residents. I also believe in making informed decisions based on data and community input, and I would greatly appreciate being a part of the process crafting policies that best serve our beautiful community.

6. Specify any activities that might create a conflict of interest if you should be appointed to the City Council.: N/A. Note: Planning Commission – would require a replacement.

7. Briefly explain what you believe are the most important issues facing the Lake Forest Park community and the City Council's role in addressing each issue.:
Immediate: Middle Housing & Budget challenges prove to be a leading concerns,

reconciling limited resources with growing needs. Councils role in addressing the issue is a strong and effective communication strategy with residents while also exploring potential for generating new revenue for the city.

Professional Reference 1 - Name, Relationship, Phone, Email: John Wallen, EVP @ DiMartino Associates,

Professional Reference 2 – Name, Relationship, Phone, Email:: Bobby Jackson, Exec Director @ Washington Counties Insurance Fund –

Letters of Recommendation (optional): You may attach up to two letters of recommendation to this application.: No file was uploaded

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the information provided herein is true and correct.: Ashton Alvarez McCartney

Name: Fiaz Mir

Are you a registered voter?: Yes

Are you a resident of Lake Forest Park?: Yes

Length of residence in Lake Forest Park?: 7

1. List your educational background.: 1. B.Arch: Jawaharlal Nehru Tech University, India

2. Masters in City & Regional Planning: University of Texas at Arlington

3. Masters in Business Administration: University of California at Los Angeles

2. Please state your occupational background, beginning with your current occupation and employer.: Current: Remitly - Principal Product Manager of Customer experiences

Past:

Frontdoor: Principal Product Manager for eCommerce

Amazon: Senior Product Manager for Supply Chain

KPMG: Senior Consultant, Infrastructure

Iteris: Senior Transportation Consultant

San Bernardino COG: Planner

City of North Las Vegas: City Planner

CDM Smith: Transportation Modeler

3. Describe your community activities and volunteer work.: 5 Acre woods park stewardship group, Lake Forest Park, Volunteer
MAPS Redmond, Volunteer

4. Describe your special qualifications applicable to the City Council.: With a Master's in City and Regional Planning and 10+ years of professional experience as a city planner (at City of North Las Vegas, San Bernardino COG), I have hands-on experience in large-scale urban and transportation planning projects. I also bring both policy expertise and practical insight to middle housing implementation. I'm well-versed in zoning reform, community engagement, and housing feasibility analysis — and I'm eager to contribute to Lake Forest Park's efforts to integrate diverse, affordable housing options while preserving neighborhood character and advancing sustainable growth. Lastly, my experience in transportation projects where I advised LA Metro, California High Speed rail authority, I would be able to add value to the discussions around the SR 522 corridor bus transit issues.

5. Why do you want to serve on the Lake Forest Park City Council?: I'm passionate about serving on the Lake Forest Park City Council because I believe in building

sustainable, connected, and future-ready communities. With a Master's in City and Regional Planning and hands-on experience working on transformative transportation projects—such as Los Angeles Metro's Measure R initiatives and California's High-Speed Rail—I bring both technical expertise and a deep commitment to public service. As a proud resident of Lake Forest Park, I'm eager to apply my planning background to help guide responsible growth, enhance mobility options, and preserve the unique character of our community for generations to come.

6. Specify any activities that might create a conflict of interest if you should be appointed to the City Council.: None

7. Briefly explain what you believe are the most important issues facing the Lake Forest Park community and the City Council's role in addressing each issue.: 1.

Middle Housing: Following the comprehensive plan update in 2024,

2. SR 522 Bus rapid transit

3. Overall assessment of contracts (tech and non-tech)

4. Budget re-assessment

5. Town center redevelopment

Professional Reference 1 - Name, Relationship, Phone, Email:: Rami Al-Kabra; Mentor,

Professional Reference 2 – Name, Relationship, Phone, Email:: Fahd Amdani, Former colleague,

Letters of Recommendation (optional): You may attach up to two letters of recommendation to this application.: No file was uploaded

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the information provided herein is true and correct.: Fiaz Mir

Name: Richard Saunders

Are you a registered voter?: Yes

Are you a resident of Lake Forest Park?: Yes

Length of residence in Lake Forest Park?: 50

1. List your educational background.: Western Washington University
BA in Business / Computer Science (1982-1987)

2. Please state your occupational background, beginning with your current occupation and employer.: Current Position: Product Director, Exponent Partners (January 2019-Present) Lead product strategy and development for B Corp specializing in nonprofit technology solutions on the Salesforce platform. Manage product development and customer success teams. Responsible for product design and delivery and involved in business alignment, go-to-market strategy, and product innovation initiatives for software that helps nonprofits understand results and create impact through better programs and services.

Previous Positions at Exponent Partners:
Director of Software Innovation (January 2018-January 2019): Led software innovation team delivering custom software solutions.

Product Manager & Solution Architect (March 2014-January 2018): Developed Exponent Case Management for human services agencies implementing case, program, and outcomes management

CRM Consultant/Technical Architect (October 2010-March 2014): Built custom solutions for human services agencies, linking data across organizations to understand impact in programs, fundraising, and operations

Independent Consultant:
CRM Implementor and Force.com Developer, Gaia ICT, LLC (2006-October 2010): Technical project management, systems analysis, solution design and implementation for CRM and constituent relationship management systems

Microsoft Corporation (September 1987-July 2004, 16+ years total):
Program Manager (September 1995-July 2004): Senior program manager in Windows Digital Media division product development

Senior Software Test Engineer (September 1987-September 1995): Lead Software Development Engineer in Test/QA on Windows Operating System product development

3. Describe your community activities and volunteer work.: Lake Forest Park Tree

Board (October 2024-Present) Current Commissioner working with other members providing policy advice to City Council on tree-related regulations, organizing community tree planting events and educational outreach, and coordinating with Urban Forest Planner on urban forest management initiatives

Northshore Emergency Management Coalition (NEMCo) Community Emergency Response Training Certificate (May 2024 - Present)
CERT Program Trainee (Volunteer). Completed course and earned certificate.

Lake Forest Park Planning Commission (January 2011-February 2022, 11+ years) Commissioner, Vice Chair, and Chair. Participated directly in municipal planning initiatives including the Southern Gateway Subarea Plan (2011-2013), Town Center Vision implementation and ordinance development (2019-2021), and 2015 Comprehensive Plan update. Chaired multi-year public processes involving community engagement, consultant coordination, and policy development. Participated in the development of multiple city ordinances including tree regulations, ADU/DADU housing options, and updates to ordinances for clearing and grading, chickens, bees, and more.

Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation (January 2006-Present) Active volunteer participating in habitat restoration work parties at local parks and leading environmental improvements to Five Acre Woods. Support environmental education and conservation initiatives throughout the city. Have also participated in Grace Cole volunteer efforts.

Urban Forest Task Force (2009-2010) Member of task force that produced the 2010 City of Lake Forest Park Community Forest Management Plan, establishing foundational policies for long-term urban canopy preservation and environmental stewardship.

4. Describe your special qualifications applicable to the City Council.: Municipal Government Experience: Over 11 years of Planning Commission service provides strong understanding of city operations, municipal code development, public hearing processes, and land use law. Knowledge of Lake Forest Park's policies, procedures, and decision-making processes enables contribution with smaller learning curve.

Policy Development Involvement: Participated in development of multiple city ordinances balancing community character with growth management requirements. Experience includes Growth Management Act compliance, SEPA environmental review processes, regional coordination with neighboring jurisdictions, and Sound Transit planning coordination.

Complex Project Participation: Participated in multi-year public processes including the Southern Gateway Subarea Plan and Town Center Vision implementation. Demonstrated ability to coordinate between city staff, legal counsel, professional consultants, and diverse community stakeholders while maintaining project timelines and public engagement.

Collaborative Approach: Ability to facilitate productive dialogue and move conversations toward constructive conclusions. Strong preference in building consensus among diverse viewpoints while advancing complex policy decisions. Professional experience managing technical teams translates directly to collaborative governance.

Strategic Planning Background: Over 35 years of technology experience in product development, strategic planning, and business alignment. Current role managing product development and customer success teams demonstrates skills in stakeholder management, resource allocation, and long-term planning that directly apply to municipal governance.

Environmental Stewardship Involvement: Current Tree Board service and extensive volunteer work with environmental organizations provides understanding of Lake Forest Park's natural systems and sustainability challenges. This experience is relevant for addressing climate action, urban forestry, and environmental protection issues facing the city.

Community Connection: Multi-generational family commitment to Lake Forest Park spanning 60+ years, with extensive knowledge of community values, concerns, and aspirations gained through decades of civic engagement and public service.

5. Why do you want to serve on the Lake Forest Park City Council?: My family's connection to Lake Forest Park runs deep. My mother and father moved here in the mid-1960s. As a doctor and a nurse, they instilled in my three brothers and me the idea of appreciating, participating in, and giving back to the community. I have lived here as an adult since 1990, raising my three children who are now all adults. Two of my three brothers are long-time residents, raising their families in LFP. My mother still lives in LFP in a senior living facility. My brother Mike is a doctor at the University of Washington, as was my Dad. My brother Brian is on the Climate Action Committee, is a leader with the LFP Stream Keepers, and a member of the LFP Stewardship board. His wife Ellyn, my sister-in-law is a current member of the LFP City Council. To me this demonstrates a multi-generational family commitment to our community, deeply rooted in public service, and I see this appointment as an opportunity to give back to the place that has given so much to my family.

Lake Forest Park faces critical decisions in the coming months. I understand that the city needs someone to step in who can contribute immediately without a lengthy learning curve. My 11+ years on the Planning Commission have given me a strong understanding of municipal operations, from ordinance development to budget processes. I've worked directly with city staff, legal counsel, and community stakeholders on complex issues that have significant impact on the city.

This interim appointment aligns well with my current availability and intentions. I am not seeking long-term council service, but I am highly motivated to help fill this crucial need during a transitional period. I believe my experience positions me to participate constructively in important decisions facing the council over the next several months.

I believe I can provide service to the City that combines institutional knowledge with commitment to environmental stewardship and community service. My goal would be to serve in a way that honors Councilmember Lori Bodi. Her environmental advocacy and dedicated public service were truly inspirational. She exemplified the spirit of community service that Lake Forest Park needs, and I hope to continue that legacy of environmental stewardship and thoughtful governance while helping our city navigate important decisions and preserving what makes our community special.

6. Specify any activities that might create a conflict of interest if you should be appointed to the City Council.: I do not currently have any activities or interests that would create a conflict of interest with my duties as a City Councilmember. I have carefully reviewed my personal, professional, and financial circumstances and identified the following potential consideration:

My sister-in-law, Ellyn Saunders, currently serves on the City Council. While this represents a family relationship with a fellow councilmember, it does not create a financial or personal conflict that would compromise my ability to make independent decisions in the best interest of Lake Forest Park residents. I am committed to evaluating all matters based on their merits and the public good, regardless of how other councilmembers, including my sister-in-law, may vote.

7. Briefly explain what you believe are the most important issues facing the Lake Forest Park community and the City Council's role in addressing each issue.: As a municipality within the Puget Sound Growth Area, Lake Forest Park faces the ongoing challenge of preserving what makes our community unique—our stream-fed landscape with critical environmental areas, our highly engaged residents who are deeply committed to community building and local government participation, and our distinctive character that comes from decades of history and evolution—while managing the pressures of regional urban growth.

Budget Management and Fiscal Responsibility: With city expenses rapidly outpacing revenue, the Council faces difficult decisions about maintaining service levels while working within limited revenue options. The Council's role is to prioritize essential services, explore cost efficiencies, and make strategic investments that support long-term fiscal health.

Transportation and Sound Transit Coordination: As Sound Transit implements its regional transit expansion, the Council must actively advocate for Lake Forest Park residents while supporting voter-approved regional transportation goals. This requires ongoing engagement with Sound Transit to minimize environmental and quality-of-life impacts on our community.

Climate Action and Environmental Preservation: With the Climate Policy Advisory Team making important updates to the Climate Action Plan, the Council will need to review and adopt policies that address climate change through practical local actions. This

could include supporting improved transportation options, thoughtful density planning, pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements, and continued protection of our tree canopy and parks system that preserves our unique environmental character.

I believe these are the most pressing issues requiring immediate Council attention. However, I recognize that the Council must also maintain its ongoing commitment to infrastructure maintenance, public safety and emergency preparedness, and community engagement and transparency—foundational responsibilities that require consistent attention regardless of other priorities

Professional Reference 1 - Name, Relationship, Phone, Email:: Amy Miesen, colleague at Exponent Partners-Director of Client Services,

Professional Reference 2 – Name, Relationship, Phone, Email:: Rem Hoffmann, my manager at Exponent Partners-Chief Executive Officer,

Letters of Recommendation (optional): You may attach up to two letters of recommendation to this application.: Recommendation for Richard Saunders re Interim Council Position.pdf

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the information provided herein is true and correct.: Richard W. Saunders

From: Mark Phillips

Subject: Recommendation for Richard Saunders re Interim Council Position

Date: May 21, 2025 at 5:32:19 PM PDT

To: Matthew McLean

Cc: Tom French

Hello Matt,

Please consider the following as part of Richard Sanders' application for the current interim Council position.

I've known Richard Saunders for at least 25 years, since well before we served together on the Planning Commission. I served one term, Richard served much longer, as you know. As a Planning Commissioner, he participated in shaping so many of the actions the City has taken in recent years. He is extremely knowledgeable about local government, and especially how Lake Forest Park works. He is also a skilled technology guy!

Richard knows the art of dialogue, and is someone who will help move conversations along toward good conclusions. He has my highest recommendation to fill the current interim Council vacancy. We are very fortunate that he is interested in the position. Richard is someone I would love to have served with on the Council during my time as a Councilmember.

It should also be noted that through his volunteer work he has contributed as much as anyone to the healthy natural environment that we have today, from testing stream water with the Streamkeepers to his current work with the Stewardship Foundation making great improvements to Five Acre Woods.

The only drawback I see is if he is appointed he will not be available to the Tree Board for 6-7 months. Could we consider that a temporary leave of absence?

Thank you!

Mark Philips
Chair, LFP Tree Board

1. Lake Forest Park is currently experiencing fiscal challenges, with General Fund expenditures exceeding revenues. In the 2025–2026 biennium, the City Council utilized approximately \$800,000 from its nearly \$7.3 million in unallocated fund balance—excluding reserves designated for emergencies. While the city has taken steps to reduce expenses, it has worked to preserve essential public services. Looking ahead, a projected budget shortfall of approximately \$1.6 million is anticipated for the 2027–2028 biennium.

How would you propose addressing this projected imbalance? Please be specific in describing your approach.

2. Lake Forest Park is what they call “built-out”, meaning there are not a lot of places to build new housing. What ideas do you have to increase the amount of affordable housing in LFP?
3. Given what you know about the current City budget concerns, would you advocate to cut services or propose a property tax ballot to the community? If you advocate to reduce services, what services in the General Fund would you start looking into?
4. Given the short duration of this appointment term, what big ideas do you feel you can move forward with in that timeframe?
5. Describe a time that you had a disagreement with people but were able to reach a consensus or compromise.
6. Identify the top two policy issues facing the Lake Forest Park, and briefly state how you would approach them.