

**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