

1 **City of Lake Forest Park – Tree Board Meeting**
2 **Normal Meeting Minutes: October 12th, 2022; 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:** Julia Bent, Sandra Levar, Marty Byrne, Richard Olmstead, Doug
6 Sprugel

7
8 **Staff and others present:** Riley Bushnell, Assistant Planner; Nick Holland, Assistant Planner;
9 Councilmember Larry Goldman

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11 **Members of the Public present: None**

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

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15 **Call to order:** 7:03 PM

16
17 **Short Reflections:** Chair Olmstead shared an article from Spokane Spokesman Review about tree
18 cover/ heat islands. Reflected on areas in the city where tree coverage could improve.
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22 **Introductions:** The Tree Board members and City staff introduced themselves.

23
24 **Approval of Meeting Agenda:** Under New Business: Preliminary look at 2023 Work Plan.
25 Approved.

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29 **Approval of Minutes:** Add Sandra Levar to minutes. Approved.

30
31 **Public Comment:** None

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33 **Communication:**

34 Next Meeting

35 Chair Olmstead spoke to the next meeting which would be taking place at Wednesday December 7th
36 at city hall.

37
38 Announcements

39
40 Arborist: Update about interviewing arborist candidates. Down to three candidates, two will advance
41 per Assistant Planner Bushnell via Director Bennett.
42

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44
45 **Old Business:**

46 McAleer Creek Restoration – Julia

47 Put in extension until next June about study. Conducting weed control and talking with people with
48 Department of Ecology about spruce tree installation around creek to combat invasive species

1 beaver and deer. Also putting in some Douglas fir trees. Most of the money will go to contractor to
2 weed and plant this winter. She noted most of the money from the budget will be spent. She
3 mentioned how the mountain beavers are running wild on the creek habitat. She's pleased with the
4 creek restoration efforts thus far and thinks restoration efforts will be complete by June.

5
6 2022 Tree Inventory – Planning Staff

7 Senior Planner Nick Holland had an update about how they're waiting to get a word back from
8 property owners.

9
10 Ms. Levar touched on doing a second round of outreach. She emphasized the need for the future
11 arborist to help on the outreach.

12
13 Mr. Sprugel spoke to the sampling of the previous tree inventory.

14
15 Ms. Bent talked about her outreach efforts for the McAleer restoration project and door-to-door
16 solicitation.

17
18 Tree Code Amendments Update

19 Chair Olmstead mentioned how most recommendations have been adopted. He sensed that there
20 aren't a lot of trees above the size that the council wants. He also questioned if any other tree species
21 should be added to the exceptional tree species list and brought up how maintaining big trees, even
22 if non-native, could be beneficial, as they help the canopy.

23
24 Mr. Sprugel mentioned the mission statement which alludes to protecting big trees. His personal
25 recommendation would be to set a lower size limit for certain species.

26
27 Ms. Bent talked about desire to exempting some protected species like Holly and Poplar trees.

28
29 Ms. Byrne emphasized protecting all large trees due to climate change, concurring with Mr. Sprugel.

30
31 Ms. Levar mentioned how the definition of "native" is changing.

32
33 Chair Olmstead mentioned how slow trees grow and how that underlines protecting the big trees we
34 have now. He touched on a case of a Giant Sequoia being removed due to foundation destruction.
35 He talked about different species of trees and their growing patterns and ecological implications. He
36 introduced an idea to the Board regarding how to re-categorize the exceptional tree species list.

37
38 The board discussed the need for the arborist's input on the exceptional tree species list.

39
40 The board deliberated on specific sizes for each species on the exceptional tree species list.

41
42 The board tentatively and preliminarily recommended that they do away with the table on the
43 exceptional species list, making exceptional trees all trees over 36 inches in diameter.

44
45 Councilmember Goldman brought up council's concern for the table to be a certain number
46 nodriven by data from the inventory.

47
48 Chair Olmstead and Mr. Sprugel alluded to making recommendations after they analyze the data.

1
2 Replacement Tree Plantings in City
3 Chair Olmstead talked about a plan to plant more trees in concurrently low socioeconomic
4 neighborhoods.
5
6 2022 Arbor Day Event
7 None.
8
9 Public Outreach Plan
10 Ms. Levar brought forth the proposal for a customer satisfaction survey – wants the contact
11 information for everyone who submitted a permit and their questions on a survey available online.
12 She emphasized that this could drive improvements to the code and permit servicing.
13
14 Ms. Levar asked for suggestions from other board members. Other tree board members gave
15 specific question suggestions for the survey.
16
17 Councilmember Goldman talked to reasons customers would be unhappy. He touched on how the
18 tree board could recommend to the city council changes to be adopted in the code.
19
20 Ms. Levar proposed interviewing former arborists and following-up with them and their suggestions
21 for changes to the code and permitting process.
22
23 Ms. Levar touched on outreach for Christmas Tree Drop-off event. She spoke to having it to go
24 both in the newsletter and on social media and to get out the news about the event this month.
25
26 Ms. Levar wanted to talk about the outreach on informing citizens about the species list. She
27 informed the rest of the board about how citizens are informed about happenings in the city via
28 newsletter, email and social media platforms. She talked about having content lined up for the tree
29 board in the months to come. The tree board members gave examples for content.
30
31 **New Business:**
32 Tree Board Website Link Updates
33 None.
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35 LFP Farmers Market Booth in October
36 None.
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38 2023 Work Plan
39 Chair Olmstead mentioned the need for a work plan to go over each year. Tree board members
40 deliberated who would be responsible for each item.
41
42 Heat Island Effect & Town Center
43 None.
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45 **Reports and Announcements:**
46 Frontlines
47 None.
48

1 Councilmember Goldman’s Report

2 Councilmember Goldman mentioned that we’re in the middle of budget season and that the budget
3 should be passed by the end of November. He alluded to increasing arborist hours. He also talked
4 about public misinformation about Sound Transit construction, removing about 100 trees. Who will
5 be paying money for replanting was then discussed. Councilmember Goldman encouraged the tree
6 board to think about what will take place with Sound Transit. He pointed to planting vines around
7 walls on 522 to beautify the eventual sound walls.

8
9 Mr. Sprugel asked how much money they’ll get from Sound Transit to plant trees and
10 Councilmember Goldman let him know that Sound Transit has been opaque about compensation to
11 the city. He touched on eminent domain process ongoing in the city and the timeline for Sound
12 Transit construction.

13
14 Preliminary discussion about 2022 Tree Inventory Data

15 None.

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18 **Adjournment:** Ms. Bent moved to adjourn. Mr. Sprugel seconded; and the meeting adjourned at
19 9:00 PM.

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22 APPROVED:

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25 Richard Olmstead, Chair