City of Lake Forest Park – Tree Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes: June 03, 2026; 7:00-9:00pm
Hybrid Meeting Held in the Emergency Operations Center at City Hall and via Zoom

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

Tree Board Members absent: Doug Sprugel, Minda Martin

Staff and others present: Larry Goldman, LFP Councilmember; Christi Bishop, Urban Forest Planner; Elizabeth Talavera, Associate Planner; Katie Phillips, Project Manager; Rebecca Dickinson, Program Executive

Members of the Public present: Jim Mead, Jean Reid, Chidiebere Uguru

Call to order: 7:00 p.m.

Short Reflection: Chair Kutasz gave a short reflection on Grace Cole Park and the preservation of the park. Board member Saunders also gave a short reflection on Spring.

Introduction: The Tree Board Members and staff introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Board Member Phillips moved to approve the agenda as amended to move new business before old business; Board member Saunders seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:
May 06, 2026, Meeting Minutes
Board member Phillips moved to approve the minutes with amendments; Board member Gati seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment: Mr. Mead provided a comment regarding a question about the process of reviewing tree permits in the city. Tree Board members and city staff were able to answer Mr. Mead's question.

Ms. Reid provided a comment on the Sound Transit project and managing the mitigation in the local jurisdiction like the roundabout project.

Next meeting: The next meeting occurs on July 8, 2026.

Reports and Announcements:
Cmbr. Goldman announced that a Town Hall meeting at Third Place Commons was held with a Q. and A. session. Due to high interest, a possible second meeting might be held. Councilmember Goldman also announced that the Police Chief Harden is retiring and the interim chief will be Commander Diego Zanella.

Board member Gati left the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Due to a lack of quorum, the meeting continued as an information-only meeting.

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New Business:

Roundabout Canopy Coverage Update

Ms. Phillips, Public Works project manager, gave a presentation on the overview of the roundabout project. The Tree Board members had questions on mitigation on private vs public property. Ms. Phillips addressed the questions and requested feedback on which species the tree board members would like to see planted from a recommendation list provided. The tree board members reviewed the options from the list and decided to wait to decide with Board member Sprugel. Ms. Phillips stated that the City will need a decision within two weeks.

Old Business:

KCD map

Board member Phillips stated that he reached out to King County and received a quote of $500 to add a stream layer. Ms. Reid stated that the Stewardship foundation has a public map as well that is available at the Climate Hub. Board member Saunders moved to recommend to city staff to evaluate including the $500 KC map cost in the budget.

Board member Gati arrived, via Zoom, at 8:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order with a quorum re-established.

Tree Giveaway

Board member Phillips stated that the Tree Board should decide on the reservation for the tree giveaway by July or August. Ms. Reid stated that the left-over trees from the giveaway could be donated to the water district.

Outreach Check-In

Chair Kutasz presented the ivy article that was printed on the LFP Times and circulated the graphic that Board member Gati created on ivy. Ms. Reid stated that the Stewardship foundation and the Tree Board could collaborate on an ivy out day.

Updates on Articles

Board member Baarslag-Benson presented the draft article on holly. Board member Saunders gave a recommendation to include caution on the dangers of putting herbicides near streams. Board member Saunders also volunteered to work with Board member Baarslag-Benson on the article.

Agenda for Next Meeting:

July 8, 2026 agenda items will include KCD map, Tree Giveaway, Outreach Check-In, Updates on Articles.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Victoria Kutasz, Chair

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