

1 City of Lake Forest Park – Planning Commission
2 Regular Meeting Minutes: August 13, 2024; 7:00-9:00pm
3 Hybrid Meeting Held in the Forest Room at City Hall and Virtually via Zoom
4

5 **Planning Commissioners present:** Chair Ashton Alvarez- McCartney, Vice Chair Janne Kaje,
6 Cherie Finazzo, Meredith LaBonte, David Kleweno, Lois Lee (via Zoom), and Melissa Cranmer (via
7 Zoom)
8

9 **Staff and others present:** Mark Hofman, Community Development Director; John Lebo, Council
10 Liaison; Cristina Haworth, SCJ Alliance (via Zoom)
11

12 **Members of the Public present:** Nigel Keifer, Joelene Jay
13

14 **Planning Commissioners absent:** Sam Castic and Madlyn Larson
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16 **Call to order:** Chair Alvarez-McCartney called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
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18 **Land Acknowledgement:** Cmr. Kaje read the land acknowledgement.
19

20 **Approval of Agenda:** Cmr. Kaje made a motion to approve the agenda, Cmr. Finazzo seconded,
21 and the motion to approve the agenda was carried unanimously.
22

23 **Approval of Minutes:** Chair Alvarez-McCartney made a motion to approve the August 13, 2024,
24 Meeting Minutes, Cmr. Kaje seconded and the motion to approve the minutes was carried
25 unanimously.
26

27 **Public Hearing:** Nigel Keifer gave a comment in opposition to the Comprehensive Plan and
28 climate change element. Mr.Keifer stated that he does not believe in climate change and does not
29 believe it should be part of the Comprehensive Plan.
30

31 Joelene Jay gave a comment on the issue of a reasonable use of exceptions. Ms. Jay calls for a
32 moratorium on RUEs with the intent to work on changing the process of RUEs to better suit the
33 residents during the moratorium.
34

35 Cmr. Kaje made a motion to close the public hearing, Cmr. Finazzo seconded the motion.
36

37 **Next meeting:** The next meeting occurs on September 10, 2024.
38

39 **Public Comment:** No public comments.
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41 **City Council Liaison Report:** Council liaison, Lebo, announced that Council is preparing for the
42 biannual budget. The goal of Council to pass the budget by November.
43

44 **Old Business:**
45

46 **Recap of Open House for update of Comprehensive Plan held on July 16, 2024**

47 Ms. Haworth shared a presentation on a recap of the Open House. The Open House consisted of
48 an estimated 45 to 50 attendees. For the transportation station, there was a strong desire for

1 investment in pedestrian safety improvements, more biking facilities, broader transit network, and
2 speed control. At the housing station, there was an interest in expanding housing options and
3 concerns about the tree canopy and traffic. At the economic development station, there was great
4 interest in developing the Ballinger way corridor for commercial use.

5
6 **Discussion on comments and revisions to prepare a recommended draft Comprehensive**
7 **Plan Update**

8 Ms. Haworth provided an update on the status of the Comprehensive Plan. Final comments were
9 received from the Tree Board, Park Board, and Police Department. SCJ is awaiting on some
10 comments from the Planning commission and looking to incorporate comments from the Open
11 House.

12
13 The Commission discussed the issue of equity and the different positions of commissioners. The
14 commission agreed to collectively work on drafting a comment letter instead of a special meeting to
15 work on a collective stance on the issue by the next meeting.

16
17 **New Business:**

18 **Items of Planning Commission interest or concern - preparation for September meeting**

19 Chair Alvarez-McCartney opened the meeting to discussion on key issues the Commission would
20 like to work on after the Comprehensive Plan. Cmr. Kleweno discussed the issue of development
21 and supporting small businesses. Cmr. LeBonte and Finazzo seconded the importance of helping
22 small businesses. Cmr. Lee discussed the issue of expanding commercial zones in the southern
23 gateway. Cmr. Kaje brought up the issue of expanding mixed-use zones in the City.

24
25 **Reports and Announcements:**

26 Mr. Hofman announced that a consultant was chosen for the Climate Element grant RFQ. A
27 contract is currently being negotiated.

28
29 **Citizen Comment:**

30 Nigel Keifer made a comment that he wants the focus of the Commission to shift to helping seniors
31 in the city and not expanding housing to not increase traffic.

32
33 **Agenda for Next Meeting:** Additional discussion on comprehensive plan amendments.

34
35 **Adjournment:**

36 Cmr. Kaje made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Cmr. Finazzo seconded, and the motion was
37 carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

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39 APPROVED:

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42 Ashton Alvarez-McCartney, Planning Commission Chair