

**City of Lake Forest Park - Planning Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Notes: March 8, 2016**  
**17425 Ballinger Way NE –Forest Room**

**Planning Commissioners present:** Chair Ray Holmdahl; Vice-chair Jon Lebo; Richard Saunders; Joel Paisner; Doug Gochanour; Connie Holloway (arrived at 7:10pm)  
**Staff and others present:** Ande Flower, Assistant Planner; Jake Tracy, Planning Technician; Mike Woodbury, LFP City Arborist; Mike Dee, resident; Jim Stoetzer, resident; Darin Seader, resident

**Planning Commissioners absent:** Semra Riddle

**Call to order:** 7:00PM (no quorum)

**Approval of Meeting Agenda:** Chair Holmdahl explained that three members have not been reappointed and so there is not a quorum. Therefore the commissioners should wait to vote on chair and vice-chair until next month. The commissioners agreed to wait until next month.

Mr. Gochanour moved to approve the meeting agenda with this change. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saunders and passed unanimously.

**Approval of Meeting Notes:**

February 9, 2016

Approval of the meeting minutes was delayed until the next meeting.

**Public Comment**

Mike Dee: Mr. Dee stated that the EQC has worked on the tree ordinance for a long time. John Wright had concerns about the tree ordinance at the last council meeting. Mr. Dee is also concerned about the suspension of commissions.

David Kleweno: Mr. Kleweno was a member of tree board, and is a member of Stewardship Foundation. He told the commissioners that the tree board members are around for support if they need it.

Jim Stoetzer: Mr. Stoetzer is for the current streamlining of the process. He lives on Lyon creek and is a steward of many landmark trees on his property. He has also dealt with trees professionally for many years. He encourages the commissioners to be sensible in their recommendations, and is troubled by the negative tone of the tree ordinance and tree board memo. He urges the commissioners to think about long-term residents when making decisions, not just developers. Trees cause a lot of expense in maintenance. What has happened is people are afraid of maintaining their properties or other workarounds such as “lollipops.” He stated that there is a need to provide access for solar panels, and little recognition of the people who are living with the trees. Relief for people who have a lot of canopy would be good as well.

**Old Business:**

Tree Regulations Update:

Ande Flower explained the contents of the commissioners' tree ordinance binders.

16.14.10 - Mr. Saunders asked about how people would find out about the goals of the community forest management plan. Jake Tracy explained that 16.14.020 references the community forest management plan. It was agreed that this section should be removed.

## 16.14.020 Capitalize Community Forest Management Plan

16.14.030 Mike Woodbury explained ANSI and ISA standards.

Commissioner Holloway asked for clarification on page 3 line 24. Mike Woodbury explained that tree protection depends on the nature of the development activity and proximity to the trees in question..

Dead tree - question on whether "and" or "or" was appropriate. "Or" was agreed upon.

DBH - There was discussion about whether to use average, individual, or summing. Mike Woodbury and staff will continue to look into how to best craft this definition.

Add a separate Multiple Stemmed Tree Definition

Ande explained the developer loophole associated with "new development." Discussion ensued regarding tree canopy coverage goals and their justification.

Cmr. Lebo asked whether there should be a larger discussion about the Community Forest Management Plan or if the purpose of the update was simply to strengthen and clarify the regulations under the current goals.

Mike Woodbury gave an overview of tree risk and tree risk assessment. He also talked about exceptional trees. Cmrs. Saunders and Lebo expressed concerned about vagueness in the definition.

### **New Business: None.**

### **Reports/Communications/Announcements :**

Status of Mixed-Use Projects proposed on NE 155<sup>th</sup> St and 35<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

Ande Flower discussed the two mixed-use projects in the Southern Gateway area that are currently under review. A number of comments have come in for the 155<sup>th</sup> St project, and there may be a SEPA appeal.

The commissioners agreed to get the word out about the vacancies on the commission and to talk to Mayor Johnson about it.

### **Agenda for Next Meeting:**

Same as this meeting due to lack of quorum.

**Adjournment:** 9:08 PM

APPROVED:

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Ray Holmdahl, Chair