

City of Lake Forest Park - Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Notes: September 13, 2016
17425 Ballinger Way NE—Forest Room

Planning Commissioners present: Chair Jon Lebo, Vice-Chair Joel Paisner, Connie Holloway; Ray Holmdahl, Doug Gochanour

Staff and others present: Steve Bennett, Planning Director; Ande Flower, Principal Planner; Mike Woodbury, City Arborist; Don Fiene, resident; Tyson Greer, resident; David Kleveno, resident; Mike Dee, resident

Planning Commissioners absent: Richard Saunders

Call to order: 7:27 PM

Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Mr. Paisner moved to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holloway and passed unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Notes:

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August 8, 2016

Mr. Gochanour moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Holloway seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Next meeting:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2016. It was proposed that the Commission meet sooner, and possibly more than once in preparation for recommending a draft tree regulations to City Council in October. The date for one additional meeting was tentatively established as September 27, 2016. Cmr. Paisner stated that he would not be available. A second possible meeting date of October 4, 2016 was also discussed.

Public Comment

Tyson Greer mentioned that she was very involved with drafting the original tree regulations. Ms. Greer stated that she likes seeing the words “preserve” and “enhance” in the current draft code because it connects to the Community Forest Management Plan. Ms. Greer also asked how or if the new NPDES requirement to minimize the “loss of native vegetation” will be folded into these tree regulation updates.

Don Fiene stated that he was involved with the City government for 12 years. He was concerned with a mention of deleting the term sensitive area buffer in the PC July 12 notes. He also said that he'd like to see a fee in lieu option available for homeowners, though not for developers.

David Kleveno said that he is concerned that there may be opportunities for new loopholes as the Planning Commission composes the updates to tree regulations.

Mike Dee summarized the process that has taken place thus far with the tree regulation moratorium. He questioned why Planning Commissioners were not present at the September 8th public hearing on the moratorium.

Old Business:

Old Business: Briefing on adoption of Ordinance 1141- Moratorium on Tree Permits

Planning Director Steve Bennett described in brief the moratorium and what the new rules are for tree removal in the interim while the Planning Commission and Council work on the tree regulations update.

Tree Regulations

Discussion of Changes Made Based on August Discussion

Mr. Bennett led the review of changes to the draft regulations that were based on discussion from the Commission's August meeting.

Discussion of Actionable Comments from PC Open House

In Lieu Fee. Mr. Bennett shared the advice he received from Interim City Arborist, Jim Barborinas, that many other cities require tree replacements of 3:1, which could be translate into the basis for the fee required in lieu of replacing trees. Commissioners discussed the proposed language in relationship with other regulatory language including the landmark tree replacement language.

Commissioners agreed that the title Community Forest Management Plan should be capitalized when referred to in the document.

Commissioners agreed that the minimum size of landmark trees should be reduced from 28" DBH to 24" DBH, as recommended by Mr. Woodbury.

Mr. Bennett suggested that there could be an opportunity for a recommended draft to be reviewed by Council at their upcoming work session on October 13, 2016.

New Business:

Mr. Bennett described the process of review that has taken place so far for the Conservation Cluster Housing Regulations. He informed the Commissioners that they have an option to encourage Council to move forward on this review. Mr. Bennett was asked to write a letter to remind Council of this draft regulatory language.

Adjournment: 9:05 PM

APPROVED:

Jon Lebo, Chair