

Dear Fellow Commissioners,

Thank you for your interest in considering a land acknowledgement to begin our monthly meetings. As a formal group charged with recommending actions that directly impact the land we live on here in Lake Forest Park and as residents who steward this land, I think it is important we recognize the fact that the Coastal Salish people, including the Dxʷdəwʔabš – the Duwamish, called this same area home and stewarded this land for 10,000 years before European-American immigration. Besides acknowledging and honoring the Duwamish people, I would hope this action, on our part, would ensure we are not contributing to the invisibility and erasure experienced by the Coastal Salish peoples particularly since the denial of their treaty rights agreed to in 1855. In time, I hope this action will lead to other actions that honor and promote community in the broadest sense of the word.

I'd like to propose the following Land Acknowledgement statement for our LFP Planning Commission:

*We'd like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Coastal Salish peoples and, in particular, the homelands of the Duwamish people. We honor, with gratitude, the land itself and the Duwamish people; a people that are still here. In doing this we aim to illuminate the longer history of this land we call home, our relationship to this history, and the heritage of those who stewarded this land for more than 10,000 years before European-American immigration.*

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Maddy