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**City of Lake Forest Park  
Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting Summary\*  
17425 Ballinger Way NE—The Forest Room  
June 26, 2007**

**Commissioners present:** Jeff Foster, Chair; Linda Owens, Vice Chair; Judy Herring, Don Shaffer, Chuck Paulsen, Robert Lee, Shary Van

**Commissioners absent:** Tom Lerner

**Staff present:** Stephen Bennett, Planning Director; Aaron Halverson, Clerk

**Others present:** Elizabeth Walker, Urban Tree Task Force Consultant

**Call to order:** Jeff Foster, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

**Approval of meeting notes:**

Commissioner Lee moved to accept the June 12, 2007 minutes as written; Cmr. Paulsen seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, Cmr. Herring abstained.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Tree Protection and Replacement Ordinance Discussion**

Director Bennett initiated conversation of the Tree Protection and Replacement Ordinance by introducing a revised version of the proposed Tree Protection and Replacement Ordinance and the currently used Tree Protection and Replacement Ordinance as a reference.

Dir. Bennett explained the revised and shortened version of the proposed Tree Protection and Replacement Ordinance. The finding section of the ordinance was eliminated and a definition of ‘prune’ was added. The street trees section was eliminated also because it may not belong in the proposed tree protection and replacement ordinance and instead could be included in the right-of-way section of Lake Forest Park Municipal Code. The city forestry account section of the proposed ordinance was reduced eliminating the language that allowed for the establishing a public tree nursery and urban forestry education that is funded by monies collected from code enforcement actions and supplemental trees pursuant to LFPMC 16.14.110. Dir. Bennett discussed the elimination of the variance process for the removal of landmark trees and replaced it with language that requires a replacement tree for each unit of landmark tree removed. Discussion ensued regarding the number of replacement trees required for removal of a landmark tree. Dir. Bennett discussed a change in the revised version of the proposed Tree Protection and Replacement Ordinance that increased the diameter that defines a landmark tree from 28” to 32” decreasing the number of trees that would be designated as landmark trees.

Heritage trees were discussed. Some commissioners expressed concern that heritage trees cannot ever be removed, even if ownership of the property changes.

Consultant Walker explained the major and minor level III tree removal permits. The major permit is for new development in which the development square footage is more than 50% of what currently exists on the site. The minor permit is for smaller projects like remodels, small additions and deck construction. The minor level III tree removal permit is exempted from the minimum tree density that are required for major level III tree removal permits.

Dir. Bennett explained removal of the level IV tree removal permit to simplify the ordinance. The level IV permit allows for the creation of a long-term plan to maintain the health of a stand of trees. Consultant

1 Walker explained that there are many parcels in Lake Forest Park that have enough trees to merit a level IV  
2 tree removal permit. The commissioners discussed the benefits of the level IV tree removal permit.  
3 Specifically, the level IV permit serves as an incentive to maintain stands of trees and provides property  
4 owners increased flexibility.

5  
6 Dir. Bennett introduced the minimum tree density required by major level III tree removal permits. The  
7 revised version of the proposed tree protection and replacement ordinance requires 45 tree units per acre  
8 while the proposed tree protection and replacement ordinance requires 35 tree units per acre. The  
9 commissioners discussed the increased tree density units. Consultant Walker explained that a level III tree  
10 removal permit is required only when trees are impacted or removed.

11  
12 The commission discussed removal of landmark trees and the designation of landmark trees. Dir. Bennett  
13 explained that the revised version of the proposed tree protection and replacement ordinance alters the tree  
14 density table giving one additional tree unit, rather than two, for every four inches increased in tree diameter.  
15 This revision will not emphasize the importance of larger trees as much as the originally proposed tree  
16 density table.

17  
18 The commissioners discussed the change in diameter from 28" to 32" that defines landmark trees.

19  
20 The replacement trees related to removal of landmark trees was discussed. Consultant Walker explained that  
21 tree replacement related to landmark tree removal is only required when the tree is healthy and its removal is  
22 not related to development.

23  
24 Chair Foster stated that the options for the issues related to landmark tree removal are to raise the diameter  
25 that defines landmark trees or reduce the tree units assigned to landmark trees.

26  
27 Chair Foster asked that the commissioners come to the next meeting with a "personal recommendation to  
28 either alter the diameter [that defines] landmark trees or alter the tree density table and consider that we  
29 might change the developers' requirement back to 35 [tree units] because it's the only thing [highest tree  
30 density] they can attain."

31  
32 Dir. Bennett proposed a change in language that would allow for a half a replacement tree require per tree  
33 unit removed related to removal of a landmark tree.

34  
35 Cmr. Herring asked that the Level IV Tree Removal Permit be retained.

36  
37 **Reports/Communications:**  
38 **Cottage Housing Demonstration Ordinance**

39  
40 There will be a City Council study session of the Cottage Housing Demonstration Ordinance on June 26,  
41 2007 at 6pm.

42  
43 **Adjournment: 9:07 PM**

44  
45 Aaron Halverson, Clerk

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47 APPROVED:

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50 Jeff Foster, Chair

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52 \* A full audio record of this and all other Planning Commission Meetings may be obtained at the City of Lake  
53 Forest Park City Hall.