

1 **City of Lake Forest Park – Tree Board**
2 **Regular Meeting Notes: February 7, 2018**
3 **17425 Ballinger Way NE—Forest Room**
4

5 **Tree Board Members present:** David Kleweno; Courtney Siebken; Tyson Greer; Tim Hohn; Tom Hanson;
6 Karen Hugg; Julia Bent

7 **Staff and others present:** Lauren Hoerr, Assistant Planner; Aaron Halverson, Environmental Programs
8 Manager; Steve Bennett, Planning Director; Jeff Johnson, Mayor; Sue Costa Paschko, ELM Consultant; Greg
9 Murphy, ELM Consultant

10 **Lake Forest Park residents present:** Mike Dee; Jay Hermsmeier; Eric Evans; Jim Kelly; Walter Tabor;
11 Rhianne Janovich; Jim Halliday; Leslie Klahn; Levecke Mas; Rob Anderson; Jean Reid; Justine Furutani;
12 Tracy Furutani

13 **Tree Board Members absent:** None
14

15 **Call to order:** 7:02 PM
16

17 **Approval of Meeting Agenda:**

18 Cmr. Greer moved to approve the agenda. Cmr. Siebken seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
19

20 **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

21 January 3, 2018

22 Cmr. Greer requested to add under Communications that she was supposed to send out a Google Docs link
23 to a 2010 tree inventory by Jones and Jones as well as a document that came at the end of the last draft of
24 1157 to the Tree Board members. Cmr Greer moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was
25 seconded by Cmr. Hohn and passed unanimously.
26

27 **Next meeting:**

28 The next regular meeting occurs on Wednesday March 7, 2018. Cmr. Hugg and Cmr. Smith said that they
29 will likely be unable to attend.
30

31 **Public Comment**

32 Jay Hermsmeier

33 Mr. Hermsmeier stated that he lives up the street from the proposed Crane project on NE 178th St and that
34 the project threatens the community character including tree canopy. Mr. Hermsmeier stated his concerns
35 about wind impacting his trees after the removal of Mr. Crane's trees. He said that the project seems to be
36 tearing down a forest to fit a home rather than fitting a home into the forest.
37

38 Leslie Klahn

39 Ms. Klahn lives on 40th Pl NE and stated that the recent \$22,000 fine issued seems punitive and that costs
40 related to permitting and arborist visits can be prohibitive. She stated there should be a better way to retain
41 tree canopy and the good will of residents. She recommended that if the City wants trees in the community,
42 they should foot the bill and use carrots rather than sticks.
43

44 Rhianne Janovich

45 Ms. Janovich stated that she is a neighbor to the Crane property and that the trees being removed directly
46 affect her. She argued that experts can be biased as to who will pay their wages and that for Crane's property,
47 construction could be moved in order to avoid removing trees.
48

49 Jim Kelly

50 Mr. Kelly lives on 178th and has similar concerns to Mr. Hermsmeier. He worried that the size of the house is
51 dictating what happens on the lot and that the trees should influence what is buildable on a lot.
52

1 Mike Dee

2 Mr. Dee stated that staff should also look for comments made at the upcoming City Council meeting. He
3 stated his concern that two recent employees who retired should receive trees if they have worked for the
4 City for at least 20 years. Mr. Dee thanked staff for posting the agenda online and on site. Mr. Dee
5 encouraged people to also comment at a Planning Commission meeting.
6

7 Justine Furutani

8 Ms. Furutani lives on 178th and stated that there were some factual errors on the notice for the Crane project.
9 She said that there are large significant and landmark trees on the Crane's lot and noted her concern for
10 potentially losing these trees that have been there for a very long time.
11

12 Eric Evans

13 Mr. Evans lives on 178th and stated that the arborist is biased and not acting in good faith as no tree
14 preservation methods are included in the report. Mr. Evans stated that the notice document cannot be used
15 due to factual errors. He requested that the Planning Department cease all discussion related to 2018-TREE-
16 0007 until a new, corrected notice of application has been issued.
17

18 Levecke Mas

19 Ms. Mas is a neighbor to the Crane property and stated that the property owner bought the lot without doing
20 a feasibility study. Ms. Mas said that the property owner did not do their homework before buying the lot.
21

22 Walter Tabor

23 Mr. Tabor stated that he lives on 178th, two doors from the Crane property, and owns two properties along
24 that street. He was also a previous member of the Planning Commission. He stated that the City should not
25 allow Mr. Crane to cut down trees when they won't take responsibility to cut down City-owned trees near
26 utilities or in the right-of-way.
27

28 Rob Anderson

29 Mr. Anderson lives near Ballinger Way NE near 178th and stated that he moved here two years ago. He said
30 that one of the trees on Mr. Crane's lot has an osprey nest. Mr. Anderson stated that his daughter saw the
31 osprey last summer and it was extraordinary. He is concerned about the arborist's methodology as the report
32 stated 31% of canopy is being preserved but part of this preserved tree canopy is from a tree on his lot.
33

34 Jean Reid

35 Ms. Reid lives on 28th Ave NE and noted that she is commenting as a private citizen. She thanked the Tree
36 Board and city officials for their work and said that it is difficult to balance the needs for private homeowners
37 and the wants of the community. Ms. Reid argued that having a certified professional is not enough to meet
38 city residents' standards. She recommended that if the arborist does something false, the City should take
39 away their privilege to work in Lake Forest Park.
40

41 Jim Halliday

42 Mr. Halliday distributed a handout and stated that Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation is beginning a
43 project to map trees with raptors in it. He asked the Tree Board if they had made a decision on his prior
44 request to support the Kokanee Salmon Project.
45

46 **Old Business:**

47 Mayor Jeff Johnson

48 Cmr. Kleweno asked Mayor Johnson to give a synopsis of his goals for the Tree Board this year. Mayor
49 Johnson discussed the purchasing of a watering truck to help water trees as well as educating the public and
50 real estate agents about hazardous trees and the City's permitting process. He said that it would be beneficial
51 to do an inventory of dangerous trees in the right-of-way and to work with the new City arborist to educate
52 residents about right-of-way responsibilities vs private property responsibilities. The Mayor suggested that the

1 Tree Board focus on canopy study results and public outreach, including tree planting and maintenance as
2 well as getting young people with families and residents new to the city involved.
3

4 Cmr. Kleweno asked Mayor Johnson about how to handle public comments and requests for support. Mayor
5 Johnson said that if something rises to a certain level of importance, the Tree Board should contact him and
6 he will decide whether or not to bring it up to Council.
7

8 ELM Methodology

9 The ELM consultants stated that they will be using LIDAR and checking it against aerial images. Cmr. Smith
10 asked if they were able to give ELM the old data and Aaron said that the City should have it. Cmr. Smith
11 stated he would prefer to have the change classification in percentage change rather than canopy coverage
12 category change. ELM said they will show the change by 5% increments. Tree Board members asked
13 clarifying questions and ELM answered. Tree Board members committed to choosing 20 plots so that ELM
14 can choose 10 from there.
15

16 Work Plan 2018 Discussion

17 Cmr. Kleweno presented the idea of using the same format as the 2017 Work Plan for the 2018 Work Plan
18 and then discussing sub-tasks underneath the main four categories at a later point. Discussion was had among
19 members, who were unable to come to agreement. Cmr. Kleweno suggested to postpone further discussion
20 until the next meeting so as to not rush a decision.
21

22 Annual Report Discussion

23 Cmr. Greer motioned to add data as addendum to annual report and to wait until members had time to
24 review changes suggested by Planning Department Staff before approving the report. Cmr. Hohn seconded
25 the motion and it was approved unanimously.
26

27 Street Tree Planting Update

28 Ms. Hoerr reported that the inquiry letters that were distributed to a list of homeowners over the holidays to
29 solicit interest in planting street trees had a very low response rate. An alternative idea was to plant trees in
30 city parks, so Planning Staff met with Mr. Halverson to discuss which city parks could use trees and
31 committed to distributing the list of parks with the number of potential trees as well as clarifying if they
32 could still do follow up with customers for street trees. Cmr. Hanson asked Ms. Hoerr to clarify if the
33 vouchers only allowed trees 15-20' in height since parks would provide opportunity to have bigger trees. Ms.
34 Hoerr committed to getting clarification.
35

36 **New Business:**

37 Due to the time, Cmr. Kleweno suggested that the agenda items relating to Election of New Chair and Vice
38 Chair, the 2018 Work Plan, and the Reports and Announcements be moved to next month's agenda.
39

40 **Reports and Announcements:**

41 See above.
42

43 **Agenda for Next Meeting:**

44 Tree Planting Update, 2018 Work Plan, Elections, Green Fair/Arbor Day, ELM Data Usage.
45

46 **Adjournment:** 8:59 PM

47 Cmr. Bent moved to adjourn the meeting. Cmr. Hohn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
48

49 APPROVED:

50 _____
51 David Kleweno, Chair
52