

August 27, 2020  
via ZOOM Webinar



## Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services/Tree Board Meeting Minutes

### Call to Order/Attendance

**The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.**

**Park Board members present:** John Hoey, Sara Raab McInerny, Bill Franklin, Jeff Potter, Bruce Amundson, Christine Southwick, Hayley Berkman, David Lin

**Absent:** Elizabeth White (Excused)

**PRCS Staff present:** PRCS Director Eric Friedli, Parks Superintendent Kirk Peterson, Recreation Superintendent Mary Reidy, Community Services Manager Colleen Kelly, City Manager Debbie Tarry, Assistant City Manager John Norris, Management Analyst Christina Arcidy, Surface Water Program Specialist Christie Lovelace, Administrative Assistant II Martha Karl

### Land Acknowledgement

Read by John Hoey and worded by Hayley Berkman: We acknowledge the land on which our work started as the traditional home of the Coast Salish and Snohomish peoples. We take this opportunity to thank the original caretakers and storytellers of this land who are still here, and to recognize the immense culture of these peoples by remembering their history and traditions. We invite you to recognize our government's history of unfair treatment and lack of accountability against Indigenous communities as we push to raise visibility and education about them.

### Approval of Agenda

**Chair Hoey called for a motion to approve the agenda. So moved by Ms. Raab McInerny and seconded by Mr. Amundson. The motion carried.**

### Approval of Minutes

**Chair Hoey called for a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. So moved by Mr. Franklin and seconded by Mr. Potter. The motion carried.**

### Public Comment:

*Pursuant to Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-28, in an effort to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the PRCS/Tree Board's regular meetings will take place online using the Zoom platform and the public will not be allowed to attend in-person. Written comments received by 6:00 p.m. on August 27, 2020 have been entered into the Public Comment portion of this meeting for Board consideration. More information at [www.shorelinewa.gov/parkboard](http://www.shorelinewa.gov/parkboard)*

Written comments were distributed to the board via email prior to the meeting.

August 27, 2020

via ZOOM Webinar

**Kathleen Russell, Shoreline resident, on behalf of Save Shoreline Trees.**

Read this prepared statement: In recognition of Director Eric Friedli, we acknowledge your many years as a Director for the City of Shoreline and send you best wishes for a happy retirement.

To the Tree Board: per Code 12.30.20 the responsibility of the Tree Board does apply to public right-of-way trees. We call your attention to the WSDOT frontage at Dayton Avenue N., pending Permit 19-2371, where two public landmark and many significant trees will either be cut down or impacted by the construction of the proposed elevated 8' wide Perma-Trak walkway. Tree 140, in good health, measures 38.5 DSH, and Tree 145, in excellent health, is 32.3 DSH. In total, 3 landmark trees will be removed and an additional 6 Landmark trees could be, "impacted", meaning damage might occur during construction or when their neighbor trees are cut down. Per Code 20.50.350.

Save Shoreline Trees asks this Tree Board to take action and contact WSDOT regarding the value and importance of the many public right-of-way trees and all the trees on Dayton Avenue N., N. 160<sup>th</sup> and N. 155<sup>th</sup> which form a tree canopy. Ask WSDOT to once again look at the design for the walkway. Or, ask the City to take over the design of this walkway. Dayton Avenue N. and N. 160<sup>th</sup> are high traffic streets. It will be a shock to Shoreline residents when 104 trees are cut down per the July 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 update of the WSDOT arborist report, Table 1, page 3. These trees are part of Shoreline's urban tree canopy and are valuable assets to Shoreline residents. We ask the Tree Board to make the recommendation to City Council, per your advisory role to the Council, to save these 104 tall conifer trees around WSDOT, because each of these trees is important to Shoreline residents. Thank you for listening.

**Katie Schielke, Shoreline resident, President at Kruckeberg Botanic Garden**

Introduced herself and thanked Director Friedli for his work in the past the on the Pros Plan and wished him a wonderful retirement.

Ms. Schielke requested the Board keep funds allocated towards ADA improvements at Kruckeberg as part of a future bond package that will be brought to Council. Park improvements are needed to provide ADA accessibility to the Education building and lower garden where outdoor events take place in partnership with the City. Kruckeberg continues to expand events and programming with nature-based education, workshops, summer camps, and now fall nature school programs. In order to meet the needs of the Community and make the property accessible to all ages and abilities these improvements are imperative. The garden and facility are a park, owned by the City and community. Everyone should be able to have access. Kruckeberg foundation has already raised \$100,000.00 towards the needed improvements but the additional funding is required to make all the accommodations.

**Ann Bates, Shoreline Protect Shoreline Trees**

Dayton Avenue N. helps to keep our city cooler and our city cleaner, please ask WSDOT to save those trees. The reorganization of Shoreline PRCS Tree Board ignores the importance of Shoreline trees in reducing heat islands and overall warming. Priorities of Board from the 2019 retreat does not include the word tree. Please establish a Tree Board that includes staff, citizens and experts that understand how urban forest contribute to the reduction to global (and Shoreline's) warming temperatures and to preserve the cleaner air. Future generations will be grateful.

**Rebecca Jones, Shoreline Resident**, – Audio problems, no sound audible. Will submit comments in writing. Letter [attached](#).

August 27, 2020

via ZOOM Webinar

## Proposed Amendment SMC 8.12 - Feeding Waterfowl

*Christie Lovelace, Surface Water Program Specialist*

Feeding waterfowl increases waterfowl feces which then, in turn, increases bacteria and virus levels. High bacteria levels are more likely to have dangerous bacteria. Harmful algal blooms take the oxygen out of the water and can cause toxic algal blooms. This summer the City had an 8-week closure at Hidden Lake. King County did a Fecal Source Tracking Study that found no human feces in water, minimal dog feces in water, and concluded that likely waterfowl is causing the problem. Surface water has taken an educational approach "Nobody wants a poopy lake." The City of Shoreline is proposing to update the Shoreline Municipal Code (SMC 8.12) to expressly prohibit feeding waterfowl in Shoreline Parks with a civil infraction of no more than \$500 fine and enforceable by CRT or Police. The City website has been updated [www.shorelinewa.gov/waterquality](http://www.shorelinewa.gov/waterquality). The proposal will be presented to the City Council by end of 2020.

**Mr. Amundson moved that the Board accept the proposed process, supporting this amendment to the City Code and seconded by Mr. Potter. The motion passed unanimously.**

## Director's Report

*Eric Friedli, PRCS Director*

- Board recommendations from the July meeting on facility rentals was presented to City Council on August 10<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled to be adopted at the September 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.
- Pickleball lines scheduled to be painted within a couple weeks.
- Council approved the property purchase and sell agreement for 185<sup>th</sup> West of Ashworth and are expected to approve Westminster property acquisition at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Starting on September 15<sup>th</sup> City Council will start the park naming process and will consider names in October.
- City will be planting 65 trees to replace trees removed elsewhere on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Letters were sent out to residents this week. The Planning department is working with WSDOT to move 12-14 trees.
- Next Board meeting the subcommittee will present their work on the Park Improvement and Acquisition Bond Measure Project and discuss Cultural Services and Public Art.

## Proposed SMC Amendment 8.12 - Veterans Recognition Plaza

*Eric Friedli, PRCS Director*

Director Friedli gave a presentation of Veterans Recognition Plaza (the "Plaza"). The Board was asked to recommend approval of an addition to the Shoreline Municipal Code stating the purpose of the Plaza and authorizing the development of administrative rules for its use. The Plaza was dedicated in May 2016 on a portion of the City Hall Campus. The Plaza is located within the City Hall Plaza that is open for general public enjoyment and considered park land. The Plaza was developed and funded by the Shoreline Veterans Association through the leadership of Dwight Stevens and Frank Moll. The Veterans Association holds regular events at the Plaza to commemorate important days such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day, Patriots Day, Independence Day and Armed Services Day. The Shoreline

August 27, 2020

via ZOOM Webinar

Veterans Recognition Plaza at City Hall pays tribute to veterans and current service members from all branches of the military by providing a setting to honor veterans and armed forces members in a dignified, respectful manner.

The City Manager or designee shall promulgate rules as to the use of the Plaza consistent with this purpose. The intent of the proposed rules is to ensure that the Plaza continues to always be a location for honoring veterans and armed forces members in a dignified and respectful manner. These rules do not apply to the City Hall Plaza in general but emphasize the special and unique nature of the Veterans Recognition Plaza.

The Shoreline Veterans Association was consulted and provided comment on the proposed language (their comments have been incorporated). They did recommend that veteran planned ceremonies not be required to obtain a permit in advance of holding events. Staff have not included that recommendation in this proposed language. In order to manage the number and timing of events and ensure there are not scheduling conflicts, it is important that all groups obtain permits in advance of an event. There was a brief discussion.

**Mr. Franklin moved to make a motion that the Board recommend approval to Shoreline Municipal Code and seconded by Ms. Southwick. The motion passed unanimously.**

## Summer/Fall Recreation Programs

*Mary Reidy, Recreation Cultural Services Superintendent*

Recreation Superintendent Mary Reidy gave a presentation of Summer Camps and Recreation. COVID safety measures were added to summer programs and will continue this fall. New remote Specialized Recreation classes were added. Fall classes will move outside for yoga, tai chi and karate. Adult trips will meet at an outdoor site and lead with social distancing measures. Summer camps had modifications including higher level of cleaning, smaller group size, health checks, modified activities, arranging staff to stay in same groups, and social distancing activities. Shoreline had 1333 registrations this summer.

Special Events Team: PRCS Special Event Coordinator, Neighborhood Coordinator, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, Communication Specialist and Public Art Coordinator all worked together to plan several community projects that could be done safely or virtually. Juneteenth - June 19<sup>th</sup> videos were submitted of what it's like to be black in Shoreline. Summer Yard Art, 2 online lunch concerts, weekly Bingo Card, Shoreline Has Gratitude, Celebrate Shoreline yard signs and chalk art, and Can Castle Contest and food donation collection were some of the activities planned by the Special Events Team. Shoreline is partnering with the Arts Counsel to host the Holiday Craft Market outside City Hall. Shoreline will be partnering with Kruckeberg Botanical Gardens to host the Solstice Stroll.

Fall Childcare/Camps will be offered to coordinate with Shoreline School District K-5 online learning. There will be Wednesday early release for staff planning hours. Skyhawks and Nature Vision will be offering camps on Wednesdays after school. Middle School and High School Distant Learning Programs will be offered at the Teen Center and Ballinger Homes. Fall registration starts September 8<sup>th</sup> and programs start September 14<sup>th</sup>. Shoreline residents will be receiving a postcard about registration.

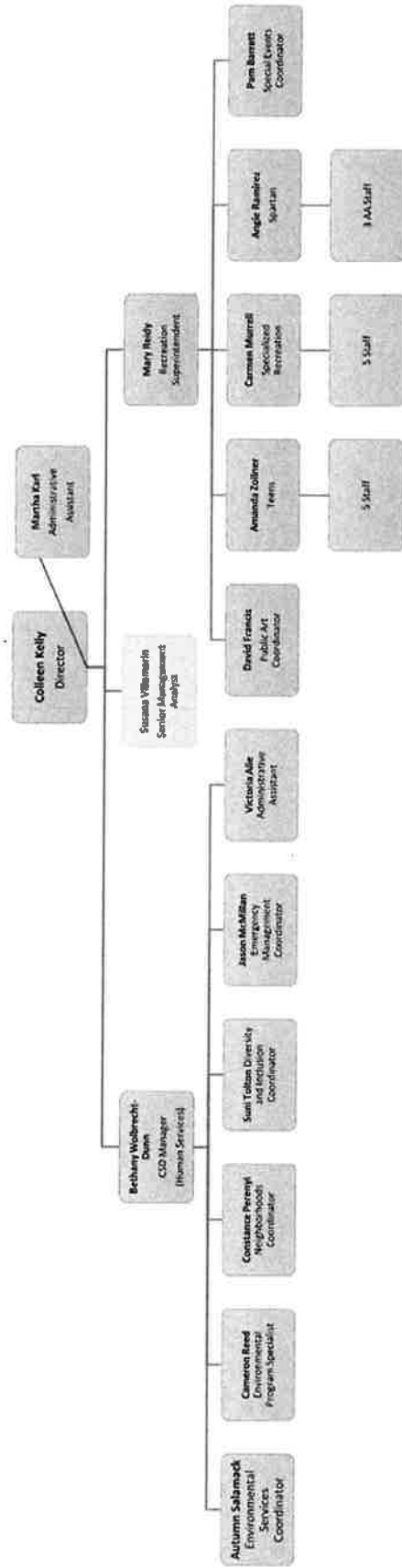
## PRCS Reorganization Discussion

*City Manager, Debbie Tarry; Assistant City Manager, John Norris*



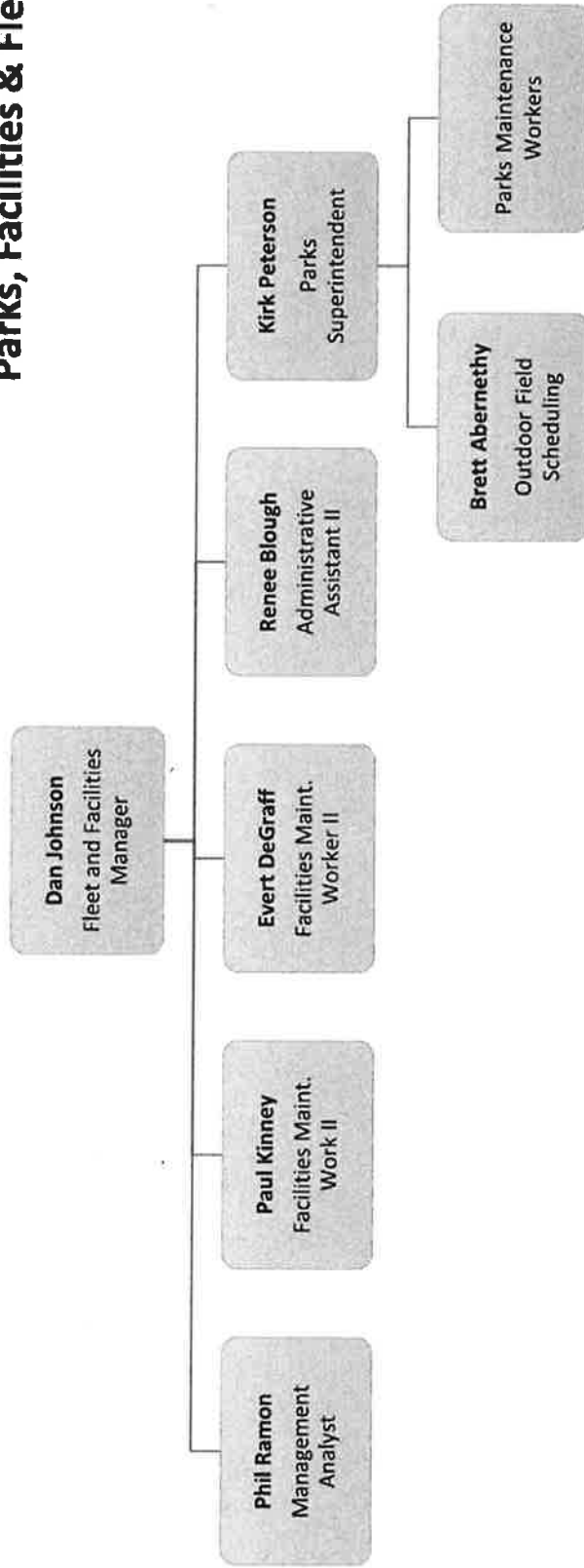
# Attachment A

## Recreation and Community Services



**Attachment B**

**Parks, Facilities & Fleet**



EMAILED PUBLIC COMMENTS



August 27, 2020

Re: Significant Tree loss by WSDOT Dayton Project  
(104 Trees to be cut down for WSDOT frontage project Permit 19-2371)

Dear Shoreline Parks and Recreation Council,

What a year this has been for everyone. 2020 has not pulled any punches and we are all fatigued from many stresses due to the upheaval this year has revealed. Taking a deep breath to calm ourselves is something even still we are taking for granted. Breathing through masks is a feeling we all may well need to get used to as we continue to cull our urban forests.

Today, I'd like to specifically talk about two significant trees on the WSDOT chopping block, #145 and #140.

**Tree #140 is 61 years old.**

This tree was planted in 1959; the year Alaska and Hawaii became U.S. states.

**Tree #145 is just a little over 50 years old.**

This means this tree was planted in 1970, a year after we landed on the moon.

Trees 140 and 145 provide the following benefits annually:<sup>1</sup>

Saves the city \$495 a year<sup>1</sup>

Capture 10,510 gallons of storm water run-off a year

Conserve 251 kilowatt hours of energy a year

Remove 1,287 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> from our atmosphere year

For reference, one car that drives 12,000 miles a year *generates 11,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> a year.*

These are just a some of the types of the benefits that *each* large conifer in our canopy provides our community. Currently, the trade-offs offered for removing even one of these assets does not give our Shoreline community members the same immediate benefits. In fact, these benefits will be denied for at least 21% of adult community members of Shoreline because these benefits will not be equitably replaced in their lifetime.<sup>2</sup> It won't be in my lifetime, and frankly most of us on this call.

To immediately replace the CO<sub>2</sub> benefit that we currently receive from these two trees you would have to plant and maintain:<sup>4</sup>

9 10" Douglas Fir Trees (140 pounds CO<sub>2</sub> per year) 140 lbs x 9 = 1,260 lbs

or

28 5" Douglas Fir Trees ( 45 pounds CO<sub>2</sub> each per year) 45 lbs x 28 = 1260 lbs

or

August 27, 2020

To: Shoreline City Manager, Debbie Tarry

CC: Shoreline City Council

Assistant City Manager, John Norris

Director of Parks, Facilities & Fleets, Dan Johnson

Director of Recreation & Community Services, Colleen Kelly

Director of Planning & Community Development, Rachel Markle

Dear Ms. Tarry,

After watching tonight's PRCS Meeting and listening to the explanation of how the Parks Department will be bisected and the comments made. I have to say that I agree with Bruce Amundson's statement regarding the incongruous process of on one hand working to raise funding and visibility for public art while at the same time moving a step further down the organizational ladder thereby diminishing its clout to achieve anything.

Along with this is my personal concern that Shoreline stop treating the essentially non-existent Tree Board as a bad appendix awaiting removal from the PRCS. The City has had numerous studies done and spent many tax payer dollars (be they federal, state, county, or city they are all taxpayer dollars) over the last 15 years while our healthy, mature trees are being actively removed from around us, usually with the City's blessing. Yet these very same studies have provided the answers. Establish a true Forestry Board than can speak to all of the trees in Shoreline be they public or private.

I would like to see the Board be led by a member of Planning and Community Development Department since they are responsible for approving permits and enforcing violations. The Forestry Board could easily be led by a Planning Team

member in a manner similar to the “Project” manager position currently held by Juniper Nammi for the Light Rail Extension. This would allow for a single, consistent means to deal with tree issues citywide. The board itself could easily be “staffed” by local volunteers with forestry education and experience. I’m quite sure there would be no shortage of volunteers. And it would not require a greater expenditure than the staff required for public art.

The forest is a natural system and can not be reduced to one tree here and another there. We need a plan to preserve our mature canopy so they can produce offspring and provide the myriad of benefits they offer us right now in shade, peace of mind, carbon sequestration, water retention, etc.

The Tree Board is currently doing nothing and taxpayers are watching as our assets are being destroyed. Would the City behave in this manner is it was gold being removed from the soil? Whether the soil was public or private? If not, then now is the time to protect what we have. Let’s count our trees, name them and include their inventoried values among the assets of the taxpayers within the City’s budget. And then let’s treat them like the green-gold they truly are.

As a reminder here are couple of quotes from the most recent study, the 2019 Green Shoreline 20 Year Urban Forest Management Plan

*“Community building and an ethic of environmental responsibility are at the core of the Green Shoreline Partnership and the Green Cities Network across Puget Sound.”*

Green Shoreline 20 Year Forest Management Plan, Page 44

*“The overall health and long-term management of our urban tree canopy is an important piece in achieving environmental sustainability as a community. The 2019 FLAT results show that 70% of lands surveyed had an overstory that was dominated by coniferous trees, while 30% of lands were dominated by broadleaf trees. Douglas-fir was the dominant overstory tree in more than half (55%) of the surveyed acres, with also a high presence of western redcedar, western hemlock, and western white pine (Figure 6). The high presence of Douglas-fir and the existence of additional coniferous species are of very high value. Coniferous trees often live longer than deciduous species, therefore providing numerous ecological services longer into the future. Conifers also have been known to sequester larger amounts of carbon and lessen stormwater management.”*

Green Shoreline 20 Year Forest Management Plan, Page 32

Along with this letter I am including a letter I wrote to Julie Underwood with concerns about what would happen if the Tree Board were attached to the PRCS Board. It remains unchanged, including the typos, since it was written in 2012. The experiment of having the Tree Board be an adjunct of the PRCS Board needs to end. Since even the PRCS Board doesn't recognize it. During this re-org is the perfect time to move the Tree to a place where it can do as citizens were told it would eight years ago.

Please rename and repurpose the Tree Board into a Forestry Board where scientific and experiential knowledge can work together to stop the destruction and create a livable city within the forest. A place where people can enjoy walking through their neighborhood to the bus stop, store or local restaurant; where people enjoy biking just for the pleasure of it; and where animals have healthy habitat corridors to travel from neighborhood to neighborhood. A place that nurtures life instead of diminishing it.

Sincerely,

Boni Biery

attached – Jan 9, 2012 Letter to then City Manager, Julie Underwood

January 9, 2012

City Manager: Julie Underwood  
City Council: Chris Eggen, Doris McConnell, Keith McGlahasan, Will Hall, Chris Roberts, Jesse Salomon, Shari Winstead

Subject: Tree Board to Meet Tree City USA Requirements

It is exciting to know the City of Shoreline city council is pursuing Tree City USA status as one of their goals. How this is done is critical to the success of protecting city assets. This letter discusses the following aspects to be considered in this foundational decision:

1. THE URBAN FOREST IS A FINANCIAL ASSET
2. THE NEED FOR A SINGLE SOURCE OF EXPERTISE AND AUTHORITY
3. FACT – THE URBAN FOREST IS SYSTEM
4. ROLE PARKS DEPARTMENT/BOARD
5. THE NEED FOR A SYSTEMS APPROACH
6. TREE BOARD PLACE IN A CITY MANAGER GOVERNMENT MODEL
7. THE NATURE OF THE TREE BOARD
8. FINAL COMMENTS

### **1. THE URBAN FOREST IS A FINANCIAL ASSET**

“...urban trees provide quantifiable environmental and aesthetic benefits, the biological legacy in the tree structure itself may also be appraised. The value of a tree is a function of its size, species, health and location...”<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> City Portland, Oregon’s “Assessment and Public Tree Evaluation; 2007, page 25  
<http://www.portlandonline.com/parks/index.cfm?a=171829&c=38306>

- Shoreline taxpayers funded a partial inventory of street trees in 2003<sup>2</sup>
- A \$10K WDNR grant funded a 2011 tree canopy assessment<sup>3</sup>
- City owned trees (Right of Way & Parks) have been valued using iTree – Streets software<sup>4</sup>
- A conservative estimate of the city owned tree replacement value is \$182M<sup>5</sup>
- Annual estimated value of tree provided “services” to the city is \$3.7M

Inherent to the proper management of any asset is the need for an established system of checks and balances. For example, those responsible for receiving income must be separated from those who spend the receipts to assure there is appropriate oversight of funds and adequate protection for employees who might otherwise be accused of mismanagement/misappropriations. A system without these checks and balances is risk-prone and lacks the benefits of a multi-faceted perspective.

## **2. THE NEED FOR A SINGLE SOURCE OF EXPERTISE AND AUTHORITY**

The functionality of different departments and outside agencies that have interests in Shoreline’s Urban Forests points up the need for particular responsibility to the trees and our citizens.

The City of Shoreline needs a single source for forestry based decision making with both arborists and urban foresters to reduce the risk of ongoing challenges to tree management decisions.

Here are some examples of the issues raised by citizens in the just last six months:

1. Seattle City Light proposed removal of 76 trees along the Interurban Trail between N 145th and N 155<sup>th</sup> to reduce their maintenance costs. Community meeting handled by Council of Neighborhoods with no city forestry expert, but citizen action succeeded in postponing any cutting by presenting facts.
2. Parks Department removed a number of trees from Twins Ponds Park drawing a public outcry.
3. City was sued by the Innis Arden Club over the proposed removal of an additional 46 mature trees from Bear Reserve and chose to not vigorously oppose the removal.
4. Public Works removed several mature street trees along N 155<sup>th</sup> generating an outpouring of public questions, demands and dismay.

<sup>2</sup> “Urban Forest Management Plan Final Report, by ACRT, Inc; 2003  
<http://www.shorelinewa.gov/index.aspx?page=196>

<sup>3</sup> “Urban Tree Canopy Assesment”, by AMEC Earth and Environmental; 2011  
<http://www.shorelinewa.gov/index.aspx?page=196>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.shorelinewa.gov/index.aspx?page=196>

<sup>5</sup> Letter to City Council from Urban Forester Kava Vale, dated November 7, 2011

5. Shoreline School District removed 4 of 9 large, prominent Sequoias for the convenience of access.<sup>6</sup> These trees were planted on the Shorecrest Campus roughly 50 years ago. The neighborhood is outraged.

### **3. THE URBAN FOREST IS SYSTEM**

Our urban forest is a living system that includes rain water interception (capturing it before it hits the ground), carbon sequestration in the tree tissues, scrubbing of non-point pollution run-off from stormwater run-off before it reaches our streams. It has dynamic nutrient exchange processes via the mycorrhizae of the soil, and recycles CO<sup>2</sup> into fresh air for us to breathe.<sup>78</sup>

These and many other forest system outputs provide numerous “service functions” like:

1. Stormwater mitigations and the shade cooling of pavement (Public Works)
2. Recreational activities in a natural setting like walking in the park and observing wildlife (Parks)
3. Economic advantages of naturalized shopping environments (Economic Development)
4. Reduced crime rates (Public Safety)
5. Wildlife Habitat
6. Property values – shade, steep slope stabilization, attractiveness
7. Beauty, community pride and general well-being for residents

Because the reach of an urban forest extends far beyond the distinct, traditional lines of any one city department’s responsibilities the Tree Board must be carefully positioned to maximize the benefits it can provide..<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> [http://shoreline.patch.com/blog\\_posts/four-huge-sequoias-cut-at-shorecrest-hs-community-wonders-why](http://shoreline.patch.com/blog_posts/four-huge-sequoias-cut-at-shorecrest-hs-community-wonders-why) and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sequoiadendron>

<sup>7</sup> “We Need City Trees! Economic Benefits of Urban Trees” by Dr. Kathleen Wolf, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington; January 2009; <http://www.naturewithin.info/New/IN%20ArbAssoc.Wolf.Jan09.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mycorrhiza>

<sup>9</sup> American Forests - Protecting and Restoring Forests to Life; Urban Forests; <http://www.americanforests.org/conservation-programs/urban-forests/>

#### **4. ROLE PARKS DEPARTMENT/BOARD**

Parks management is tasked with providing and maintaining recreational facilities like the Shoreline Pool, the Spartan Gym, the many athletic fields, and the trails system. Within this environment trees are only considered as risks, i.e.; when they are in the way, diseased, or deemed to be a safety hazard.

Assignment for the broad, community-based needs and goals for our urban forest under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department with narrowly its defined objectives would negate the opportunity to provide more appropriate oversight that evaluates the citywide forest system in all of its complexity; literally *missing the forest for the trees*.

Designating responsibility for the urban forest system to the Parks Department is misguided and leaves the door open for questions regarding the ethics of the placement as it puts both the Parks Director and the City of Shoreline in the vulnerable position of being continually subjected to professional and legal challenges by citizens and groups due to the lack of independent, professional expertise needed to protect them.

#### **5. THE NEED FOR A SYSTEMS APPROACH**

Appropriate oversight of Shoreline's urban forest system requires a system-wide approach. An additional benefit of this approach could be the inclusion of the forest system in the city's asset accounting which affords the potential of increasing our bond rating. In these financially challenging times visibility of greater assets could prove to be quite useful. To leave this huge asset unaccounted for seems to leave the city open to questions regarding the ethical management of its assets.

To properly assess the urban forest requires the guidance of professionally educated urban foresters informed by of experiential knowledge of arborists and other professionals such as: naturalists, planners, wildlife experts, etc.

- Arborists are trained to deal with individual trees
- Urban Foresters address the living system of trees called the forest
- The City of Shoreline needs the expertise of Urban Foresters

Until this is done, every tree removed from the canopy is a synonymous with a withdrawal of principle from a saving account with no return on investment and the increased need for funding of additional man-made structure to compensate for the tree services lost.



## **6. TREE BOARD PLACE IN A CITY MANAGER GOVERNMENT MODEL**

Shoreline's governmental structure has department directors reporting to the City Manager, it dictates that a department director will need to have the reporting responsibilities for the proposed Tree Board.

The staff report to Council overlooks the fact that the Planning Department currently oversees activities which address ALL of the trees in the city for both publicly and privately owned trees through code generation and enforcement.

Since a department director is needed to interface with and report on future Tree Board activities, the most appropriate would be the Planning Director as demonstrated by the ongoing functions of the Planning Department.

- The City of Shoreline Sustainability Strategy was written by and is monitored by the Planning Department<sup>10</sup>
- Recommendation to pursue Tree City USA came from the Sustainability Strategy
- The Planning Department oversees the Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements with its requirements for infrastructure; both man-made and living
- The Planning Department generates the Municipal Codes
- Planning Department enforces the Shoreline Municipal Code

## **7. THE NATURE OF THE TREE BOARD**

Our neighboring city of Lake Forest Park and other nearby cities has effectively deployed Tree Boards as called for by DNR and Tree City USA.<sup>11</sup> They have been successful in crafting these efforts through the efforts of experienced, dedicated volunteers with little need for expenditures by the City. Only minimal support is required by the city for note-taking and some printing of agendas and materials. These other cities have boards which function well and are self directed and also are effective at enhancing and protecting the Urban Forest Assets.

The first issues the Tree Board will undoubtedly be focused on will be assessing the urban forest and what is needed to support the many needs of other city departments including, Finance, Public Works and Parks and to establish goals and priorities. However, unlike the heavy demands on staff required by either the Planning Commission or the Parks Board it could operate autonomously with very little need for staff support, much like other local cities and akin to the Long Range Economic Development Committee.

---

<sup>10</sup> <http://shorelinewa.gov/index.aspx?page=179>

<sup>11</sup>

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/UrbanForestry/Pages/rp\\_urban\\_commandurbanforestry.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/UrbanForestry/Pages/rp_urban_commandurbanforestry.aspx)

## 8. FINAL COMMENTS

The decision as to where the Tree Board is positioned is crucially important to its success. Please direct staff to revise the currently proposed "Alternate Ordinance" to have the Tree Board report through the Planning Department which is the established "home" of Sustainability for the City and the one department with the knowledge of SMC that will be instrumental to the Board as it goes forward.

*An ideal scenario would have a City Forester-oversee all tree related issues citywide and report directly to the City Manager. This allows Parks, Public Works and Planning to focus on their particular issues with input when needed regarding trees, rather than having three not expert groups doing what they can independent of one another.*

As the saying goes: "If you are going nowhere any map will do.", as things stand, the city has assets conservatively valued in excess of \$3.7M which remain unaccounted for on the city's balance sheet and are "managed" only as liabilities. This asset needs to be inventoried and provided professional, urban forest system management. A current, accurate and complete accounting of taxpayer owned trees which collectively make up Shoreline's urban forest is long overdue to assure this living asset is properly accounted for. To do any less is simply unconscionable. Please exercise your authority and direct staff to modify the proposed "Alternative Ordinance 617" so the Planning Department functions as the reporting department for the Tree Board.

Respectfully,  
Boni Biery

August 27, 2020

Re: Significant Tree loss by WSDOT Dayton Project  
(104 Trees to be cut down for WSDOT frontage project Permit 19-2371)

Dear Shoreline Parks and Recreation Council,

What a year this has been for everyone. 2020 has not pulled any punches and we are all fatigued from many stresses due to the upheaval this year has revealed. Taking a deep breath to calm ourselves is something even still we are taking for granted. Breathing through masks is a feeling we all may well need to get used to as we continue to cull our urban forests.

Today, I'd like to specifically talk about two significant trees on the WSDOT chopping block, #145 and #140.

**Tree #140 is 61 years old.**

This tree was planted in 1959; the year Alaska and Hawaii became U.S. states.

**Tree #145 is just a little over 50 years old.**

This means this tree was planted in 1970, a year after we landed on the moon.

Trees 140 and 145 provide the following benefits annually:<sup>1</sup>

Saves the city \$495 a year<sup>1</sup>

Capture 10,510 gallons of storm water run-off a year

Conserve 251 kilowatt hours of energy a year

Remove 1,287 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> from our atmosphere year

For reference, one car that drives 12,000 miles a year *generates 11,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> a year.*

These are just a some of the types of the benefits that *each* large conifer in our canopy provides our community. Currently, the trade-offs offered for removing even one of these assets does not give our Shoreline community members the same immediate benefits. In fact, these benefits will be denied for at least 21% of adult community members of Shoreline because these benefits will not be equitably replaced in their lifetime.<sup>2</sup> It won't be in my lifetime, and frankly most of us on this call.

To immediately replace the CO<sub>2</sub> benefit that we currently receive from these two trees you would have to plant and maintain:<sup>4</sup>

9 10" Douglas Fir Trees (140 pounds CO<sub>2</sub> per year) 140 lbs x 9 = 1,260 lbs

or

28 5" Douglas Fir Trees ( 45 pounds CO<sub>2</sub> each per year) 45 lbs x 28 = 1260 lbs

or

<sup>1</sup> Stats provided are from the National Tree Benefit Calculator for the Shoreline, WA area.

<sup>2</sup> According to worldpopulationreview.com, in 2020 Shoreline has a total population of 56,752 with approximately 31% 30 or under.

According to worldpopulationreview.com, in 2020 Shoreline has a population of 45,353 adults with 9,849 of them being senior citizens.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/106/28/11635.full.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.arborday.org/calculator/returnValues.cfm?climatezone=Pacific%20Northwest>

**Martha Karl**

---

**From:** andrea gruszecki <innerlight.ws@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 7:24 PM  
**To:** Park Board  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] save our trees! Public comment for next meeting

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Shoreline. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good day,

The proposed reorganization of Shoreline Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Dept. needs an adjustment. It appears that responsibility for Shoreline's Urban Forest is being diminished and relegated to a minor role under maintenance. The agenda states: "The parks maintenance staff will continue their public tree responsibilities."

This isn't adequate for protecting proactively our Shoreline urban forest. If Shoreline means it when they say it's a tree city, there needs to be some muscle behind the concept.

I propose instead that the council establish a separate TREE BOARD staffed by people who know about trees and their care. This board should have regulatory and enforcement authority, not merely advisory authority.

Reason: Shoreline is losing its mature forest cover at an alarming rate. Death by a thousand cuts. The current regulations, laxly enforced if at all, aren't protecting our urban forest. These trees are the lungs of our planet, and we bear responsibility for their care. Multiple peer-reviewed scientific studies clearly demonstrate that naturalized areas improve stress and cortisol levels; our citizens deserve tree-filled neighborhoods for this reason, if no other.

I was very grateful to move from Renton to Shoreline, and currently reside on a property that has enough trees to host a resident owl. What happens to my owl when the City cuts down all the surrounding trees?

**Peace and Health,**

**Andrea Gruszecki, ND**  
**19805 Sunnyside Drive N. Apt. K-303**  
**Shoreline, WA 98133**  
**540-379-9796**

***"Natural forces within us are the true healers of disease" - Hippocrates***

August 27, 2020

Re: Significant Tree loss by WSDOT Dayton Project  
(104 Trees to be cut down for WSDOT frontage project Permit 19-2371)

Dear Shoreline Parks and Recreation Council,

What a year this has been for everyone. 2020 has not pulled any punches and we are all fatigued from many stresses due to the upheaval this year has revealed. Taking a deep breath to calm ourselves is something even still we are taking for granted. Breathing through masks is a feeling we all may well need to get used to as we continue to cull our urban forests.

Today, I'd like to specifically talk about two significant trees on the WSDOT chopping block, #145 and #140.

**Tree #140 is 61 years old.**

This tree was planted in 1959; the year Alaska and Hawaii became U.S. states.

**Tree #145 is just a little over 50 years old.**

This means this tree was planted in 1970, a year after we landed on the moon.

Trees 140 and 145 provide the following benefits annually:<sup>1</sup>

Saves the city \$495 a year<sup>1</sup>

Capture 10,510 gallons of storm water run-off a year

Conserve 251 kilowatt hours of energy a year

Remove 1,287 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> from our atmosphere year

For reference, one car that drives 12,000 miles a year *generates 11,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> a year.*

These are just a some of the types of the benefits that *each* large conifer in our canopy provides our community. Currently, the trade-offs offered for removing even one of these assets does not give our Shoreline community members the same immediate benefits. In fact, these benefits will be denied for at least 21% of adult community members of Shoreline because these benefits will not be equitably replaced in their lifetime.<sup>2</sup> It won't be in my lifetime, and frankly most of us on this call.

To immediately replace the CO<sub>2</sub> benefit that we currently receive from these two trees you would have to plant and maintain:<sup>4</sup>

9 10" Douglas Fir Trees (140 pounds CO<sub>2</sub> per year) 140 lbs x 9 = 1,260 lbs

or

28 5" Douglas Fir Trees ( 45 pounds CO<sub>2</sub> each per year) 45 lbs x 28 = 1260 lbs

or

<sup>1</sup> Stats provided are from the National Tree Benefit Calculator for the Shoreline, WA area.

<sup>2</sup> According to worldpopulationreview.com, in 2020 Shoreline has a total population of 56,752 with approximately 31% 30 or under.

According to worldpopulationreview.com, in 2020 Shoreline has a population of 45,353 adults with 9,849 of them being senior citizens.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/106/28/11635.full.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.arboday.org/calculator/returnValues.cfm?climatezone=Pacific%20Northwest>

## Martha Karl

---

**From:** Kathleen Russell <krussell@russell-gordon.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 9:27 PM  
**To:** Caleb Miller; City Council; Debbie Tarry; Park Board; NWDaytonRemodel@wsdot.wa.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Save Shoreline Trees - regarding "14 public right of way trees" update from the Planning Department at PRCS meeting 8/27/20

**WARNING:** The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Shoreline. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Caleb Miller (Planning Department), City Council, City Manager Debbie Tarry, PRCS, and WSDOT (Chris Linden),

At the Parks, Recreation, Cultural Services meeting on 8/27/20, Director Eric Friedli, in his Director's Report, referred to the Save Shoreline Trees (SST) public comment that 104 trees will be removed at the WSDOT frontage construction, permit 19-2371 (pending). He provided information that he received on 8/27/20 from the Planning Department that **14 public, right-of-way trees** will be removed along Dayton Ave N.

**However, a total of 104 trees** are scheduled to be removed per the WSDOT arborist report dated 7/7/20, Table 1, page 3. This total of 104 trees includes public right-of-way (Shoreline trees) and WSDOT trees. These are the trees that will be removed along Dayton Ave. N, N. 155<sup>th</sup> and N. 160<sup>th</sup>. The count of trees is separated by street below.

This number could change if WSDOT/City are able to retain more trees along N. 160<sup>th</sup>. This is unknown as stated at the WSDOT meeting on 8/25/20.

There is confusion because the "ownership of trees" changed since June 1, 2020.

### **FAQ report 6/1/20: Public, Right-of-Way Trees** (*posted on the City project link*)

Dayton Ave N: out of the 65 trees in the public right-of-way trees along Dayton Ave N, 4 trees would likely be removed; 23 trees would be impacted during construction but could likely be retained; and 38 trees would have little or no impact.

N. 160<sup>th</sup>: 33 trees to be removed

N. 155<sup>th</sup>: 31 trees to be removed

= 68 trees to be removed. *On 6/1/20, Save Shoreline Trees understood half of the original "133 Trees at Risk" had been saved!*

**But per the WSDOT arborist report of 7/7/20 the trees on N. 160<sup>th</sup> and N. 155<sup>th</sup> are no longer public right-of-way trees.**

Save Shoreline Trees is confused how the City no longer "owns" any trees along N. 160<sup>th</sup> and N. 155<sup>th</sup>.

There has been no communication from the City Planning or Public Works departments or WSDOT about this change in public, right-of-way trees, other than the WSDOT arborist report, updated 7/7/20, Table of Trees.

As of 8/25/20, Save Shoreline Trees is counting total trees to be removed including Shoreline public right-of-way and WSDOT trees, as counted in the WSDOT arborist report dated 7/7/20, see Table below.

According to the WSDOT arborist report of 7/7/20: 104 tree are to be removed.



**Martha Karl**

---

**From:** Boni Biery <birdsbeefishtrees@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 9:34 PM  
**To:** Park Board  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Parks Bond Study  
**Attachments:** 20 Aug 27 to PRCS Board.pdf; 18 Feb 22 Parks Board.pdf

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Shoreline. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please consider the attached in your analysis.

always,  
Boni

Aug 27, 2020

To: PRCS Parks Bond Subcommittee:  
Bill Franklin, Sara Raab McInerny and Jeff Potter

RE: Parks Bond Study

While listening to this evenings PRCS meeting I learned that you are working on recommendations for a future parks bond. They a couple of things I would like you to consider while doing this.

I think the last bond failed because the School District made far too many demands regarding a pool which drove both the initial and maintenance costs up, while also reducing the amount of space available for other uses. I am a swimmer and would love to have a community pool, but there is not reason why it needs to be conjoined with a community kitchen and other public uses of a community center. The School District has tons of money and lots of land, if they want a pool for their swim team they can build it. As a taxpayer and voter, I would love to approve of a community center that is for the people, not the school district. We need meeting rooms, and places to workout, have all kinds of classes and a commercial kitchen that can be used by the city and can become a source of rental income. The site is truly not big enough to justice to both a community center and a pool. Please give me an option I can approve.

Secondly, I was offended to see how the Bond had scaled back the investment in parks to fund other things. I happen to live in a park desert within Hillwood. I have voted and paid for enormously elaborate and expensive upgrades to parks in neighborhoods who more to begin with than Hillwood has. It's now been 20 years and the work done in Hillwood Park, with exception of 4 hours of Earth Corps, has been done by volunteers. We have only a single small park that is already shared with Einstein middle school and we deserve to have the same high-quality improvements to our little park as other neighborhoods with many more square feet of park per capita have been enjoying for two decades.

Finally, while the City is purchasing park property which it sorely needs, I feel it's important to bring forward the suggestion for a greenlink street that I proposed a couple of years ago. I understand there is large amount of federal grant money available and this project seems like it could easily qualify. It is a 90 foot wide right of way the city already owns, it runs along the crest of the McAleer Creek Watershed that should qualify it for surface water grants. It has an entombed historic street that could be used for pedestrian/bike traffic. It is in the area of the park desert and could serve as a quasi-park space by treating it like the experimental street of 17<sup>th</sup> NE from N 146<sup>th</sup> to N 150. This would means turning into a one-lane, two-way street to slow traffic and providing much desired sidewalks for people using the Park N Ride and those walking/biking to the businesses at N185th and Aurora. I've enclosed a copy of that for your consideration. I sure seems like a relatively inexpensive way to solve several issues.

Thanks for your service with the PRCS and extra task you seem to so willingly stepped up to do. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Boni Biery

206.542.4722  
birdsbeesfishtrees@gmail.com