

Carla Hoekzema

From: webmaster@shorelinewa.gov
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 3:32 PM
To: Plancom; Carla Hoekzema
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Contact the Planning Commission

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Form Name: Contact the Planning Commission
Date & Time: 10/07/2021 3:32 pm
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Survey Details: Answers Only

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1. (o) Meridian Park
2. (o) Email
3. Ramona D Gault
4. sheepspinner@gmail.com
5. 10/07/2021
6. 2021 Development Code Amendments--Part 2 Tree Amendments
7. My husband and I moved to Shoreline nearly three years ago from Magnolia, partly because of the many trees, which Magnolia lacks. Since then I've watched sadly as, one after another, the mature fir trees in my neighborhood are cut down, some for no good reason. I see many 200-plus unit apartment buildings already built or under construction. All of the tall mature trees are removed at these sites, legally. Often I see the saplings that developers plant to "replace" the

mature trees are allowed to die.

This is a watershed moment for Shoreline. Will city government roll over for developers, or will our city make its processes more transparent, allowing citizens a voice and adding muscle to tree protection in capital projects? Information about tree removal is difficult to obtain on capital projects until a design is at 60%. We need ways to increase citizen participation beyond the limited-choice surveys on specific projects, which currently do not ask citizens about prioritizing the preservation of existing trees.

Currently 45% of Shoreline's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation gasoline, and we are adding more people/more cars every day. I'm imploring the City to address the rapid loss of existing mature trees, trees that are a climate-change defense. The tall mature conifers are Shoreline's signature. Trees are represented in the City's logo and Shoreline annually qualifies as a Tree City USA.

Recently, the Tree Preservation Code Team submitted codes with justifications to protect trees but the City staff recommended that most of these proposals be denied. Why? We should be moving in the direction of greater transparency, as well as stronger protections for trees. Shoreline should adopt an Exceptional Tree Program, like Seattle, as well as blanket protections for all mature trees. The default action should be "Leave Mature Trees in Place."

Development is happening so fast, and Shoreline government is not moving fast enough to protect trees. The building codes in zones Neighborhood Business, Commercial Business, Mixed Business, Town Centers, and Mixed Use Residential 70 (MUR 70) allow clearing of all trees and require no tree replacements. With heat intensifying in the Northwest, removal of trees will undoubtedly create more heat islands as 90% to 95% of the developed property will likely be impervious surfaces, including asphalt, rooftops and sidewalks. Remember the "Heat Dome" of this past summer? It was terrifying. We MUST act now to brake climate change and greenhouse gases: Preserve Shoreline Trees!

Thank you,
City of Shoreline

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