

Archived: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 11:38:26 AM

From: [Nancy Morris](#)

Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 7:35:14 PM

To: [City Council](#); [Plancom](#)

Cc: [Park Board](#); [Rachael Markle](#); electebenpobee@gmail.com; John@electjohnramsdell.com

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment to City Council November 1, 2021 The need to address climate emergencies now in Shoreline

Response requested: No

Importance: High

Sensitivity: Normal

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Attention Shoreline City Council:

RE: Public comment draft presented on November 1, 2021 with attached references.

"Nancy Morris, Shoreline Resident:

Starting this week in Glasgow, Scotland the 26th "Conference of the Parties" (COP26) is the new global United Nations summit to address climate change. We know we will not stop climate change, but only mitigate the worse: We know we are losing so much of our precious biosphere -- it will not be as it is now in two generations. We can't save everything. We older adults must act now for the younger generations.

Here we are in Shoreline, WA. Building codes, street codes, and tree codes still do not meet the climate emergency challenges we face. A few on the council have indicated they get climate change and trees. But as they say, actions speak louder than words. And developers need to design projects around existing mature trees – that there be a mandate vs. a cavalier approach to removing trees because of code loopholes or failure to even try to re-design projects for a particular area to save existing mature trees.

Tragically the row of Douglas Firs at the 198th St. Affordable Housing Project are on the chopping block – the developers are not attempting to change the project design to spare any of these decades old conifers - the climate fighting resources that we need. I am angry by this and optimistic at the same time, because I have hope that city planners using the best science for mitigating climate change in urban areas will try to save this row of Douglas Fir trees and other mature trees on future projects.

In previous comments, I suggested that Shoreline adjust the design of the 198th St. Affordable Housing Project to accommodate more trees to show innovative vision when facing climate emergencies - that it can be done. Bellevue, WA has code mandates of this type already – to construct buildings around existing mature trees. And several surrounding cities are still ahead of Shoreline in protective tree codes – this needs to change. You must protect our mature trees -- do not in give to project architects and developers who do not respect these goals. Mature trees will help mitigate heat-island effects, deadly heatwaves, and reduce air pollution. Young saplings that even survive will take more than 20 years to do anything. We are all faced with a moral imperative to take the actions necessary now for mitigating climate change. Thank you."

Regards,
Nancy Morris
Shoreline resident

REFERENCES:

TREES AND TREE RETENTION IN CITY OF BELLEVUE, WA <https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/development/zoning-and-land-use/zoning-requirements/trees>

The 26th “Conference of the Parties” (COP26) and represents a gathering of all the countries signed on to the U.N. Framework Convention on COP26: **What is it and why is it happening in Glasgow in 2021?** Climate Change and the Paris Climate Agreement.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51372486>

“Urban Forests and Birds That Need Them” |Seattle Audubon Program Meeting July 15, 2021 <https://vimeo.com/575918179>

“What Technology Could Reduce Heat Deaths? Trees.” <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/02/climate/trees-cities-heat-waves.html>, from the New York Times July 2, 2021

“Florida is ditching palm trees to fight the climate crisis”https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/23/weather/weather-trees-adapt-climate-change/index.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=fbCNN&utm_content=2021-10-23T19%3A00%3A13&utm_term=link . . . “Scientists are working on solutions to capture and safely contain atmospheric carbon. One approach is called “terrestrial sequestration” -- which is essentially planting trees. A tree absorbs carbon during photosynthesis and stores it for the life of the tree”. . .

Learn About Heat Islands, EPA report <https://www.epa.gov/heatislands/learn-about-heat-islands>

Reduce Urban Heat Island Effect, EPA Report - <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/reduce-urban-heat-island-effect>).

“2021 heat wave is now the deadliest weather-related event in Washington history” <https://www.kuow.org/stories/heat-wave-death-toll-in-washington-state-jumps-to-112-people> 112 people died during the most serious heat wave in our state end of June 2021:

UN Climate Statement / 09 Aug, 2021, “UN Climate Change Welcomes IPCC’s Summary for Policy Makers on the Physical Science Basis of Climate Change” <https://unfccc.int/news/un-climate-change-welcomes-ipcc-s-summary-for-policy-makers-on-the-physical-science-basis-of-climate>