

Carla Hoekzema

From: Kathleen Russell <krussell@russell-gordon.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 4, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Steve Szafran
Cc: Plancom
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Photos of the "Lone Tree" at Towns on 145th development
Attachments: Sept 2020.jpeg; May 2021.jpeg; Response to Ray Allshouse June 29_2021.pdf

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To: Steve Szafran
cc: Chair Mork and the Planning Commission
From: Kathleen Russell, Save Shoreline Trees/Communications
Re: The "Lone Tree" at Towns on 145th development
Date: 12/4/21

Hello Steve, as requested by Chair Mork at the Planning Commission meeting on Dec. 2, 2021, I am emailing you the photos of Tree #1, the "Lone Tree" at the Towns on 145th development project at N 145th and 1st Ave NE, and my response to Mr. Ray Allshouse which provides a timeline of communication about this tree. Letters and emails were also exchanged with Cate Lee, project manager, and a letter of response was received from Director Markle on Sept. 4, 2020, confirming "the developer has done a marginal job to ensure that retained trees will flourish...arborist recommendations were not being followed." Per my subsequent telephone conversation with Mr. Allshouse, I understand there are seldom any fees levied by the City for negligent tree protection. There is still speculation on the part of Save Shoreline Trees regarding the life expectancy of this "Lone Tree", as we understand, it can take several years for a conifer of this size to die when there has been possible root damage and neglect.

This communication pertains to proposed code amendment 6, as submitted by the Tree Preservation Code Team.

Photos:
July 2020: first complaint about care and watering of trees on "Towns on 145th" construction site
Sept 2021: after delimiting of tree



SW6

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HIGH CASCADE

HIGH CASCADE

HIGH CASCADE

SITE SAFETY RULES

ALL NEW WORKERS & VISITORS
MUST CHECK IN AT SITE
CONSTRUCTION OFFICE

- 1. No smoking or open flames on site.
- 2. No alcohol or drugs on site.
- 3. No running or horseplay on site.
- 4. No climbing on equipment or structures.
- 5. No unauthorized access to restricted areas.
- 6. No use of mobile phones while working.
- 7. No use of tools or equipment without proper training.
- 8. No use of heavy machinery without proper training.
- 9. No use of lifts or ladders without proper training.
- 10. No use of power tools without proper training.
- 11. No use of hand tools without proper training.
- 12. No use of any equipment without proper training.
- 13. No use of any equipment without proper training.
- 14. No use of any equipment without proper training.
- 15. No use of any equipment without proper training.

INTRACORP





June 29, 2021

[Ray Allshouse](#)

City of Shoreline Building Official

cc: City Council; Planning Director Markle; City Manager Debbie Tarry

Hello Mr. Allshouse,

“Developer has done a marginal job...”

Thank you for your response dated June 23, 2021, regarding my comment to City Council on June 7, 2021. I want to add additional perspective about Tree #1 at “Towns on 145th”. Save Shoreline Trees and other members of the public complained about the tree protection of Tree #1 and other trees at the construction site in July 2020. In her response letter of Sept 4, 2020, Director Markle confirmed “the developer has done a marginal job to ensure that retained trees will flourish... arborist recommendations were not being followed”.

Concerns about tree protection at construction sites

In Summer 2020, in response to the public complaints, you visited the site and requested a tree protection report by the project arborist regarding negligent tree protection. An additional tree plan dated Sept. 18, 2020 was prepared by certified arborist Tony Shoffner, hired by the developer, for tree care including “removing dead wood”. Per your most recent letter of June 23, 2021, “The developer acknowledged having removed the lowest rung of branches and the dead wood in this tree.” Actually, *multiple rungs of lower branches* were removed. As I look at Tree #1 today, one can see why the lowest rung of branches was removed – obviously for surrounding construction. Our advising certified arborist recommends removing a minimal number of branches from construction-impacted trees as the “tree needs its canopy to make food for itself, including new roots.” We conclude that different arborists have varying points of view.

There is relief that Tree #1 is not “suffering adverse consequences”. However, there were many problems with Tree #1 and the bank of retained fir trees at “Towns on 45th” which in initial construction stages were very visible without any remedy requirements by the City until called to attention by the public. With so many inspections to make, there is continued concern that City inspectors will not have the time or expertise to check the status of retained trees as you have detailed in your June 23, 2021 letter.

A continuing concern is that a project arborist hired by a developer to prepare the arborist plan for the City permitting process is responsible for seeing that the tree protection plan is followed. However, it is not known if developers are retaining project arborists during the years of construction.

Perhaps the City might consider contracting a neutral certified arborist to visit the many current and upcoming sites to confirm tree protection is in place over the course of construction.

You did mention in your response that periodic City inspections include tree protection. It would be helpful to have examples of communications between the City and developers. I will request this information via PRR: in the past year when were inspection fees levied for negligent tree protection and at which projects was there denial of "construction progress".

Thank you for your response and explanation regarding tree protection at construction sites.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Russell
Save Shoreline Trees Co-Chair/Communications