

Carla Hoekzema

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To: Plancom; Carla Hoekzema
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Contact the Planning Commission

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1. Briarcrest
2. No Response Needed
3. Jean Hilde
4. jmhilde61@gmail.com
5. February 3, 2022
6. Agenda Item 7.a
7. Dear Planning Commission:

I support Kathleen Russell's proposed amendment to the City of Shoreline's 2022 Comprehensive Plan and ask the Planning Commission to recommend that Ms.

Russell's proposal be added to the Draft Comprehensive Plan Docket for 2022: "Amendment #4 – Amend the Land Use Element to add a new policy: Housing development and preservation of significant trees can co-exist with the goal of maintaining and increasing Shoreline's urban tree canopy".

Residents living in new housing developments deserve and are entitled to the environmental and health benefits inherent in mature trees. Principles of equity demand that those residents who do not have yards, gardens or green spaces of their own must have access to publicly provided and protected trees, parks and natural areas. Extreme climate change has already vividly demonstrated that areas lacking in trees, often lower-income neighborhoods, experience greater and more dangerous heat events which are exacerbated by an inability to pay for energy needed for cooling. Mature trees help offset those temperature fluctuations.

Stripping a piece of property down to the ground may have some up-front financial benefits which act as incentives to developers, but in the long run it is the City and its residents who will pay the cost with increased illness and death, higher bills for medical care and monthly utilities, work hours lost, lessened mental and emotional health, lower property values with concomitant lower quality building and maintenance, all of which lead to a reduced quality of life. Ironically, allowing our mature urban canopy to be cut down in the name of housing development almost assuredly will lead to fewer new residents. After all, no one wants to live in a denuded dusty heat sink, especially when more enlightened neighboring cities who have wisely protected their mature trees are also seeking new residents.

Thank you for your consideration and for your hard work.
Jean Hilde

Although I am a member of the City of Shoreline's PRCS/T Board, the views expressed above are solely my own and are not meant to represent opinions of the Board or any other of its members.

Thank you,
City of Shoreline

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