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From: [Melody Fosmore](#)

Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 8:26:42 AM

To: [City Council](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter for meeting tonight

Sensitivity: Normal

Attachments:

[Melody Fosmore, 2.28.22 letter to City Council.docx](#) 

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.

Attached is my letter I plan to read tonight. Please take the time to look at the map enclosed with the letter that shows the tree canopy is Shoreline taken by NOAA.

Thank you,

Melody Fosmore

February 28, 2022

To Shoreline City Council and City Leadership:

The TPCT team of Shoreline citizens has worked for the last 2 years on code changes which includes understanding the existing codes, the way the City works, who is making decisions, and what the zoning laws mean for each property. For two years we attended almost every City Council meeting, wrote hundreds of letters and emails, had zoom meetings with many of you and we presented the proposed codes to the appropriate people at the appropriate time. I am pointing this out to you now as I think it's important to review the amount of sustained effort it has taken to get to today. This is not a passing interest to us. We are passionate about our tall native trees and the benefits they bring to ALL of us.

The code changes before you are not egregious. They are meant to save and protect trees. We are not a 'special interest group' as the science before us with climate change points directly as trees being one of our best defenses against heat that can kill us, not to mention the carbon intake and CO2 that keeps us alive. In today's news the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, states, "I have seen many scientific reports in my time, but nothing like this. Today's [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) report is an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed climate leadership."

We know we can't reverse the world's climate change failures, but we can make changes locally. We love our city and as taxpayers our voice is more important than the developers. We live here. We must live every day with the consequences of decisions made by the permitting process. We live with hotter neighborhoods, with less bird song and more sounds from the street traffic. We live with hotter sidewalks, and a landscape that has more holes than ever where the tall, beautiful trees use to stand. Are the developers getting the final word on what our city will be or is our city, who represents us, pushing back on the developers to be more creative to retain more trees. What is the true meaning of our logo, the reason so many people move here, if not to keep and protect our existing tall trees?

Since 2019, over 900 trees have been removed for development, not to mention private trees. In your email I included a map taken recently from NOAA. The absence of tree canopy is visible and real in Shoreline.

Meanwhile sidewalk trees – which are public trees and belong to US – are being removed for even wider sidewalks – widths that were not included on the ballot. We want and voted for sidewalks however if you want people to use the sidewalks then keep the trees. We can walk around the trees, we can slow down and let someone else pass, we can make way for wheelchairs and strollers. We don't need a wide boulevard sidewalk without shade just so we don't have to accommodate each other. I ask you to specifically take a stand today and vote to keep the 5th Ave Trees. Make the sidewalk narrower in that one area so people can walk in comfort and beauty.

We all have a limited time here on earth and it's our basic responsibility to leave this place better than we found it for the next generation. I am asking respectfully and with passion, please make our tall existing native trees a priority in your decision making. Adopt the revised tree codes and vote for the 5th Ave trees.

Thank you for your service and time.

Melody Fosmore

Shoreline resident for almost 40 years

