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1. Jean Hilde

2. Shoreline

3. (o) Briarcrest

4. jmhilde61@gmail.com

5. 03/04/2022

6. Proposed 2022-2024 Goals and Action Steps

7. Dear City Council:

   Thank you for your hard work during the next few days on the 2022 Annual Strategic Planning Workshop! I appreciate your stated goal of working toward improving the City's ability to fulfill the community's vision.

   As you know, a top priority of the community's vision is to protect and improve Shoreline's urban canopy. It's heartening to see the following on the Strategic Planning Workshop agenda:

   ~ Being a sustainable city in all respects
   ~ Stewardship of the natural environment
   ~ Update the 2014 Urban Forest Strategic Plan and continue to implement the Green Cities Partnership
   ~ Continue to implement the 2022-2024 Priority Environmental Strategies, including updating the City's Climate Action Plan
   ~ And this, from Emerging Programs and Resource Needs (Agenda Attachment C):
   4. "Urban Forestry: Shoreline is dedicated to managing our vibrant urban forest to enhance its benefit to the environment and its contribution to the livability of the community. Additional resources will expand our ability to implement the Council adopted Urban Forest Strategic Plan through expansion of the City's Tree Inventory & Canopy, completion of the Urban Forestry Strategic Plan, review of the expansion of watershed riparian restoration efforts and expand our volunteer outreach to increase the City's ability to manage our urban forest."

   Great progress toward each of these goals could be made with the creation of an additional resource: a volunteer Urban Forestry Advisory Panel, a potential iteration of which is a stand-alone Tree Board. As Council is aware, the current PRCS/T Board has a very broad scope of responsibility, which was only increased by the 2012 decision to add trees to the Board's already-wide range of duties. A decade later, climate change has brought the need to protect our urban canopy to the forefront, raising issues such as environmental degradation and resulting socioeconomic inequities that are imperative for our City to address, and to address quickly. A dedicated Tree Board comprised of experts focused solely on such complex issues, as most of our neighboring communities already have in place (some have more than one!) is simply a necessity for Shoreline if we are to protect our current urban forest assets as well as create a more climate resilient community for all.

   I have written an information/background paper on the Tree Board issue which I have sent to the general City Council email address. I hope you can take the time to review it and that it is helpful in your discussions!

   I ask that Council consider and implement the UFAP proposal as a stand-alone Tree Board. The Tree Protection Code Team's proposed code amendments as well as Kathleen Russell's proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment will also further better protection and management of our urban forest.

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.

8.   (o) Support

Thank you,
City of Shoreline