Archived: Monday, March 21, 2022 11:55:47 AM
From: Nancy Morris
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 4:49:52 PM
To: Keith Scully; Chris Roberts; Laura Mork; Betsy Robertson; John Ramsdell; Eben Pobee; Doris McConnell; Rachael Markle
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please direct Staff to save the 5th AVE NE 17 Healthy Mature Conifer Trees
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention City Council, Mayor, and Deputy Mayor:

RE: 5th AVE NE 17 Conifer trees at risk, including two landmark Western Red Cedars. Street deciduous trees will never replace these 17 important conifers needed now to mitigate climate emergencies.

Numerous citizens in Shoreline are advocating for advanced and improved sidewalk design to help save these trees that include 17 healthy mature trees on 5th AVE NE along 5th Ave NE between NE 175th and NE 182nd.. Because citizens speak and write to the council and city staff regarding the trees on 5th AVE NE, does not mean they are against sidewalks in the City of Shoreline, or that they do not care for safety of children or those with mobility challenges and other disabilities. And trees next to sidewalks are not the only impediment to the American Disability Act standards. Power Poles embedded in sidewalks can be a barrier as well **(see attached pictures at bottom of email)** . And it seems that design efforts for sidewalks around 5th AVE NE power poles are being considered as mentioned in the 5th Ave new sidewalk project video, Feb. 2, 2021. **Why not our important mature trees as well?**
I urge you to continue to explore alternative designs for the sidewalk on 5th avenue NE that would result in fewer trees being lost, especially the two magnificent Western Red Cedars irreplaceable in the decades to come. One of these is a 46" dbh cedar and the 36" dbh— so important to the northwest ecosystem. The project arborist says that the 46" dbh cedar and the 36" dbh cedar should be retained for ecological reasons.

Replanting with young deciduous trees in street ROW does NOT equal the value of our existing mature forest canopy in Shoreline. Replacement trees chosen generally are non-native and selected as trees that will stay small. They are deciduous meaning they lose their leaves in fall and leafless in winter, do not generally live more than a decade before they end up being replaced, and this creates a demand for high maintenance, possible disease with costs past on to taxpayers.

Regarding the value of our mature conifer trees: **all forestry institutions agree that a tree absorbs the maximum amount of carbon when it's in full growth, and that a young tree collects only very little, as its size limits the photosynthesis process.** Softwoods or coniferous trees, such as Douglas Fir or Western Red Cedar and spruce are fast-growing trees. They will, therefore, transform carbon dioxide as quickly as possible into the wood. And why preserving our mature Douglas Firs and Western Red Cedars and other conifers is important and adjusting the sidewalk design on 5th Ave NE is important to keep those 17 trees if at all possible by innovative design.

We must truly incorporate innovative designs to save these mature trees going forward and not think that very young deciduous trees will make much difference for us in a decade or even two decades as we continue to deal with climate emergencies. These conifers are here now and do not require replacement and upkeep. They absorb pollutants from the air, large conifers can produce oxygen 24/7 for four people, improve water quality, help mitigate urban heat island effects, maintain wildlife habitat seriously under threat of loss from non-sustainable development. These mighty evergreen trees are here for all of us as we continue to face the climate emergencies ahead.

References:

Power of One Tree - The Very Oxygen We Breathe" on levels of oxygen production of one tree — https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2015/03/17/power-one-tree-very-air-we-breathe. . .. "But as a by-product of that chemical reaction oxygen is produced and released by the tree. It is proposed that one large tree can provide a day's supply of oxygen for up to four people."

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

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).

Regards,
Nancy Morris
Shoreline resident