

From: webmaster@shorelinewa.gov
To: [agenda comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 2:28:43 PM

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.

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Comment on Agenda Items
Date & Time: 08/09/2022 2:28 pm
Response #: 1007
Submitter ID: 49144
IP address: 2601:602:9600:1cb0:f8be:da4b:3cb5:9c23
Time to complete: 40 min. , 12 sec.

Survey Details: Answers Only

Page 1

1. (o) Ms.
2. Jean Hilde
3. Shoreline
4. (o) Briarcrest
5. jmhilde61@gmail.com
6. 08/15/2022
7. Resolution 494 Climate Emergency
8. Dear City Council:

I support the many comments submitted by Save Shoreline Trees and other community members regarding the addition of language to the proposed Resolution 494 Declaration of Climate Emergency:

Under "Ecosystems", please add specific language regarding our existing, mature tree canopy. For example: "...protecting and restoring the health and functioning of local ecosystems by incorporating green infrastructure in community design, protecting ALL NATURAL ASSETS INCLUDING ESTABLISHED TREES..."

Our established mature tree canopy is our best, easiest and cheapest defense against climate change, and one we ALREADY HAVE. We cannot legitimately claim that we are fighting climate change while we continue to remove mature trees. Newly-planted trees, at least the 30 to 50% of them that survive, will take 25 to 50 years to give us the climate change defenses that existing

mature trees already provide. Believing that the former is equivalent with the latter is simply ludicrous, a rationalization for allowing the razing of our mature urban canopy instead of requiring thoughtful, creative solutions to protect it.

New, climate-aware construction can be designed with protection of mature trees in mind. The two are NOT exclusive of one another. In fact, nearby mature trees contribute to a new building's reduced climate impacts by providing shade, cooling, oxygen exchange, water filtration. Trees also contribute to a building's value and attractiveness to tenants. Who would choose to live in a giant, rectilinear box unprotected from glaring sun and heat (bringing with it the need for air conditioning, excess power bills, health problems, etc.) over a thoughtfully-constructed building that has incorporated the nearby mature urban canopy, with all its benefits, into its design?

Unfortunately, recent studies and data show that vulnerable and marginalized communities often do not have an option for such thoughtfully-designed housing and instead have no choice but to live in areas denuded of trees, resulting in heat islands and urban deserts. Because affordable housing is equated with cheap and quick construction which requires (in current thought) the removal of all growing things (especially trees) that are "in the way", populations who need affordable housing are thus relegated to the giant heat-soaked, sun-baked boxes noted above.

This is simply wrong. Our mature urban canopy should not and cannot be reserved for areas of prosperity alone. Many other communities have made equitable protection of the urban forest a priority. For instance, in March 2020, Portland, Oregon codified new rules (originally called Better Housing by Design) that improve multi-dwelling housing for the low-income families and people of color who disproportionately live in it. Instead of relying only on the goodwill of developers, the new code requires builders on large sites to leave more outdoor space for people and trees. See: <https://www.treesforlifeoregon.org/affordable-housing-meets-large-trees>
Also see: <https://www.treesforlifeoregon.org/invisible-incentive-to-preserve-large-trees>

If Shoreline truly desires to be an equitable place to live and if we are serious about combating climate change, then let's live up to our "Tree City USA" status by passionately and purposefully protecting our mature trees! Again, our existing mature tree canopy is ALREADY providing the very climate change fighting benefits the proposed Declaration of Climate Emergency says we need. Why in the world would we cut them down?

Thank you all for your hard work and diligent attention to this most important issue.

Sincerely,
Jean Hilde

While I am a member of the City of Shoreline's Parks, Recreation, Cultural Services & Tree Board, and am the Director of the Briarcrest Neighborhood Association, I submit this comment in my personal capacity.

9. (o) Support

This is an automated message generated by Granicus. Please do not reply directly to this email.