

**TOWN OF YARROW POINT
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2019**

The following is a condensation of the proceedings and is not a verbatim transcript.

CALL TO ORDER:

Amy Pellegrini, Planning Commission Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

PRESENT:

Chairperson:	Amy Pellegrini
Commissioners:	Trevor Dash – Excused absence Chuck Hirsch Carl Hellings Jennifer Whittier – Excused absence
Staff:	Austen Wilcox – Town Deputy Clerk Mona Green – Town Planner
Guests:	David Young - Resident Krista Fleming - Resident Ronni McGlenn - Resident

APPEARANCES:

None.

MINUTES:

April 15, 2019 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Hellings moved to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2019 Regular Meeting as presented. Commissioner Hirsch seconded the motion.

VOTE: 3 For, 0 Against. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS:

Town Planner Mona Green gave a report on the May 12 Council meeting including updates to the following:

- Playground Project
- NE 42nd St./91st Ave NE Stormwater Upsizing and UGC Project
- Tree code discussion

Commissioner Hirsch suggests having a joint-Council / Planning Commission meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

PCAB 19-05 **Continued Tree Code Discussion, for Discussion**

Ms. Green provided a handout to the Planning Commission that was included in the May Council packet providing an overview of the public opinion heard thus far ranging from a strong YES – “we need to protect our trees and the environment they create” to a loud NO – “we need to respect individual property rights to do as we please on property we own.”

The Commission discussed implications around tree clear cutting from developers.

Commission Chair Pellegrini opened up public comment at 8:26 p.m.

Krista Fleming resident at 4707 91st Ave NE asked the following questions:

1. Is there a goal for maintaining a tree canopy?
Chair Pelligrini stated that the tree canopy in Yarrow Point is strong, but the majority of the trees are located in the Town’s park areas. Planner Green referenced a Town tree canopy assessment done a few years ago which could be used as a benchmark.
2. There are Eagles nests in the area. Will these be reflected in tree code considerations? Planner Green and Commission members responded stating that the Town can review how other jurisdictions monitor tree nests.
3. Would the Town consider seeking out other tree codes and review them? Planner Green stated that the Town has been reviewing tree codes of nearby jurisdictions.

David Young resident at 3615 91st Ave NE asked the following questions and offered input:

1. What tree sizes would be impacted? Chair Pellegrini replied that it is yet to be determined.
2. Mr. Young Suggests taking into consideration trees located in the footprint of the house.
3. How would a tree code work for existing homes; would the property owner be impacted if they wished to remove a tree?
4. Mr. Young referenced a tree tagging process for significant trees done in a nearby jurisdiction.
5. Have residents been polled on the issue?
6. Mr. Young suggests reaching out to developers and contractors to gather their input.

Ms. Green outlined the process for review and future potential approval of a tree code. Ms. Green also stated there have been several meetings to gather resident input that have been strong on both sides. Trees located in the right-of-ways have already been identified and tagged.

The Commission discussed hypothetical scenarios for taking down trees.

Ronni McGlenn resident at 4000 95th Ave NE stated the potential need for increased staff for tree review and stated that she also agrees that wildlife must be protected.

Planner Green responded to Ms. McGlenn stating that the Town uses a tree arborist and suggested options on administrative review procedures.

Commission Chair Pellegrini closed the public comment period at 8:56 p.m.

Town Planner Green stated that she will work on the following:

- Create a matrix of the 4 major jurisdictions
- Call fish & wildlife regarding Eagle's nest protection
- Compare tree canopy within the residential area from latest survey

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Commissioner Hellings moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Commissioner Hirsch seconded the motion.

VOTE: 3 For, 0 Against. Motion carried.

APPROVED:


Amy Pellegrini, Chair

ATTEST:


Austen Wilcox, Deputy Clerk

