

**TOWN OF YARROW POINT
PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 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 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Amy Pellegrini

Commissioners: Trevor Dash - Absent
Chuck Hirsch
Carl Hellings – Excused Absence
Jennifer Whittier

Staff: Austen Wilcox – Town Deputy Clerk
Mona Green – Town Planner

Guests: Matt Scher - resident
Art Whittlesey - resident
Carolyn Whittlesey - resident
Leslie Schofield - resident
Sophie Faisandier - resident
Dicker Cahill - Mayor
Jenny Roskill - resident
Mike & (wife) Sutherlin
Robert Afzal -resident
Leslie Scofield – resident

APPEARANCES:

None.

MINUTES:

MOTION: Commissioner Whittier moved to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2019 regular meeting as presented. Commissioner Hirsch seconded the motion.

VOTE: 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS:

Town Planner Report:

- The Town's playground is nearly finished.
- Town Hall will be hosting an event at Town Hall on Sept 29 to celebrate the 60-year anniversary, 30-year Wetherill Nature Preserve Dedication, and the playground grand opening.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

PCAB 19-11 Private Property Tree Code – Continued Discussion

Town Planner Green gave an overview of the tree code review done thus far by the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission is reviewing the first draft tonight. The draft code has influences from City of Kirkland's tree code regulations.

Town Planner Green shared that the draft was sent to the town arborist to review. The arborist made comments on the draft for the Planning Commission to consider and a copy is presented to the commission at the meeting.

The Planning Commission discussed:

- Clear cutting concerns
- Replanting requirements
- Definitions
- Tree density

The Planning Commission reviewed comments submitted by Commissioner Hellings regarding the draft tree code.

Town Planner Green reiterated that the town does not oversee review of fish & life. This is referenced in the draft code however it could be a provision that is checked for by town staff to confirm the applicant has had Department of Fish and Wildlife review the request.

Public Comment Opened at 7:22 p.m.

Art Whittlesey resident at 9240 NE 37th Pl. questioned whether or not trees would be required to plant if there were none existing, and a tree code was created. A dense tree canopy is not part of Yarrow Point's history. Property rights should be adhered to and shady properties diminish property values. Mr. Whittlesey questions the need for a tree code. Mr. Whittlesey shared experience working with neighbors in order to maintain agreements between tree trimming. Mr. Whittlesey stated there are existing areas in the town for tree protection such as Wetherill Nature Preserve.

Leslie Schofield resident at 8901 NE 36th St stated that she enjoys old, established, trees in the town and is one of the things she enjoys most about Yarrow Point. Ms. Schofield believes that property rights should be respected along with the environment.

Chris Lanzinger resident at 4630 95th Ave NE stated that he is a builder and moved here from Medina due to Yarrow Point's bright and sunny lots. A tree ordinance would diminish property values due to increased shade. Mr. Lanzinger stated that many old lots were likely clear cut originally. A tree ordinance takes property rights away. Mr. Lanzinger does not believe homeowners should be required to plant trees on their property.

Chair Pellegrini stated that the Planning Commission takes their direction from Council.

Jenny Roskill resident at 9540 NE 42nd Pl has concerns about Yarrow Point changing due to developers. Ms. Roskill believes that Yarrow Point is at a critical point and should be preserved. Ms. Roskill would like to prevent clear cutting.

Mayor Cahill resident at 4024 94th Ave NE stated that Yarrow Point has not had a tree code. Mayor Cahill shared that he has planted trees on his property and should not have to get permission to remove the trees. The town must find and adhere to a balance.

Carolyn Whittlesey resident at 9240 NE 37th Pl. referenced a tree that was bordering private property and town ROW that was removed due to being damaged by a construction project.

Mary Lynn Sutherlin resident at 4680 95th Ave NE asked if there are different rules pertaining to properties located on waterfront compared to other properties located 200' away from waterfront. Town Planner Green responded stating that there are additional state laws relating to Lake Washington for waterfront construction that must be adhered to.

Public comment period closed at 7:56 pm

Chair Pellegrini stated that the Planning Commission needs to get further direction from Council on their intentions for a tree code.

The Planning Commission reviewed and discussed the draft code sharing the additional points:

- Finding a balance between property rights and tree preservation will be a challenge.
- Classification of “significant trees.”
- Identifying significant trees on surveys.
- The relation of building construction around trees.
- Process of reviewing trees at time of pre-application conferences.
- Unauthorized removal and penalties.
- The need for protection of wildlife.

Ms. Green referenced an inventory of trees tagged previously located in the Town’s ROW.

The Planning Commission agreed to review the draft code in a study session prior to their next regular meeting.


MOTION: Commissioner Chair Pellegrini moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.
Commissioner Hirsch seconded the motion.
VOTE: 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried

APPROVED:



Amy Pellegrini, Chair

ATTEST:



Austen Wilcox, Deputy Clerk