Tree Retention Open House Public Comment March 27, 2014

1. Need for a comprehensive tree survey for the city to catalog the current status of trees in the city. A public tree inventory is a first step toward proper management of trees within a community. The data collected during an inventory is essential to developing a long-term management strategy that leads to a safe, healthy and sustainable community tree resource that provides a multitude of benefits. The purpose of this project is to create an inventory of public trees that will be used as a basis for managing a community’s urban forest.

2. Need an Urban Forest Management Plan. The plan would provide guidance on how to protect, establish, and manage trees, forests, and related resources. The outcome is to restore and sustain the health and quality of the natural and human environments in urban areas.

3. Consider adding to the municipal code “heritage tree status” to outstanding trees. Such a status should protect these special trees whether they are on public or private land from being removed.

4. Consider becoming an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City which supports the above tree protections and gives guidance to tree protection and management.

5. City should consider applying for Community Forestry Assistance Grants which can be used to do a tree survey and develop a forestry plan [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/UrbanForestry/Pages/rp_urban_grant_resources.aspx]

6. Add to the code restrictions regarding tree removal during wildlife breeding season.

7. Consider option of tree mitigation in other parts of the city if mitigation on the actual property involved is problematic. (See Lake Forest Park Tree Account p. 15 and 17 [http://www.cityoflfp.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/368]

8. Homeowners should be strongly encouraged to replant with native vegetation when removing trees from their property and given resources for information. There should also be a permit requirement related to size of the trees and environmental impact as currently homeowners can remove any tree.

9. City should develop a web page similar to Lake Forest Park to provide information on the tree retention code, how to obtain a permit for removing a tree and educational resources on suitable native vegetation to replace and the value of trees to the community. ([http://www.cityoflfp.com/index.aspx?nid=163](http://www.cityoflfp.com/index.aspx?nid=163))

10. Create a canopy coverage goal for various sized lots and require that trees be replaced for those removed for properties that are below the coverage goal (See Lake Forest Park Tree ordinance p. 12 [http://www.cityoflfp.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/368])

11. The city should have a certified tree professional on contract who can assist with reviewing trees homeowners and developers want to remove.
12. City should maintain a list of approved trees for replacement. (Combination of native and non-native trees that are appropriate for the area’s conditions and provide wildlife habitat.) Consider adding other native vegetation as an option (shrubs and groundcover as some lots may be too small to accommodate native trees)

13. Require a maintenance bond and requirement for watering for developers replacing trees.

14. Require contractors and arborists to sign a document stating they are aware of the cities tree ordinance and will bear responsibility to abide by it along with the homeowner in order to do business in the city (See Lake Forest Park tree ordinance http://www.cityoffp.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/368 p. 18.)

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