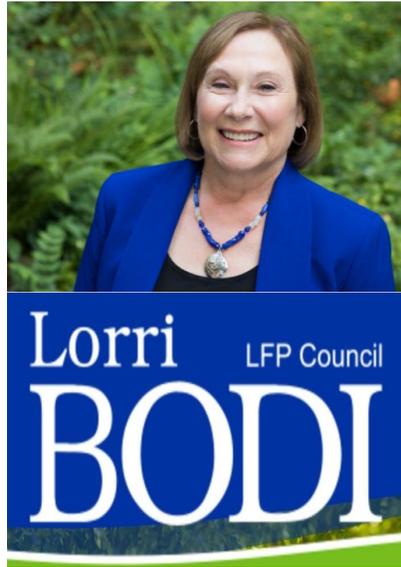


Lines  
from  
Lorri  
SEPTEMBER  
2021



## GREETINGS, NEIGHBORS!

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*Congratulations to our new Deputy Mayor Tom French. And a very warm welcome to our three new Council members who started in January – Tracy Furutani, Jon Lebo, and Larry Goldman! They are already fully engaged, participating in Council and community meetings, and representing your interests. Compared with some other cities around the region, we are lucky LFP's Council and management work well together as a team, even when we disagree around the edges. With many important issues facing us, that collaboration is so valuable.*

*Thanks also to all of you who voted to support continued levy funds for our Shoreline Schools!*

## LFP IN PERSON AND ZOOMING

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*City Hall is open by appointment, including Passport Services and some court sessions. City Council and other public meetings are still being held via Zoom, but, thanks to federal pandemic funding, we are currently installing equipment for a hybrid system – simultaneously in person and virtual. **We hope to start this new hybrid format for Council meetings later in March.** It should be interesting . . .*

*Although I supported November's Proposition 1 to provide dedicated property tax funds for sidewalks, parks, and recreation improvements, it went down to significant defeat. LFP operates on a very lean budget compared to neighboring cities and only receives about **9% a year of the property tax you pay each year, or about \$700 a year** for my house. While I thought the levy increase was reasonable and good for the future of LFP, the voters have spoken and I have heard you. The Council will begin work on a new, lean biennial budget based on existing funding in the near future.*

*At our February 18 meeting, I voted along with the entire Council to establish a citizen **Climate Action Committee**, tasked to provide public engagement and develop an affordable Climate Action Plan for LFP. Thanks to all of you who have already spearheaded this urgent work, and to those of you who volunteered for the Committee. Please look for notices of the Committee's public meetings in the next month or so.*

*Our city has been receiving several rounds of federal pandemic funding, which has allowed safety and other upgrades to city facilities, equipment, and services. In addition, federal funds are allowing us to pass on financial assistance for pandemic related costs to local community and social services partners and businesses. Recently, LFP signed contracts with several non-profits and businesses totaling over \$650,000.*

## TOWN CENTER AND SOUND TRANSIT PLANS IN LFP

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*Last fall, Sound Transit dropped its legal challenge to the new land use code for Town Center, at the same time postponing for decades their plans for a large parking garage next to City Hall. Our updated TC code – worked on by the Planning Commission, commented on by the community, and adopted by the Council in 2021 – has now gone into effect. Ensuring a balanced code reflecting LFP values for our TC community hub was one reason I ran for office, so I consider this great news.*

With the opening of the Northgate light rail line, the direct 522 bus to downtown is no more. I know this is a concern for many of you who used the 522 regularly, but ST's goal is to feed passengers to light rail. Speaking of buses, ST continues to work on the **Bus Rapid Transit stops and road widening planned for Bothell Way**. This includes platforms large enough for 2 busses at Town Center, 165<sup>th</sup>, and 153<sup>rd</sup>. The ST plan includes removing trees and taking parts of private yards, requiring both tree mitigation and compensation to landowners. A sidewalk will extend along the lake side of the road.

For those of you following the ST construction, large commuter parking garages are underway at 145<sup>th</sup> and 185<sup>th</sup>. I am concerned that, when bus ridership picks up in the future, there will be increased informal "park and ride" impact on neighborhoods near Bothell Way bus stops. The Council may need to consider some form of **neighborhood parking permits** if LFP residents have trouble parking on their neighborhood streets.

## HOUSING DIVERSITY AND AFFORDABILITY IN LFP

How can LFP be more affordable, keep its older residents, and welcome younger and more diverse residents? At the request of the Council, the Planning Commission considered this question, surveyed the public, and submitted thoughtful recommendations for **increased flexibility for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Detached Bungalows (DADUs)**. I support streamlining our process for this type of housing, as long as we don't sacrifice the environment or character of LFP. On February 18, following a public hearing, I voted with other Council members to adopt the Planning Commission recommendations.



Dozens of ADUs and houses in LFP are being used as short term rentals like Airbnb, which is a potential issue for housing affordability. See <https://mrsc.org/Home/Stay-Informed/MRSC-Insight/December-2021/Affordable-Housing-and-the-Impact-of-Short-Term-Re.aspx> Short term rentals are now being regulated in many jurisdictions, including Chelan, Kirkland, and Olympia. Should LFP do the same, at least with a light touch? Should LFP try to capture the 2% portion of sales taxes they are allowed, now going to the state/county?

This month, **the Washington Legislature** has been discussing issues of density and affordability, but, to me, the proposed bills have emphasized increased density while not actually doing much for affordability. The process has been rushed and has been hard to follow. Unfortunately, increased density can often be at odds with affordability, preservation of the tree canopy and environment, and neighborhood

privacy. Consider the small affordable bungalows that are being purchased and razed by investors, who then erect a block of townhouses from edge to edge, selling each for \$700-800,000. That's more density, but not more affordability, environmental preservation, or help for climate change. As of the publication of this newsletter, the proposals in the Legislature are still in flux.

## **PARKS, RECREATION, STREAMS**

The City now fully owns the Lakefront Park property (next to Lyon Creek Park). Thanks to State and County funding, and assistance from the Forterra land conservancy, LFP was able to purchase this unique and beautiful waterfront using only 10% of its own money. For liability reasons, the park is not yet open to the public, but you can see it from the Lyon Creek dock.

Recently, the Mayor, City Administrator, and I toured the park with representatives from the Parks and Recreation Board. Our amazing city staff have gotten us in the queue for a King County Conservations Futures grant to develop a **Master Plan for the Lakefront Park, with extensive community engagement**. Assuming the grant comes through, the Parks Board and the Council will work together as partners to ensure that we hear from the community on what you all want to see there (and what we might be able to afford). This process will hopefully start in a few months and likely take at least a year.

Important issues include connections to Lyon Creek Park, desired recreation types, remodeling/use of and demolition of the buildings on site, tree preservation, environmental protection and compliance, public safety and security, parking and disabled access, neighborhood privacy and impacts, and ways to acknowledge tribal and other history. If you are interested in the Master Plan process, you might want to attend future Parks Board meetings – and take a look at the recent improvements at Lake Ballinger and Logboom Parks. Let us hear from you!

On February 10, the Council received two incredibly informative presentations on **our local streams**. The first was from the King Conservation District, describing coordinated funding and forest/stream restoration work along McAleer Creek in LFP. Then, at my request, Professor Jeff Jensen presented his years of research into unique small redfish native to the north end of the lake, possible candidates for re-introduction to LFP streams. It's an exciting prospect, and the entire Council supported Dr. Jensen's proposal to seek grant funding in 2023 toward this goal.



## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

You may not have noticed, but crimes are trending up in LFP, putting more workload pressure and stress on our local police. The LFP Police Department continues to be on the cutting edge of police reform, and

recently was able to upgrade training and equipment for de-escalation and reduced use of force. Our RADAR program, an innovative program which matches our officers with social work professionals when they encounter mental health crises, has also received continued funding and recognition. In a related area, we are actively working with “north end” cities (Shoreline, Kenmore, Bothell, Kirkland) to explore the possibility of a North End Crisis Center. All of these represent important steps forward. . .

Our police also are very familiar with local housing services, so that they can refer homeless individuals who have found their way into LFP parks and parking lots, to better and safer accommodations. One new and promising resource for LFP is the Street Level program, which has an impressive track record helping people living in their vehicles get into housing. <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/homeless/a-king-county-caseworker-on-wheels-brings-housing-to-homeless-people-via-the-streets/>

Turning to LFP’s Northshore Fire Department, after months of deliberation and some controversy, the Northshore Commission voted to contract with the Shoreline Fire Department for improved services and savings. You may see new “branding” of the station and department vehicle as **the Shoreline Fire Department**. This is a positive outcome for our firefighters and our residents, which I supported, along with other Councilmembers.

## **YOUR VOICE ON CITY COUNCIL**

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Did you know that redistricting means that LFP is moving from the 46<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative District beginning in 2023? We’ll be connected to Kenmore, Bothell, and Woodinville, rather than Seattle, and have new State legislators. LFP representatives will be getting to know our new representatives in the year ahead.

I continue to work as the Council’s Liaison to both the **Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Board**, on which your neighbors, who have generously volunteered, serve. Both groups meet monthly. I am also LFP’s representative to the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council and LFP’s alternate representative to the Sound Cities Policy Issues Committee. All of these meetings are open to the public and still virtual. Feel free to join us and listen in sometime.

Don’t forget to sign up for the LFP e-newsletter and other City alerts to know what your LFP Council, Mayor, and staff are up to. <https://www.cityoflfp.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1205> Please feel free to forward this email to a neighbor or email [bodi4lfp@gmail.com](mailto:bodi4lfp@gmail.com) to add your name, or reply “unsubscribe” to opt out of this mailing list. And please continue to let me hear from you.

Warm wishes,

