

Recd by _____

Date: _____

RECOMMENDATION OF THE
URBAN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
OF LEXINGTON AND FAYETTE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

IN RE: ZOTA 2019-1: AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 18 AND ARTICLE 26, AND THE PLANTING MANUAL TO REFLECT CREDIT GIVEN FOR COLUMNAR VARIETY TREES - petition for a Zoning Ordinance text amendment to update Articles 18 and 26 of the LFUCG Zoning Ordinance and Planting Manual to designate all columnar tree varieties as small trees and reduce the canopy credit to 100 square feet. Additionally, all references to oversight of tree canopy requirements in the Planting Manual will be updated from the Division of Building Inspection to the Division of Environmental Services.

Having considered the above matter on **May 23, 2019**, at a Public Hearing and having voted **8-0** that this Recommendation be submitted to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council, the Urban County Planning Commission does hereby recommend **APPROVAL of the Staff Alternative text** for this matter for the following reasons:

1. The proposed text amendments will satisfy the intent of Article 26 by properly counterbalancing the effects of the urban setting by applying the appropriate tree canopy coverage for the columnar tree varieties. The amendments will establish the maximum canopy credit of 100 square feet for any columnar variety tree, regardless of overall height.
2. The proposed text amendments support *Imagine Lexington*, the 2018 Comprehensive Plan because the modification of the tree canopy coverage for columnar tree varieties seeks to apply environmentally sustainable practices to protect, conserve and restore landscapes and natural resources (Theme B, Goal #3).
3. The proposed text amendments will implement the *Urban Forestry Management Plan*, as referenced by Theme B: Protecting the Environment, Restoration Policy #1, which calls for the protection and recovery of Lexington's urban forest by strategically planting new trees and creating walkable streetscapes. The amendment also supports the specific goals of ensuring tree-related ordinances and land subdivision regulations support the growth of a sustainable urban forest (Goal #4.2), and ensuring ordinances and regulations are consistent with each other, and other applicable LFUCG planning documents and manuals (Goal #4.3).

ATTEST: This 7th day of June, 2019.



Secretary, Jim Duncan

WILLIAM WILSON
CHAIR

At the Public Hearing before the Urban County Planning Commission, this petition was represented by **Hal Baillie, Planner Senior, Division of Planning, Planning Services Section.**

OBJECTORS

- None

OBJECTIONS

- None

VOTES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: (8) Bell, Berkley, Forester, Nicol, Owens, Penn, Pohl and Wilson

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (3) Brewer, Mundy, and Plumlee

ABSTAINED: (0)

DISQUALIFIED: (0)

Motion for **Approval** of **ZOTA 2019-1** carried.

Enclosures: Application
Staff Report, with Recommended Text attached
Applicable excerpts of minutes of above meeting