

**SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Tom Early, Chair • Steve Zemke, Vice-Chair  
Weston Brinkley • Leif Fixen • Megan Herzog • Craig Johnson  
Joanna Nelson de Flores • Sarah Rehder • Andrew Zellers

*The Urban Forestry Commission was established to advise the Mayor and City Council concerning the establishment of policy and regulations governing the protection, management, and conservation of trees and vegetation in the City of Seattle*

**September 13, 2017**

**Meeting Notes**

Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 2750 (27<sup>th</sup> floor)  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle

**Attending**

Commissioners

Tom Early – chair  
Weston Brinkley  
Megan Herzog  
Craig Johnson  
Joanna Nelson de Flores  
Sarah Rehder  
Andrew Zellers  
Steve Zemke – vice-chair

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE

Guests

None

Public

None

**Absent- Excused**

Leif Fixen

**NOTE: Meeting notes are not exhaustive. For more details, listen to the digital recording of the meeting at: <http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocs.htm>**

**Call to order**

Tom called the meeting to order and read the agenda.

**Public comment**

None

**Chair’s report**

Tom and Sandra were at City Council today and presented the legislation to add three new positions to the Commission. The legislation moved forward to Full Council vote. Tom talked about the progress the UFC has made to date and what other work the Commission is currently engaged in. Tom mentioned that the UFC is interested in hearing the results of the City’s tree regulations research project. Would like to talk about ideas to recruit a more diverse membership. Is having meetings from 3-5 p.m. on a Wednesday afternoon supporting a more diverse involvement. The MHA EIS cited the City’s tree regulations research project and the UFC wants a briefing on it. Sandra will elevate the request to OSE and SDCI. The City’s conducting reports around the tree ordinance and not letting the UFC know seems highly irregular. Sandra will produce a draft letter from the UFC to OSE and SDCI to produce a briefing on the tree regs research process.

Steve provided public comment at CM Johnson's committee and talked to the councilmember after the meeting. CM Johnson told him that there was going to be a big announcement related to tree regulations very soon.

#### **Design Review Board update letter of recommendation review and vote**

The Commission discussed the draft letter of recommendation.

**ACTION: A motion to approve the letter of recommendation as amended was made, seconded, and approved.**

#### **Tree Regulations Research Project**

The Commission discussed and adopted a letter formally requesting a briefing from SDCI on the Tree Regulations Research Project produced back in March.

**ACTION: A motion to approve the letter requesting a briefing as amended was made, seconded, and approved.**

#### **Seattle Children's letter of support – initial discussion**

The UFC discussed writing a letter highlighting them as an example of a major institution's deep commitment to tree preservation. Tom will produce a first draft.

#### **2017 UFC Work Plan review**

Ongoing discussion to continue at the next meeting.

#### **Public comment**

None

#### **New Business**

treePAC has a questionnaire on tree issues for Mayoral and City Council candidates. The information can be found at TreePAC.org

#### **Adjourn**

#### **Public input:**

**From:** R Kelley [<mailto:rkelly@halcyon.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2017 10:36 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** Homes v. trees Replat #3028516

Hi, Sandra.

I live in Victory Heights, next to one of the last undeveloped forested lots in the neighborhood. A Notice of Application has been issued calling for 6 homes on the site. Attached, is the site plan. As you can see, few of the magnificent trees will remain if this development goes through as designed. Attached are 3 photos that show only some of the trees on the lot.

Our neighborhood is concerned about the loss of this forest (and about the drainage and slope stability). Can the Urban Forestry Commission weigh in through public comments, asking to be kept apprised of

the review? The comment period ends September 19<sup>th</sup>. Please send your comment to [PRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@seattle.gov), referencing Project # 3028516; 11340 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NE.

Thank you for your time,  
Rebecca Kelley  
2327 NE 115<sup>th</sup> St.  
Seattle, WA 98125

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**From:** Amrhein, Seth  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2017 1:58 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Homes v. trees Replat #3028516

Hi Sandra,

This is a shortplat to create 6 lots out of a block of land that is currently five lots. Materials for the application are available for review under that project number at <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

Short plats applications are reviewed for compliance with the short plat approval criteria under [23.24.040](#), one of which is that the “...*proposed division of land is designed to maximize the retention of existing trees...*” This basically means alternative viable ways to divide the land need to be considered and the alternative that best allows for future maximum retention of trees is chosen to meet this requirement. I am not involved in this analysis or this project. It does not mean the short plat approval allows or disallows any tree removal. Tree removal for future development will be reviewed for compliance with the Tree Protection Code once building permits are submitted. The Tree Protection Code allows removal of non-exceptional trees for development and allows removal of “exceptional trees” under certain conditions in single-family zones per SMC 25.11.060.

Seth

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**From:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2017 1:36 PM  
**To:** Amrhein, Seth <[Seth.Amrhein@seattle.gov](mailto:Seth.Amrhein@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Homes v. trees Replat #3028516

Hi Seth,

Would you mind providing your high-level opinion on this project so I can share it with the Urban Forestry Commission?

Thank you,

Sandra