



SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair
Julia Michalak (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist), Vice-chair
Elby Jones (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA) • **Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA)
Michael Walton (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA) • **Joshua Morris** (Position #7 – NGO)
David Moehring (Position # 8 – Development) • **Blake Voorhees** (Position # 9 – Realtor)
Jessica Hernandez (Position #11 – Environmental Justice) • **Jessica Jones** (Position # 12 – Public Health)
Shari Selch (Position # 13 – Community/Neighborhood)

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

Meeting Notes

September 1, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Via Webex call
(206) 207-1700
Meeting number: 1467 26 5457
Meeting password: 1234

In-person meeting are not being held at this time due to the pandemic. Meeting participation is limited to access by joining the meeting through a computer or telephone conference line.

Attending

Commissioners

Sarah Rehder - Vice-Chair
Elena Arakaki
Julia Michalak
David Moehring
Josh Morris
Stuart Niven
Blake Voorhees
Michael Walton
Jessica Jones

Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

Guests

Steve Zemke

Public

Absent- Excused

Weston Brinkley - Chair
Elby Jones
Jessica Hernandez
Shari Selch

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: Sarah called the meeting to order at 3:04 and provided a land acknowledgement.

Public comment:

Steve Zemke – some recommendations on the SLI draft letter, adding clarity around inside and outside development, adding information to item 3 regarding SDCI, and noting that Portland’s in-lieu program has raised significant funds for tree work there.

Chair, Committees, and Coordinator report:

Patti provided the update that for the October meetings, we will still be using the virtual Webex venue. November now would be the first possible meetings to have a hybrid in-person/virtual model if in-person gatherings are allowed by the Mayor at that time. Other updates included:

- The next quarterly briefing on tree regulations updates by SDCI and OSE to Council’s Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee will be on September 24th.
- City staff have been working with Mayor’s Office staff on the SLI and hope to be able to provide an update and discuss at next week’s meeting.
- The UF Management Plan documents are under final review and should be posted this month.

Vice-Chair Elections

Patti provided a recap of the process for voting anonymously and invited Commissioners to vote whether they confirm Julia as Vice-Chair. She reported that there were no further nominations of Commissioners to fill the Vice-Chair position, and provided a summary of the need for filling the position at this time. The Commission proceeded to address the approval of August notes while votes were being submitted and tallied. Subsequently, Julia was confirmed as Vice-Chair, with all votes submitted (8) being cast to confirm Julia.

Action: Julia Michalak was confirmed as Vice-Chair by anonymous vote of the Commission.

Approval of August 4 and 11 meeting notes

ACTION: A motion to approve the August 4 meeting notes as written and amended was made, seconded, and approved.

ACTION: A motion to approve the August 11 meeting notes as written and amended was made, seconded, and approved.

SPR Strategic Plan

Selena Elmer provided a briefing on the department’s process. They had developed the Strategic Plan to guide the department’s work for the next six-year cycle, and published that in March 2020, but are now re-evaluating to confirm priorities with the community and important groups and boards, like the UFC. They are leading with equity in this work, so important to acknowledge systems of racism and how/why there is a need to go back out to community to engage on the Plan after 2020.

The Plan includes an underlying through-line of their work called the Pathway to Equity, implementing the city’s Race and Social Justice Initiative. Steps include development of an equity scorecard, necessary adjustments, providing training for staff and rethinking ways of engaging the community. Work is organized around four pillars – healthy people, healthy environment, strong communities, organizational excellence - and the ways the department works toward those. In reexamining those pillars and adjusting to the impacts of 2020, there are four lenses they are using in responding to community needs: racial reckoning, climate change, public health and well-being, economic downturn. Selena provided an outline of the 2021 engagement process and the actions/activities they are undertaking. She pointed to the other materials that were provided on the department’s work in this effort. This presentation provided the set-up for Park Commissioners to lead an exercise aimed to get input from Commissioners.

The exercise involved moving through the four topics Selena referred to (racial reckoning, climate change, public health and well-being, economic downturn). Commissioners provided feedback in those four areas, including:

- Public health and well-being: the importance of park areas especially as we increase density; and suggestions on providing culturally appropriate programming; moving away from use of anticoagulant rodenticides.
- Racial equity: way-finding to increase safety, and providing that wayfinding in multiple languages; programming geared to specific marginalized groups to increase their inclusion and feeling welcome.
- Economic recovery: paying folks to do the restoration work rather than relying on volunteers (who don't tend to be diverse); including maintenance funding when acquiring lands/assets; recruit more staff from the communities being served; provide more work-flexible spaces to support those who aren't as able to work from home.
- Climate change: reducing carbon footprint by eliminating gas powered equipment; the need to understand the tree planting capacity of the city and setting goals for planting in those spaces available; green roofs as a way to reduce carbon footprint as we do things like increase air conditioning in homes and cooling centers.

Selena provided a timeline of next actions on this process, and provided options for continuing to provide feedback.

Jessica covered some updates on the Board of Park Commissioners. The Board of Park Commissioners had existed for decades, then the Park District Oversight Board was developed about seven years ago. To reduce confusion and increase efficiency, they merged the two Boards into one: the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners. They are recruiting to fill two positions with individuals that are also serving on other City Boards and Commissions.

Sarah offered Commissioners time to provide any additional feedback on this topic, and asked if any Commissioner was willing to draft the thank you letter. Josh volunteered do.

Urban Forestry Consolidation Statement of Legislative Intent letter

Sarah set up the discussion, reviewing the recommendations included in the draft letter and noting the tone and language currently included in the draft. She suggested that clarity in the recommendations could be addressed.

Commissioners discussed and worked through some options for the recommendation(s) on where authority for tree protections should live. Currently, accountability within SDCL is/may be lacking, so Commissioners discussed options for accountability in tree regulations enforcement, and how to ensure structure and content of the letter conveys their recommendations.

There is need to further edit and reorganize this recommendation letter, so the Commission will revisit at the September 8th meeting.

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Public comment:

Steve Zemke – the tree protections is a complex issue, language in the draft letter is appropriate; tree protections have not moved forward despite work on it for 10-12 years. Needs an independent department, not OSE, with a department head who is accountable to someone other than the Mayor.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Meeting Chat:

from Julia Michalak she/her to everyone: 3:22 PM

Thank you! :)

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 3:22 PM

Congratulations! Thank you, Julia! :)

from Elena Arakaki to everyone: 3:22 PM

Yay Julia!

from Michael Walton to everyone: 3:22 PM

Congrats Julia!

from Elmer, Selena to everyone: 3:40 PM

Also feel free to use the chat, we'll record thoughts shared here as well!

From Julia Michalak she/her to everyone: 3:22 PM

Thank you! :)

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 3:22 PM

Congratulations! Thank you, Julia! :)

from Elena Arakaki to everyone: 3:22 PM

Yay Julia!

from Michael Walton to everyone: 3:22 PM

Congrats Julia!

from Elmer, Selena to everyone: 3:40 PM

Also feel free to use the chat, we'll record thoughts shared here as well!

from Elena Arakaki to everyone: 3:45 PM

For culturally relevant programming, it's really important to have staff from within the community leading the events. If there aren't SPR staff who live in the area, then paying community partners to host events would make residents feel more welcome, and also help with local outreach.

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 3:50 PM

Forgot to mention: parks can be a leader in moving away from using second generation anticoagulant rodenticides for rodent control. SGARS have infiltrated the food web have negative impacts on wildlife, pets, and sometimes children. The City's B Contract for pest control is up for renewal, would be great to have a blanket contract with a pest company that offers less-toxic rodent control services.

from David Moehring to everyone: 3:50 PM

Enjoyed the gaps analysis by Parks in 2017: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/policies-and-plans/2017-parks-and-open-space-plan>

from Elmer, Selena to everyone: 3:51 PM

@David - we are due to renew our Parks and Open Space plan in the next couple of years, so that gap analysis will be refreshed in the not-too-distant future. Glad it has been a good resource!

from David Moehring to everyone: 3:52 PM

Great

from Elena Arakaki to everyone: 3:53 PM

Also wayfinding and signage in multiple languages!

from Elena Arakaki to everyone: 3:58 PM

Recruit and hire within the communities that the parks serve, especially BIPOC youth, which relates to the racial equity pillar too, and helps create a welcoming environment for local residents

from Elena Arakaki to everyone: 4:01 PM

A way to remove barriers to programs could be to partner with SDOT and Metro and advertise public transportation options to events and parks. Potentially even making a free transit day to encourage ridership and visitation. This would leverage the combined strength of the parks and transit systems so people can take advantage of both.

from David Moehring to everyone: 4:04 PM

On Elena's good point, youth at high schools are required, I believe, to be involved in activity - such as Parks maintenance and youth programs.

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 4:04 PM

Reduce CO2 footprint: eliminate gas powered trimmers, leaf blowers, etc.

from KellyMcCaffrey to everyone: 4:10 PM

Does SPR interact with DirtCorps? Referring back to the economic recovery and the connection between maintenance and training of forestry and stewardship. I work for the Conservation Districts, and this morning some project managers were just talking about the difficulty in accessing sufficient supply of contractors for restoration crews.

from David Moehring to everyone: 4:13 PM

Regarding economic recovery, Curious: how much access does Parks have to "Infrastructure" grants.

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 4:14 PM

@Kelly - yes, SPR does contract with DIRT Corps through the Green Seattle Partnership. Michael and Lisa, who are in this meeting, can provide more info on that.

from Elmer, Selena to everyone: 4:18 PM

Online Open House & survey: sprstrategicplan.infocommunity.org

Open until October 13!

from Elmer, Selena to everyone: 4:18 PM

Strategic Plan feedback can be sent to: PKS_SPRStrategicPlan@seattle.gov

from Elmer, Selena to everyone: 4:18 PM

Website with updates: Seattle.gov/parks/strategicplan

from Elmer, Selena to everyone: 4:19 PM

Park District funding process: Seattle.gov/seattle-park-district

from Jessica Farmer she/her to everyone: 4:22 PM

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, or have any questions, please reach out paula.hoff@seattle.gov or Rachel.acosta@seattle.gov.

from Elmer, Selena to everyone: 4:22 PM

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from KellyMcCaffrey to everyone: 4:23 PM

Thinking back to your comments too, curious to know if your commission interacts with City Forest Credits?

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 4:38 PM

Just to repost Steve Zemke's suggestions: In item 2 after "A Division within SDCI be created with authority and accountability to manage trees and vegetation" add "on private property both during development and outside development "

item 3 add

"SDCI has a 20-year record of prioritizing development over tree and urban forestry protection. Both need to

be done for a healthy, livable city that addresses climate change, environmental equity, race and social justice, and housing affordability.

The city needs to adequately fund its tree and urban forestry programs. One way is to implement an in-lieu fee for trees removed based on the size of a tree and its benefits to the city like Portland, Oregon has for trees not replanted on site. Portland's Tree Planting and Maintenance Fund currently has \$4 million dollars in its latest budget report."

from David Moehring to everyone: 4:52 PM

Example from Portland: Handled by Parks & Rec, not their construction department:

<https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/tree-removal-replanting-permit-application.pdf>

from David Moehring to everyone: 4:56 PM

I am not comfortable with the SLI direction: May UFC invite someone from Urban Forestry with Tel: 503-823-TREE (8733) email: trees@portlandoregon.gov
web: portlandoregon.gov/tree

Public input: (see next page and posted notes):

From: dwisner@runbox.com <dwisner@runbox.com>

Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 10:56 PM

To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

If SDCI cannot respond in a timely manner, please remove tree and urban forestry protection from their Department. As the City Auditor proposed in 2009, transfer tree and urban forestry oversight and authority to the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. SDCI has a conflict of interest in tree oversight – their priority mission has been to help developers build, not protect trees. Years of inaction on effective oversight and protection of trees by SDCI demands that a separate entity like OSE take over the city's responsibility to protect and enhance our urban forest.

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

dwisner@runbox.com

600 W. Olympic Pl., Apt. 504
Seattle, Washington 98119

From: Kimberly Garmoe <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 12:21 AM

To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention,

and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 12 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Include street trees in groves.
- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."
- Add "All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can't be removed."
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to "TREE PROTECTION". Remove references to "Exceptional Trees" only and change to "Trees". e.g., change "Exceptional Tree Protection Areas" to "Tree Protection Areas".
- SECTION 4. Add "The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle's Equity and Environment Initiative."
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require "one or more trees" to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy

goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.

- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director's Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT's registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor's license to ensure they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Kimberly Garmoe
kagarmoe@gmail.com
6708 Mary Ave NW, Unit A
Seattle, Washington 98117

From: Mary Keeler <mkeeler@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 11:47 AM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

We Must Protect Our Green Infrastructure!

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

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Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Mary Keeler
mkeeler@uw.edu
1102 NW 83rd Street
Seattle, Washington 98117

From: Mary Keeler <mkeeler@uw.edu>

Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 11:50 AM

To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

We Must Protect Our Green Infrastructure!

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 12 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
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Mary Keeler
mkeeler@uw.edu
 1102 NW 83rd Street
 Seattle, Washington 98117

From: Toni Ferrara <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 12:23 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI’s Director’s Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require "one or more trees" to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.

- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director's Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT's registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor's license to ensure they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Toni Ferrara
antoinette.ferrara@gmail.com
2707 Nob Hill Ave. N
Seattle, Washington 98109

From: Maya Giddings <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 5:37 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 12 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already

requires

- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Include street trees in groves.
- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."
- Add "All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can't be removed."
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certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Maya Giddings

kindtrekker@gmail.com

1612 NE 192nd St

Shoreline, Washington 98155

From: Gretel Johnston <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 6:18 PM

To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: Save our Trees!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

If SDCI cannot respond in a timely manner, please remove tree and urban forestry protection from their Department. As the City Auditor proposed in 2009, transfer tree and urban forestry oversight and authority to the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. SDCI has a conflict of interest in tree oversight – their priority mission has been to help developers build, not protect trees. Years of inaction on effective oversight and protection of trees by SDCI demands that a separate entity like OSE take over the city's responsibility to protect and enhance our urban forest.

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Gretel Johnston

gretel354@gmail.com

9716 Sand Point Way NE

Seattle, Washington 98115

From: Neil Ludman <nclzap@nclzap.com>

Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 9:37 PM

To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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7. Expand SDOT’s existing tree service provider’s registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Neil Ludman
nludjunk@nclzap.com
6326 20th Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: Elena Louise Richmond <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 8:31 AM

To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: Please Protect Seattle's Trees

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

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Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.

3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.

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5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Elena Louise Richmond

ElenaRich@gmail.com

8713 9th Ave NW

SEATTLE, Washington 98117

From: Laura Davis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 3:56 PM

To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: Trees are important too. Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees provide more benefit to the community than multistory high occupancy apartment buildings.

Trees benefit everybody in the community, and equally benefit all members. Urban development projects benefit only the corporations that build them, and possibly the tenants that will live in the buildings.

Does the health, happiness and longevity of the community, and the ecosystem as a whole, outweigh the fast profit of the few?

The trees are providing the greatest good for the greatest number.

Please stop killing trees in the city.

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's

Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 12 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
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- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
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- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."
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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Laura Davis

factofmyth@gmail.com

227 11th Ave E., 1/2 (upper level)

Seattle, Washington 98102

From: Alexa Fay <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 6:28 AM

To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Alexa Fay
alexafpfay@gmail.com
1507 N 39th St
Seattle, Washington 98103

From: Alexa Fay <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 6:29 AM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Please Protect Seattle's Trees

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

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Alexa Fay

alexafpfay@gmail.com

1507 N 39th St

Seattle, Washington 98103

From: Zoran Brkanac <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 11:03 AM

To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

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to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director's Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.

- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT's registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor's license to ensure they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

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From: Natalie Hodis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 28, 2021 6:40 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 12 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires

- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090

- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Include street trees in groves.
- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."
- Add "All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can't be removed."
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to "TREE PROTECTION". Remove references to "Exceptional Trees" only and change to "Trees". e.g., change "Exceptional Tree Protection Areas" to "Tree Protection Areas".
- SECTION 4. Add "The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle's Equity and Environment Initiative."
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require "one or more trees" to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director's Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT's registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor's license to ensure they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that

all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

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From: Luke Winsor <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 8:55 AM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Keep Seattle Livable!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

If SDCI cannot respond in a timely manner, please remove tree and urban forestry protection from their Department. As the City Auditor proposed in 2009, transfer tree and urban forestry oversight and authority to the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. SDCI has a conflict of interest in tree oversight – their priority mission has been to help developers build, not protect trees. Years of inaction on effective oversight and protection of trees by SDCI demands that a separate entity like OSE take over the city's responsibility to protect and enhance our urban forest.

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

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