

Urban Forestry Commission
February 3, 2010 Regular Meeting Summary

Seattle Municipal Tower Room 1940
700 5th Avenue, Seattle 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Attending	
<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Elizabetha Stacishin-Moura, Chair	Tracy Morgenstern, OSE
John Small	Brennon Staley, DPD
Kirk Prindle	Brent Schmidt, SCL
Peg Staeheli	Jana Dilley, OSE
John Hushagen	<u>Public</u>
Matt Mega, Vice-Chair	Michael Oxman, Steve Zemke, Rich Ellison,
Jeff Reibman	John Dixon, Garrett Huffman, Eric Scigliano,
Nancy Bird	Elizabeth Campbell, Margaret Thouless
Absent- Excused	
Gordon Bradley	

Public Comment

Michael Oxman and Rich Ellison offered public comment. Michael Oxman also provided written comments. Comments included:

Variances granted for development shouldn't be giveaways where community gets nothing in return. Too many variances will lose too many mature trees. Regulations should foster creative design and not provide variances to accommodate cookie cutter development.

Invasive plants are a significant threat to trees and a particular risk to trees on steep slopes where healthy trees aid in slope stability. Need to educate landowners, residents, and council on the issue.

Approval of January 20, 2010 Minutes

The minutes were approved.

Committees

The following committees were formed:

- Ecosystems – habitat, canopy cover, inventory
Kirk Prindle, John Small, Jeff Reibman
- Management – DPD rules & regulations, City budget, City O&M
Jeff Reibman, Matt Mega, Elizabetha Stacishin-Moura, Peg Staeheli, Kirk Prindle
- Community – information, outreach, private \$, stewardship, permits, economics
Nancy Bird, Matt Mega, John Hushagen, Peg Staeheli, Elizabetha Stacishin-Moura

Staff will work to schedule the first meetings of the subcommittees for next week.

Tree Protection Regulations

Brennon Staley provided a presentation covering:

- Regulations Recap
- Summary of Key Decision Points
- Lessons learned from existing program
- Backgrounds from other jurisdictions
- Key Challenges
- Discussion Questions

Discussion following the presentation included the following points:

- Tree protection is not part of early design guidance but should be.
- Regulations need to be simple and clear so everyone knows the value of land going into a development project.
- It was suggested that the Lynwood fee-in-lieu regulatory element be reviewed as another example of what other jurisdictions are doing.
- Lake Forest Parks was offered as an example of a community that changed the way residents think about trees through outreach programs in addition to regulations.
- If regulations are too cumbersome they will encourage renegade behavior. Don't want to encourage people to take unwanted actions like removing trees without a permit by being too restrictive or having permit fees too high.
- The Ecosystems Committee will consider if the Commission should provide advice on changes to Directors Rule 5-2007.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____
Elizabeta Stacishin-Moura, Chair
Urban Forestry Commission