

Urban Forestry Commission
April 7, 2010
Regular Meeting Summary

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

Attending	
<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Elizabeta Stacishin-Moura, Chair	Jana Dilley, OSE
Matt Mega, Vice-Chair	Brennon Staley, DPD
Kirk Prindle	
Nancy Bird	<u>Public</u> Rich Ellison, Donna Kosta, Michael Oxman,
John Hushagen	Gail Ewall, Brent Schmidt, Lauren Urgenson,
John Small	Rhyan Hayne- Lavelle
Jeff Reibman	
Gordon Bradley	
Absent- Excused	
Peg Staeheli	

Public Comment

Richard Ellison, Donna Kosta, Michael Oxman, Heidi Carpine provided public comment.

Richard Ellison comments included:

- Wants to keep public comments or minutes
- Support proposal for expansion of the HH project but does not go far enough, since we have the change we should go for it
- Upset about tree which will be cut- he has no recourse, commission should create a one stop shopping

Steve Zemke provided written comments

Donna Kosta comments included:

- Protect heron habitat
- DPD was short-sighted in existing regulation

Michael Oxman comments included:

- Wants a response to his question about the difference between 30 & 40% goal and wants it in Commission workplan
- OSE won't supply plan to meet 40%
- Permits should be in workplan

Heidi Carpine comments included:

- Leads heron tours
- Reduce 22" to 6" and make year round

March 3, 2010 Minutes

Kirk – amendments to minutes

- Too much summary in meeting minutes
- "Kirk proposed the addition of the following amendment to the March 3, 2010 meeting notes:

Kirk Prindle noted that in his experience with boards and commissions related to natural resources and environmental protection in general, incomplete note taking and a lack of

recording minutes was often used to marginalize important issues of natural resource protection. Kirk noted that this marginalization was especially germane to an unwillingness to formally and completely record important public comment. Kirk also noted that the UFC chair emphasized important concerns in regard to the practical ability to complete accurate meeting notes and that there must be viable technological options – i.e., video and audio recording – for fully recording both public comment and all the Urban Forestry Commission and Committee meetings. Kirk moved to table the motion and volunteered to research how other boards and commissions address the accurate recording of meeting minutes and public comment. The motion passed.

This amendment was approved through vote for inclusion in the March 3, 2010 meeting notes.”

- Committee reports should have summary – amendment to summary of ecosystem committee

The minutes were approved as amended.

“Kirk made a motion to audio record all public comment as well as the full commission meetings, and include the public comment sign-up sheet as part of the meeting minutes (with the full meeting minutes and comment sign-up sheet then displayed on the internet). This would both provide a full recording of public comment AND an important way for public comment to be referenced within meeting minutes for future review as necessary. The public comment sign-up sheet would include the name and information of commenters as well as a brief description of the topic of the public comment. “

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Gordon – when public submits written comment those should be in the notes

Kirk – spoke with a lot of other boards re: notes. Other boards record a lot – audio recording should be provided. Can City staff record and post recordings of meetings? What technology is available?

There was a motion that written notes have only what’s on sign-in sheet for public comment. Public comment on audio recordings.

City staff to explore most effective way to audio recording

Kirk withdraws his motion

Jeff makes a motion to ask City to explore possibility to record and post public comment/meeting minutes working with Matt. Motion passes

Committees

Management Committee update – looked at tree calculator volunteers to look at specific zones, key questions for new DPD ordinance.

Community Committee update – communication issues with ordinance- trying to get blurb in SPU mailer. Tracy following up. Presentation discussion of innovative land use policy.

Ecosystems Committee update- wildlife tree interaction meeting as regular event, next in May. Reps from the Army Corps of Engineers at next meeting to address Fremont Cut issues.

Kirk made a motion to amend draft by adding citations

Nancy seconds

Kirk made a motion to adopt the letter

Jeff seconded

Jeff made a motion to add Marshall Foster as a recipient

Kirk seconded

Motion approved

Discussion of heron regulations/letter

“Matt referred to public comment noting that the heron habitat protection recommendation does not go far enough. Mat asked if we have “wobble room” to strengthen the recommendation.

Jeff commented that the heron habitat protections may be further strengthened as part of the comprehensive reconsideration of all tree regulations for the city.

Matt stated that “I support it [the recommendation], obviously. I mean, I do think that it should be stronger.

John S questioned why we couldn’t include “all developed areas” for consideration under this recommendation.

Kirk made a motion to amend letter to include “new and existing development” for application of proposed new screening tree protections.

The motion was seconded and approved.”

Nancy made a motion to vote

The motion was approved

Urban Forest Workplan

- DON, FFD, SPU don’t have responsibilities listed on the workplan

- Gordon- Update of status of workplan as already being implemented and areas where commission can help/contribute. What's important to help with – opportunities and challenges
- Jeff- Regularly scheduled check in with key staff
- Matt- Commission members coming to IDT
- Jeff- Annual status updates from staff
- John H – DPD not mentioned?

Workplan tabled for next meeting.

New Business

Review of multi-family codes – Michael Jenkins

Economic contribution/impact of trees presentation – keep at committee level

Commission – big picture goals/workplan

Matt & Elizabetha will draft

Chihuly museum/open space debate

Follow-up on heron letter to see how recommendations are being implemented

Permits – management committee first

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Written Public Comment provided in advance of the meeting:

From: Cheryl Trivison [mailto:ctrivison@richhaagassoc.com]

Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 3:41 PM

To: 'kirk prindle'; Morgenstern, Tracy

Cc: Conlin, Richard; 'Nick Licata'; 'Donna Kostka'; SeattlePOSA@yahoo.com

Subject:

April 5, 2010

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Kirk Prindle, Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, Chair, Ecosystem Committee kirkprindle@comcast.net

Tracy Morgenstern, Staff, Office of Sustainability and the Environment, tracymorgenstern@seattle.gov

RE: Change to DR 5-2007 for continuous protection of the Great Blue Heron nesting areas in Kiwanis Ravine and North Beach

“Great blue herons hold an almost mythological role among Northwest fauna. The Bird’s imposing size, dragon-like voice and prehistoric posture.... Voted Seattle’s official bird in 2003, this avian wonder seems to embody the city’s wild heart.” Kathryn True, Seattle Times, April 1, 2010;

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/outdoors/2011492610_nwwherons01.html

Dear Seattle Urban Forestry Commissioners,

Please vote to protect the heron habitat at the City’s two largest heronries—Kiwanis Ravine and North Beach in a significant and continuous manner. Heron Habitat Helpers’ initiative, supported by SUFC Ecosystem Committee would make changes to DR 5-2007 that would retain trees larger than 6” dbh [diameter breast height] year around. Current DR5-2007 regulation allows for trees as large as 22” dbh to be removed once the nesting season is over.

The screening provided by trees in the 500 foot buffer area insures the sanctuary necessary for heron mating, breeding, and care of fledglings until they can leave the nesting area.

The current regulations are inadequate to protect the breeding sanctuary of the Great Blue Heron.

Thank you for your attention,

Cheryl Trivison

Co-founder Seattle Urban Forest Stakeholders

Cc: Council President Conlin, Councilmember Licata, Donna Kostka, HHH, Seattle POSA

From: John "Hooper" Havekotte [mailto:4.hooper.4@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 10:51 PM

To: kirkprindle@comcast.net

Subject: Please approve changes to DR 5-2007

To Members of the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission (SUFC) –

Thank you very much for considering changes to Director's Rule (DR) 5-2007. I am writing as the President of Heron Habitat Helpers (HHH) to urge your commission to unanimously approve the changes suggested.

Why are these changes needed? When DR 5-2007 was being drafted by the City in 2007 HHH tried to get the language changed to allow retention of better screening foliage for herons in the 500' buffer area around heron habitat. To no avail. DR 5-2007 was written to require builders to retain only 22" or larger diameter at breast height (dbh) trees – and only during the heron nesting season, February 1st through July 31st. A 22" diameter dbh is about 100 years old.

You can imagine how many trees that age are found in the 500' buffer area! We've already lost one 18-19" tree just 1 ½ block from the heron nest trees because the tree wasn't 22" dbh. When the heron nesting season was over, the developer cut the tree down.

The SUFC Ecosystem Committee joins the members of HHH in proposing that the size of screening trees to be retained be 6" dbh or larger and that the retention period be year-round. This change would prevent the cumulative effect of losing every tree less than 22" during the non-nesting season. This change would make it possible for the Kiwanis Ravine Great Blue Heron nesting colony to have adequate foliage screening well into the future.

Please join your Ecosystem Committee and HHH in unanimously endorsing the proposed changes. Thank you for your consideration,

John "Hooper" Havekotte, President

Heron Habitat Helpers

2420 W. Armour St.

Seattle, WA 98199

(206) 818-1867

4.hooper.4@comcast.net

From: Donna Kostka [mailto:donna4510@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 9:59 PM

To: Morgenstern, Tracy; Prindle, Kirk

Cc: hhh_outreach

Subject: Kiwanis Herons need a change in DR 5-2007

Please distribute to the full commission....

To the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission –

Last year there were over 80 nests in the Kiwanis Ravine Great Blue Heron nesting colony. That meant 80 males and 80 females – 160 parent birds. And each nest had 2-5 chicks on average – let's say 4 per

nest at 80 nests is 320 chicks. So, at Kiwanis Ravine last summer there were a little under 500 birds in jeopardy because of the inadequacy of Director's Rule (DR) 5-2007.

Great Blue Herons nest in large stick nests in colonies like apartment houses. The Kiwanis Ravine colony, even though it lives in a 16 acre park, has all its nests in basically the same dozen trees.

DR 5-2007 failed to consider that if foliage trees are cut that screen the nests from developments, the birds are automatically put at a disadvantage because they typically don't often move their colony.

Already one 18-19" diameter at breast height (DBH) tree was lost recently. The developer didn't like that kind of tree, he said. He cut it down after the nesting season was over, so it wasn't able to provide screening foliage the next nesting season. DR 5-2007 retains only trees of 22" or larger DBH during the nesting season.

Thanks to the SUFC's Ecosystem Committee, changes are being proposed. The 22" or larger DBH would be changed to 6" DBH, and the retention period would change from the nesting season only to year round. These changes would retain foliage trees in the 500' buffer around heron habitat so that the heron colony is not disadvantaged.

Urban forests have many purposes, but one very important one is to support its birds – and especially a colony like Kiwanis Ravine's, the largest in the City of Seattle. The City's "official city bird" deserves no less.

Donna Kostka. Chair
Outreach Committee
Heron Habitat Helpers
6516A 24th Ave. NE
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 283-7805
donna4510@comcast.net

From: Trane Levington [mailto:tranewaters@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 1:06 AM

To: kirkprindle@comcast.net

Subject: DR 5-2007 April 7,2010 meeting of SUFC

Greetings, Mr. Prindle.

Until six months ago I lived next to the Kiwanis Heron Rookery. I have walked around all sides of it, so I can attest that the buffer most definitely needs to be added to/reinforced/upgraded, definitely not lessened/weakened in any way. The standard for the trees should be 6" dbh, year round, rather than 22" dbh. Please convey this to the full SUFC at the April 7th meeting.

Thank you,

Trane Levington

tranewaters@gmail.com

I am writing to support the proposed revisions to amend the DPD's Director's Rule 5-2007 to decrease the size of screening trees, as we need to protect our older trees from being cut down. As a volunteer for various wildlife preservation efforts I support the protection of as many healthy trees as possible in

our public spaces. I would appreciate it if you would distribute my letter of support to the full commission in advance of the April 7 meeting. Thank you.

Jennifer Nazarko
2551 Thorndyke Ave. W.
Seattle, WA 98119
206-443-9519

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____

Elizabeta Stacishin-Moura, Chair
Urban Forestry Commission