From:	Robert Kettle
To:	Pinto_de_Bader, Sandra
Cc:	Terri Johnston; Dan Evans; Susan Allen
Subject:	Concerned About 86 Trees In Queen Anne
Date:	Wednesday, November 05, 2014 11:52:09 AM
Attachments:	3015522_Arborist_report.pdf

Ms. Pinto de Bader,

Thank you for speaking with me about the Urban Forestry Commission. I appreciate your time and support. Please forward as we discussed the following to the commission -

Urban Forestry Commission,

I am writing you today as a member of Future Queen Anne. Future Queen Anne is a group of neighbors in Queen Anne who came together to support smart and sustainable development in keeping with the neighborhood character and city goals. Our current focus is the redevelopment plan for the 2.5-acre Seattle Children's Home (SCH) campus in Queen Anne. Our group also supports and believes in the protection of exceptional trees and green canopy in our city and Queen Anne in particular by maintaining mature and diverse trees on the SCH site. The campus is home to 86 trees on or adjacent to the campus of which 23 were assessed at the end of 2013 as exceptional and healthy with one additional exceptional tree being assessed as unhealthy. Please see the attached report from the developer's arborist for details.

Future Queen Anne supports developing the SCH campus that runs between 10th and 9th Avenues West off of McGraw St on the west side of Queen Anne. Our concern is the height, bulk and scale of the planned 59 townhome/rowhouse project will put the trees at risk. The developer has taken input from the community to change the original plans that had upwards to 66 homes on the site and adjusted the layout to avoid, for example, taking out an exceptional cedar tree on 10th Ave. W. But more needs to be done to reduce the dense inner core of the project in order to relieve the pressure on the trees along 9th and 10th.

Of concern today is a revised report from last month generated at the end of the long hot and dry summer that states three of the exceptional trees on the site are either dead, wounded or have damaged roots negatively impacting the developers ability to achieve the maximum FAR allowed. The report also states the grove of trees on the site is no longer to be considered a grove of trees since some of the trees are on private property and some are in the right-of-way. We believe the grove designation should remain. We will forward the revised larger sized developer arborist report separately.

We are reaching out to the commission because of the importance of the SCH campus to the city's goals in the 2013 Seattle Urban Forest Stewardship Plan and with Seattle reLeaf program. In a Seattle reLeaf program briefing to the city council in 2009 it was noted in a section about redeveloped parcels that, "single and multi-family residential parcels represent the majority of the canopy decline on redeveloped parcels." The redevelopment of SCH campus with its 2.5 acre size represents a potentially major loss of green canopy compared to a standard single city lot redevelopment making the achieving the goal of 30% canopy cover for the city that much harder.

We are unable to attend today's commission meeting but look to attend next week's meeting and are available to address any questions you may have. Thank you.

Best regards, Bob

Robert Kettle
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