

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair • Sandra Whiting (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist) Vice-Chair
Steve Zemke (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • Sarah Rehder (Position #4 – Hydrologist)
Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • Michael Walton (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)
Joanna Nelson de Flores (Position #7 – NGO) • Andrew Zellers (Position #8 – Development)
Craig Johnson (Position #9 – Economist) • Bonnie Lei (Position #10 – Get Engaged)
Whit Bouton (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

April 3, 2019

Meeting Notes

Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 2750 (27th floor)
700 5th Avenue, Seattle

Attending

Commissioners

Weston Brinkley – Chair
Sandra Whiting – Vice-Chair
Jessica Jones
Joanna Nelson de Flores
Josh Morris (non-voting)
Sarah Rehder
Shari Selch
Michael Walton
Steve Zemke
Andrew Zellers

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE
Jana Dilley – SPU – Trees for Seattle
Josh Meidav - SPU
Jon Jainga - SPR
Patti Baker - SPR

Public

Loren Dyson

Absent- Excused

Whit Bouton
Bonnie Lei
Stuart Niven
Craig Johnson

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

Weston called the meeting to order and introduced Josh Morris (Seattle Audubon) who is the appointee for the NGO position. He is attending without vote while he is appointed by Council.

Public comment

None

Adoption of March 6 and March 13 meeting notes

ACTION: A motion to approve the March 6 meeting notes as written was made, seconded, and approved.

ACTION: A motion to approve the March 13 meeting notes as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

Trees for Seattle

Jana Dilley supervises the Trees for Seattle program, which is interdepartmental in nature and is housed in SPU.

Trees for Seattle's work falls in four categories:

1. Outreach, communications, and technical assistance
 - a. Engaged 1,458 people that participate in volunteer events
 - b. The monthly newsletter has over 3,000 subscribers
 - c. Provided technical assistance to over 300 requests
 - d. The program has 747 Facebook followers – this is a great way for people to learn about their events. They've also put Facebook ads (they did this during the last snow storm).
2. Volunteer Engagement
 - a. 1,310 volunteer hours
 - b. 17 tree walks
 - c. Two tree stewardship events
 - d. Two volunteer skills building trainings
 - e. 268 public trees cared for
3. Residential planting
 - a. 1,000 trees planted at 50 households. Send people tree watering reminders every two weeks in the summer. They spend most resources for outreach to communities that are underrepresented and with low canopy levels. Currently are focusing on Rainier Beach.
 - b. Two structural pruning classes for 50 people.
 - c. Two right tree/right place workshops for 3 people.
 - d. 23 trees planted for 11 elderly/disabled residents.
 - e. 5-year support contract signed.
4. Interdepartmental, community, and regional work
 - a. 92 people engaged on Park(ing) Day. Do an urban forestry display somewhere in the city every year.
 - b. 60 volunteers, 9 partners, and 14 trees planted on Arbor Day.
 - c. 39 City Light referrals engaged, 44% completed planting.
 - d. Two sections added to Urban Forestry Story Map.

NOTE: Meeting notes are not meant to capture the whole conversation. For more details, specifically for Q and A, refer to the digital recording of the meeting at:

<http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocs.htm>

Urban Forestry Equity

- 225 people engaged in UFMP phase I outreach.
- 161 historically under-represented participants.
- 43 households in new south Seattle planting workshop tree delivery pilot.

2019 Goals

- Onboard shoreline street ends to Tree Ambassador program.
- Launch new volunteer/event registration portal.
- Move Tree Walks to a mobile app.
- Community focused urban forest engagement in Rainier Valley, including additional tree planting.

- Phase II engagement for UFMP update.

SPU briefing

Josh Meidav spoke about management of trees on SPU property. Works on Seattle's creeks, salmon watersheds, etc., Sr. Environmental Analyst in Urban Ecosystems Programs in SPU.

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<http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocs.htm>

Customer service: SPU is a customer service-oriented utility. The areas they focus on in relation to urban forestry are:

- Monitoring of potential hazards.
- Preventative maintenance and pruning.
- Hazard mitigation and removal.

Meadowbrook pond is one of the sites SPU maintains. There are over 150 bird species. It's located at NE 35th and 105th NE (across from Meadowbrook pool).

Partnerships:

- Scopes and prepares sites for volunteer and community events.
- Provides on-site staff and material technical assistance and guidance for volunteer events.
- Supports Citywide urban forestry work through participation in Trees for Seattle, Urban Forestry Core Team (Urban Forest Management Plan update, etc.), and Green Seattle Partnership efforts.
- Participates with community watershed groups for promotion of native riparian forest restoration.

Urban Forest and Landscape Vegetation Asset Management Inventory:

Overview

- Need for inventory of SPU-managed urban forest and landscape vegetation (59 sites across the City, some sites are co-managed with SPR and/or SDOT).
- Proactive vegetation management and promotion of urban ecosystem values.
- Piloted field survey in 2018 based on custom-built ArcGIS Collector application, modified approach of SDOT's street tree inventory application.

Definition and Tools

- Vegetation assets: individual trees, tree stands, shrubs, turf.
- Parameters: species (native, ornamental, or invasive), cover, height, diameter, condition, management recommendations.
- Tools: forestry measurement tools, ArcGIS Collector, MS Excel, iTree Eco, vegetation identification resources, tablet, and smartphone.
- He also has a mobile app on his cell.

Pilot Year Results (2018)

- 11 sites.
- 463 trees inventoried.
- Structure: cover = 3.6 ac; most common = Douglas fir, incense cedar, swamp white oak; 25% native; 60% < 6" dbh.
- Function: air pollution removal = 188.5 lbs/yr; Carbon sequestration = 4.3 tons; Oxygen production = 11.4 tons/yr; avoided runoff = 11,100 cubic ft/yr.

Making the connection between healthy urban forests and watersheds and the benefits derived is something the make available to SPU management for decision-making.

2019 goals:

- Continue commitment to responsive and equitable customer service and line of business urban forestry and landscape vegetation work.
- Continue support for inter-departmental and Citywide strategic efforts and native forest restoration.
- Refine urban forest survey and ArcGIS Collection Urban Forest and Landscape Vegetation application.
- Complete urban forest field survey for the majority of south end sites.
- Re-run iTree Eco analyses for cumulative survey ecosystem structure and function.

UFC question: are you planning on sharing this information with the public to make them aware of all these benefits?

Answer: yes. It probably will happen in 2020 and potentially through an online story map.

UFC question: would you possibly use the data to advocate for support?

Answer: they are scaling to see how much canopy can be increased in SPU land and increase native conifer planting.

Parks briefing

Jon Jainga and Patti Bakker presented the overview for Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR).

SPR's mission:

SPR provides welcoming and safe opportunities to play, learn, contemplate and build community, and promotes responsible stewardship of the land. We promote healthy people, a healthy environment, and strong communities.

Jon shared SPR's org chart and showed where the Natural Resources Unit forestry unit resides.

- 6,400 acres of parkland
- 485 developed parks
- Est. 300,000 trees
 - o 2001 tree policy update
 - o New viewpoint policy and task force

\$163,000,000 total budget

1,200 employees

NRU \$7.9 M operating budget

63 full time staff

\$3.2M in capital investment funding GSP, tree replacement, forest restoration and soft-surface trails.

Green Seattle Partnership

Goals:

- Restore and maintain the forested parklands and designated natural areas of Seattle.
- Expand and galvanize an informed, involved, and active community around forest restoration and stewardship.

Accomplishments

- 1,600+ acres in restoration.
- 194 acres mulched.
- Over 1 million plants in the ground.
- 2,454 acres weeded.
- A million volunteer hours.
- 347,242 professional crew hours.

Joanna mentioned that the GSP is funded by the Parks District and the next six-year term funding is coming up. There will be public outreach and input opportunities in May. It's important to advocate for continued GSP funding. City Council will approve how the next 6years of funding will be allocated.

It's important to have increased funding per acre now that the most difficult acres are still needing restoration, and the number of acres that now need to be maintained keeps on increasing and the Operations and Maintenance funding is not yet in place.

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Tree Regulations conversation

Weston spoke to the UFC about the work Sandra, Weston and Steve have been doing to improve the last draft of the tree ordinance legislation. Next week, we'll spend the whole session discussing.

Public comment

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

Public input:

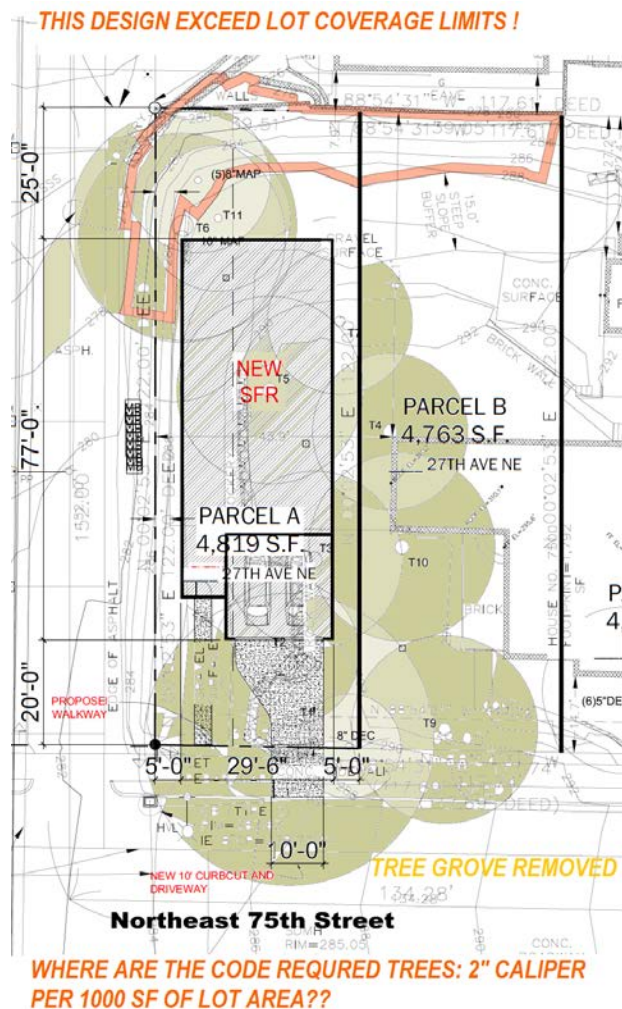
See next page.

From: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 7:34 PM
To: SCI_Code_Compliance <SCI_Code_Compliance@seattle.gov>
Cc: DOT_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; TreesForNeighborhoods <TreesForNeighborhoods@seattle.gov>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Johnson, Rob <Rob.Johnson@seattle.gov>; DOT_LA <DOT_LA@seattle.gov>; PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>
Subject: Wedgwood over-sized development wipes clean protected tree grove
Importance: High

Dear Seattle stewards of the urban forest -

Please look at the **severe tree loss** from a subdivided single-family lot violating the tree ordinance. Three plainly unattractive and oversized houses have been planted in the wake.

- Tree grove removed; and
- massive Exceptional tree partially on right-of-way removed for... a driveway and garage!
- Single Family code requires at least 9-1/2" of tree caliper to be retained or replanted on each of these three lots.
- The three (3) lots each had buildings covering more than the allowable lot coverage **. So now there is no room for planting trees that may contribute to the urban forest tree canopy cover.
- The side yards should average 7 feet - not be a continuous minim of 5 feet. Why was an easement granted to allow exceeding lot coverage limits?



Projects files by address at <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/> or

OriginalAddress1 Link

2700 NE 75TH ST <https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/portal/customize/LinkToRecord.aspx?altId=6616576-DM>

2702 NE 75TH ST <https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/portal/customize/LinkToRecord.aspx?altId=6608192-CN>

2704 NE 75TH ST <https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/portal/customize/LinkToRecord.aspx?altId=6608193-CN>

7500 27TH AVE NE <https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/portal/customize/LinkToRecord.aspx?altId=6597902-CN>

Arborists report shows 11 trees, calling 2 shrublike growth of trees, and one or two as hazard trees potentially.

<http://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/make%C2%A0a-property-or-building-complaint>

The lot coverage is exceeded ** for all three new buildings:

PROJECT ADDRESS: 2702 NE 75TH ST, #6608192

PROJECT ADDRESS: 2704 NE 75TH ST, #6608193

PROJECT ADDRESS: 2700 NE 75TH ST, #6597902

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: CONSTRUCT NEW SFR WITH ATTACHED PARKING PER PLAN.

LOT SIZE: varies at approx 4819 SF each

LOT width: varies 39.5 SF each

LOT depth: varies 122 SF each

Side yards: 10 Ft ; 2 at 5 feet each

Rear yard: 25 Ft

Front Yard: 20 Ft

Allowable Lot Coverage: 1723-1730 Sq ft (15% of let area plus 1,000 sq feet.)

Actual Coverage Exceed Allowed: 2205-2210 SF = (77.0 x 29.5)-(8x8)

Excessive lot coverage= over by 482 sq ft (or approx 22' x 22') almost enough to grow a tree.

=====

Side yard easement (SMC 23.44.014)

It appears a side yard easement is utilized to reduce the required side yard on the east property line. Please provide a recorded side yard easement.

Backing onto arterial (SMC 23.54.030)

NE 75th St is classified as an arterial. Per SMC 23.54.030.D.1.f.1, vehicles cannot back up onto an arterial. Please provide either a turnaround on site or a provide a safety study which addresses visibility, traffic volume and other relevant issues.



Permit Class	Permit Type	Description	EstProject Cost	Applied date	Issue date	Expires date	Completed date	Status current	Original address	Link
Single Family /Duplex	Demolition	Demolish existing building, subject to field inspection (STFI)		9/6/2017	3/2/2018	9/2/2019	4/9/2018	Completed	2700 NE 75 th St	https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/portal/customize/LinkToRecord.aspx?altId=6616576-DM
Single Family /Duplex	New	Establish use as and construct a single-family residence, per plans	\$391,305	8/27/2017	4/13/19	10/13/19	2/27/19	Completed	2702 NE 75 th St	https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/portal/customize/LinkToRecord.aspx?altId=6608192-CN
Single Family /Duplex	New	Establish use as and construct a single family residence, per plans.	\$381,869	8/27/2017	2-17-19	8-27-19		Issued	2704 NE 75 th St	https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/portal/customize/LinkToRecord.aspx?altId=6608193-CN



From: Michael Oxman <michaeloxman@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2019 2:37 PM
To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>
Cc: DOT_LA <DOT_LA@seattle.gov>; Beverly Sanders <bse@speakeasy.net>; berner.casey@gmail.com; Pederson, Art <Art.Pederson@seattle.gov>; Baker J Katzenberger <bscg_katzenberger@outlook.com>; Dawn Fitzgibbons <dawn.fitzgibbons@gmail.com>; Baker Shaw <B33@bensonslaw.com>; Anne Siems <annesiemsart@gmail.com>; Julia Field <bscg.juliafield@gmail.com>; David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Sawant, Kshama <Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov>; Steve Zemke (via seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group Mailing List) <seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net>
Subject: Seattle Urban Forestry Conference

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Howdy Seattle Urban Forestry Commissioners,
It's time for a Seattle Urban Forestry Conference. It should be hosted by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, who would control the agenda.

When PlantAmnesty began its joint sponsorship of its urban forestry conference with the University of Washington 10 years ago, the city was also one of the co-sponsors. It may still be, but the agenda has changed.

This year the conference is about Climate Change, which is not the topic the citizens care about. The citizens care that trees are being removed so concrete can be poured for building foundations in the space the trees used to occupy.

The 60 page 2009 City Auditors report highlighted the lack of outreach by the municipal government, and the intent of founding the conference was to address this shortcoming. <https://wayback.archive-it.org/3241/20131221223641/https://www.seattle.gov/audit/docs/PublishedReport20090515.pdf>

The audit's 6 recommendations noted lack of civic engagement, and the city's response was two-fold:

- 1) Appoint a tree commission; and
- 2) Hold an annual conference.

The amount of time is meager at a typical PlantAmnesty/UW Urban Forestry Conference for exchange of ideas with folks in the audience about how Seattle tree policy is swept under the rug, and it primarily is a platform for the selected speakers (who are selected by a committee) to express their views. Policymakers commonly prefer not to inventory forests so they won't be held liable for risks of tree failure that they become aware of, but haven't the budgets to address.

The topic of this event is not about Seattle tree policy. We need our own urban forestry conference now.

Thanks for listening.

Michael Oxman

Highlights from the 2009 Audit

<https://wayback.archive-it.org/3241/20131221223641/https://www.seattle.gov/audit/docs/PublishedReport20090515.pdf>

May 15, 2009

Focus:

To review the City's management of Seattle's trees in the following areas: 1) the actions taken by the City and other stakeholders to implement the Urban Forest Management

Plan; 2) the challenges the City faces in attaining and sustaining the Urban Forest Management Plans goals; and 3) the approaches that may be useful for future tree management efforts.

Results: While the City has identified tree preservation and increased tree canopy as priorities and individual City department efforts are underway to implement these priorities, we identified the following challenges to the City's tree management efforts. The six most complex challenges are:

1. The City's current tree management framework needs to be strengthened to:
 - o Ensure that the organizational entities established in the Urban Forest Management Plan are operational and effective in supporting and sustaining the City's urban forestry goals;
 - o Unify all City departments behind a single mission through clear and demonstrated leadership by the Office of Sustainability and Environment;
 - o Develop a single, overall strategic plan for implementing the Urban Forest Management Plan that: translates the plan's goals and objectives into specific activities so that managers and staff can be held accountable; describes measures to assess progress towards achieving goals and objectives; what external factors could impact the plan and how these factors could impact achieving the plan's goals and objectives; and how the plan will be evaluated to know whether the City is on track or if adjustments need to be made to meet the overall goals.
2. Stronger cooperation and coordination is needed between stakeholders to resolve conflicts as urban forestry goals compete with utility and transportation infrastructure for limited space in the public right-of-way;
3. Increased emphasis on public outreach and education is needed to promote property management of privately owned trees and to encourage new tree planting to sustain and expand the City's tree canopy;
4. A tree inventory is needed for making sound resource management decisions;
5. City goals need to include realistic funding assumptions; and
6. Effective development and enforcement of new tree regulations are needed to protect and increase the City's tree canopy.

On April 3, 2019 at 6:14 AM David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com> wrote:

Despite concerns recently identified by a City arborist, the contractor cut down a row of trees along the north side of 2002 NW 60th Street on Monday. They left one near tree the Exceptional cedar and what looks like 3 on the west end of the row. See attached images.

Please advise the Baker Street Community Group (who had over 100 people write in and request a public meeting in 2017 that was NEVER GRANTED) by a response to these questions as it appears they are about to start building soon.

- 1) why were these trees removed as a buffer to the existing building to the north? Will they be replaced?
- 2) were these trees exceptional per Director's Rule by the accurate species identified by the City arborist?
- 3) was not the driveway from 20th Ave NW moved to the north edge of the existing house to remain per the attached site plan by Site?
- 4) if 3 is 'yes':
 - the existing trees did not need to be removed;
 - where is the Exceptional cedar on the site plan;
 - where does the driveway cross the critical root zone of the cedar;
 - how will driveway be constructed to avoid the Cedar root zone;

- when will solid Construction barriers aligned with tree drip lines be installed by contractor and inspected by City arborists;
- is the developer required to engage an arborist to identify how the Cedar roots will be protected from damage during excavations for the proposed building... who... how many intervals... at what time ;
- who has identified root and limb pruning specifications and confirmed the time of year such pruning is allowed;
- has any hand dug tests pits (such as that performed for the sequoia at 6406 14th Ave NW) been conducted to identify the extent of the critical root system?

5) what other trees are identified and approved to be removed?

6) has the city requested a drawing to show the extent of new building excavations relative to the critical root zones of the trees? Typically these excavations go 3 to 5 feet beyond the proposed building edge.

7) has a measured and dimensioned drawing been provided for SDCI approval that demonstrates the shaping of the proposed new house at the Exceptional cedar tree, and that the root zone and canopy will not be affected?

8) The most recent plan set is from 3/1/19 and seems to now go back to the narrow driveway along 20th with a cut out there. We understood that idea was not approved given issues like emergency vehicles access to the new lot created behind 2014 NW 60th Street and not directly accessible from 60th Street. This access must be at least 10 feet wide and at least 16.5 feet clear in height. Provide a fire department approved emergency vehicle access route.

9) has SMC 23.11 been vetted with the existing site and required ultimate tree canopy required. Lowrise multifamily zone development such as this result in an average removal of 87 percent of the existing tree canopy. Trees are often replaced by inconsequential shrubs and plantings not conducive to countering heat island effects and natural habitats.

David Moehring AIA
on behalf of the
Baker Street Community Group

From: "Casey Berner"
Date: December 31, 2018 at 4:49 PM
To: prc@seattle.gov
Cc: "David Moehring"
Subject: Public Comment: #3031643-LU and 3031643-LU-001

Hello PRC,

I am writing today because of the new proposal at 2002 NW 60th St and the new proposed 6011 20th Ave NW.

The site plans provided to SDCI on or after December 3rd, 2018 do not include protections for exceptional trees outlined in a previous report provided to the land at 2002-2010 NW 60th including an exceptional cedar and the European Aspens as well as other trees noted by Art Pederson in his report from earlier this year.

This plan also continues to provide access to parking via 20th Ave NW and in a report from September 6th, 2018, SDCI determined access from 20th would be a significant hazard and access should come from 60th St.

This plan disregards previous compliance notes from SDCI made earlier on the land with similar design. Please hold the developer accountable to previous decisions and reference these old reports when making decisions on the new proposal from December 3rd, 2018.

Thank you,
Resent from Casey Berner
By
David Moehring
Baker Street Community Group

