

## SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair • Steve Zemke (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist), Vice-Chair  
Sarah Rehder (Position #4 – Hydrologist) • Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA)  
Michael Walton (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA) • Joshua Morris (Position #7 – NGO)  
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*

**July 3, 2019**

### Meeting Notes

Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 2750 (27<sup>th</sup> floor)  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle

#### **Attending**

##### Commissioners

Whit Bouton  
Jessica Jones  
Steven Fry (non-voting)  
Josh Morris  
Stuart Niven  
Sarah Rehder  
Shari Selch  
Michael Walton  
Steve Zemke

##### Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE  
Kathleen Conner - SPR

##### Guests

Elijah Selch  
CM Sally Bagshaw

##### Absent- Excused

Weston Brinkley – Chair  
Bonnie Lei

##### Public

Elizabeth Archambault

**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**

Sandra called the meeting to order

#### **Public comment**

None

#### **Vice-chair elections**

The candidates (Sarah Rehder, Whit Bouton and Steve Zemke) shared with the group why they are interested in being vice-chair and what they are bringing to the table.

Commissioners voted and Steve Zemke was elected chair for the remainder of 2019.

#### **Adoption of May 1, May 8, and June 5 meeting notes**

**ACTION: A motion to approve the May 1 meeting notes as written was made, seconded, and approved.**

**ACTION: A motion to approve the May 8 meeting notes as written was made, seconded, and approved.**

**ACTION: A motion to approve the June 5 meeting notes as written was made, seconded, and approved.**

### **Tree regulations meeting with Council debrief**

Steve, Josh, Stuart, and Weston attended a deliberative meeting with CM Bagshaw and Council Central Staff in June 12.

Steve shared the general items that were talked about during the meeting. Including that the UFC has been working to support the City on updating the tree ordinance for the past ten years. That there is a lot of agreement already (based on the Mandatory Housing Affordability companion Resolution). The one thing still missing is engaging the Mayor.

Stuart was concerned about a comment made by Aly – the budget implications and that any change to the code required engagement with stakeholders impacted by the code change.

Josh shared that CM Bagshaw wasn't optimistic around being able to do the work before budget season.

CM Bagshaw joined the meeting:

She talked to the Mayor's Office two days ago and shared the proposal. They are happy to help with the work plan (timing to bring legislation forward – and include public comment). Need to make sure to give an opportunity to those whose voices have not been heard yet to weigh in. That's why she was interested in hosting two public meetings (maybe something in August). Good communication with MO that this is important to CM Bagshaw and the community. CM Bagshaw needs to get the MO on board as an important piece of legislation. She would like to get this introduced in September and have it passed in December. Council Central Staff has recommended to run by Law Department (to make sure that the City is not unnecessarily open to litigation) and also SEPA.

CM Bagshaw is looking to SDCI and OSE to determine how many FTEs would be needed to implement. Last Monday in September is when the Mayor presents her budget to Council.

The Nature Conservancy is an ally that has popped up recently. She talked to Jesse Israel. They are going to be issuing a communication in support of tree canopy.

Council Central Staff are already reviewing the UFC input to the draft legislation.

CM Bagshaw recommended the UFC publish and share the draft ordinance. Invite people's comment and for them to let give the MO input.

Talk to OED to see how to get the draft in front of Builders Associations and Developers.

Do a café style round table conversation with community. Takes time and organization.

**ACTION:** CM Bagshaw encouraged the UFC to share widely. Sandra to coordinate having UFC meetings in August off site and after hours. Maybe a Saturday.

### **Seattle Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan briefing**

Kathleen Conner from Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR). She is leading the strategic planning effort for SPR.

Every 5 to 10 years, SPR staff get together with community and partners to discuss where they've been and where they are going. They reflect on challenges, who they are serving and who they are missing.

In 2019, they are thinking big about what Seattle might need in the next twelve years.

A strategic plan is a roadmap to guide SPR in the next 12 years (all activities and funding), it also identifies key priority goals and strategies toward achievement of SPR's vision of Healthy People, Healthy Environment, Strong Communities.

The plan must reflect SPR's values, and what's most important to our community.

- SPR serves people
- Committing to equity – creating a plan that focuses on race and social justice in all they do.
- Must be open to a new way of doing things
- Honoring the diversity and history of our city, while also looking toward our future.
- Ensuring that as Seattle grows, they do so in a way that is inclusive, affordable, innovative, accessible and livable.
- They must engage in ongoing discourse with the community to ensure they are serving all of Seattle residents.
- The plan should work to mitigate the effects of climate change on the natural environment, and protect those most vulnerable.

Where SPR has been: 2018 and 2019 strategic plan activities

- Building on the 2014 Legacy Plan and other recent planning efforts
- Collecting data and preparing reports
- Working with the Change Team on a Racial Equity Toolkit
- Meeting with SPR staff, City staff, ARC, and task forces
- Working with PDOC and the Park Board
- Community events and groups
- Launched website, social media, EMC survey

What they have heard:

- Maintain, clean, improve
- Equity
- Healthy environment
- Innovation
- Community building
- Efficiency, customer service and staffing
- Healthy people

What they are hearing:

- Preserve land, nature, wildlife
- Cultivate relationships with low-income residents at Magnuson Park
- Trail walks with knowledgeable leaders
- Support the diverse population
- Enforce leash laws and keep parks clean
- Covered playgrounds
- Retain neighborhood uniqueness

Strategic plan components

- Outreach done through SPR plans over the past five years
- Engaging our staff
- Online engagement
- Citywide survey
- Parks & Rec Fest events
- Recreation and park trends near and far

Discussion questions:

- Seattle's got a lot on its plate (population growth, construction, rising prices, homelessness, new jobs and opportunities). How can Seattle Parks and Recreation help?
- How are Seattle parks, community centers and pools serving you?
- What park amenities really excite you?
- What park events, community center programs, and aquatics programs interest you?

***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>***

**Hazardous tree definition – discussion begins**

Stuart is recommending using industry standard language. Commissioners briefly discussed and agreed to move to a future agenda.

**Public comment**

None

**New Business**

None

**Adjourn**

**Public input:**

**(see posted notes)**

**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 01, 2019 12:52 PM

**To:** O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>; Pacheco, Abel <Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov>; Pennucci, Aly <Aly.Pennucci@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; Gonzalez, Lorena <Lorena.Gonzalez@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Juarez, Debora <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>; Sawant, Kshama <Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov>; Assefa, Samuel <Samuel.Assefa@seattle.gov>; Wentlandt, Geoffrey <Geoffrey.Wentlandt@seattle.gov>; Welch, Nicolas <Nicolas.Welch@seattle.gov>; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; Mantilla, Andres <Andres.Mantilla@seattle.gov>; DOT\_ROAD <684-ROAD@seattle.gov>; Zimbabwe, Sam <Sam.Zimbabwe@seattle.gov>; Ranganathan, Shefali <Shefali.Ranganathan@seattle.gov>; Gilliss, Edie <Edie.Gilliss@seattle.gov>; Tree Ordinance Legal <tree-ordinance-legal@googlegroups.com>; seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group-requestlists.riseup.net <seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group-request@lists.riseup.net>; TreesForNeighborhoods <TreesForNeighborhoods@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Danielle Chastaine <ppceditor@nwlinc.com>; Strauss, Daniel <Daniel.Strauss@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** TreePAC intervention with Appeal on Single Family Zoning changes

**Importance:** High

CAUTION: External Email

Honorable City Council and Mayor Durkin-

Seattle deserves  affordable housing **AND a tree canopy**  to counter climate change!

Aly Pennucci's ADU ORD #D6 has **decreased tree protection requirements** rather than strengthen as required by the Mayor's 2017 Executive Order. Immediately **strike new 'chainsaw' amendments** proposed in lines 9 to 16 of the Full Council Amendment for CB119544 as issued today (see below).

Also, the proposed SMC 25.11.060 allows the **removal of Exceptional Trees** and the partial or full **removal of Tree Groves** within backyards without requiring first design departures to retain the protected trees.

Given 63% of Seattle's tree canopy exists on these private properties within SF-zones, please do not allow such careless legislation to sneak into the CB119544.

If you pass this today CB as it is today, ***the sawdust will be permanently on your hands.***

Sincerely and urgently,

David Moehring  
TreePAC Board Member  
[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)

Include in the **council record** relative to this legislation the files from the links provided below for TreePAC's intervention into the FEIS for ADU.

You should be aware that the impact to Seattle's tree canopy and environment was not evaluated and evidence was excluded from the appeal hearings. The changes described above even go beyond the tree removal considered within the ADU FEIS.



Aly Pennucci LEG Accessory Dwelling Units ORD D6

**Full Council Amendment 1 (substitute) to CB 119544 July 1, 2019**

**In OPPOSITION to amendments to 23.44.020 Tree requirements, remove newly added sections that reduce the requirements for retained or replanted trees within lots:**

**KEEP EXISTING:**

A. Tree requirements in SF 5000, SF 7200, and SF 9600 zones

1. Trees sufficient to meet the following requirements shall be provided when single-family dwelling units are constructed:

- a. For lots over 3,000 square feet, at least 2 caliper inches of tree per 1,000 square feet of lot area.
- b. On lots that are 3,000 square feet or smaller, at least 3 caliper inches of tree.

**STRIKE AMENDMENT Lines 9 to 16:**

2. Trees sufficient to meet the following requirements shall be provided when a new structure, or an addition to an existing structure, containing an accessory dwelling unit is constructed:

a. For lots that do not contain the minimum number of caliper inches of tree required by subsection 23.44.020.A.1 at the time a permit application is submitted for any number of accessory dwelling units, at least 2 caliper inches of tree shall be planted;

b. For lots that contain the minimum number of caliper inches of tree required by subsection 23.44.020.A.1 at the time a permit application is submitted for any number of accessory dwelling units, no new trees are required.

25.11.060. (lines 13 to 20)

D. Additional standards for structures if allowed in required yards. Structures in required yards shall comply with the following:

1. Accessory structures, attached garages, and portions of a principal structure shall not exceed a maximum combined coverage of 40 percent of the required rear yard, except that a detached accessory

dwelling unit may cover an additional 20 percent of the rear yard provided that the increased rear yard coverage does not require removal of any exceptional trees or trees over 2 feet in diameter measured 4.5 feet above the ground. In the case of a rear yard abutting an alley, rear yard coverage shall be calculated from the centerline of the alley.

### **ADD**

**2. Design departures shall be pursued on all rear yard lots with Exceptional trees and Tree Groves including additional height, reduced setbacks, no vehicle parking, and no garages.**

- [Appellant Final Witness & Exhibit List](#) 2/12/2019
- [City Final Witness and Exhibit List](#) 2/19/2019
- [TreePAC Motion to Intervene](#) 3/14/2019
- [Clarification](#) 3/14/2019
- [City Response to Motion to Intervene](#) 3/14/2019
- [TreePAC Reply to City opposition.pdf](#) 3/18/2019
- [Exhibit List](#) 3/29/2019 4:01:33 PM
- [TreePAC Request for Documents](#) 4/1/2019 9:32:54 AM
- [Order Granting TreePAC's Request for Documents](#) 4/1/2019 10:57:34 AM
- [City Closing Brief - March 25 Hearing Transcript](#) 4/16/2019 3:37:56 PM
- [City Closing Brief - March 26 Hearing Transcript](#) 4/16/2019 3:38:16 PM
- [City Closing Brief - March 27 Hearing Transcript](#) 4/16/2019 3:38:34 PM
- [City Closing Brief - March 28 Hearing Transcript](#) 4/16/2019 3:38:50 PM
- [City Closing Brief - March 29 Hearing Transcript](#) 4/16/2019 3:39:08 PM
- [TreePAC Closing Statement](#) 4/16/2019 4:36:39 PM
- [TreePAC Reply to City's Closing Brief](#) 4/26/2019 4:53:07 PM
- [Exhibit 1 to TreePAC Reply](#) 4/26/2019 4:55:31 PM
- [Exhibit 2 to TreePAC Reply](#) 4/26/2019 4:57:04 PM
- [City Motion to Strike](#) 4/29/2019 4:39:11 PM

- [TreePAC Response to Motion to Strike](#) 5/6/2019 4:46:49 PM
- [Order on Motion to Strike](#) 5/13/2019 3:43:49 PM
- [Findings and Decision](#) 5/13/2019 3:44:43 PM

full records of Queen Anne citywide appeal may be found at:

<https://web6.seattle.gov/Examiner/case/W-18-009>

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**From:** Stuart Niven <stuart.arborist.ufc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 03, 2019 11:25 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Trees and Air Pollution

**CAUTION: External Email**

Hi Sandra,

Please can you post this and share with the group? Suitable timing based on impending summer smoky air, and the comments made in the last Durkan Digest about poor air quality in the City.

<https://blog.nature.org/science/2017/04/06/trees-air-pollution-balance-ecosystem-services-ozone/>

Thanks,

Stuart