



City of Seattle

Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

Office of Sustainability & Environment

Jessica Finn Coven, Director

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair • Sarah Rehder (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Vice-chair
Julia Michalak (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • Elby Jones (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA)
Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • Michael Walton (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)
Joshua Morris (Position #7 – NGO) • Blake Voorhees (Position # 9 – Realtor)
Elena Arakaki (Position #10 – Get Engaged) • Whit Bouton (Position #11 – Environmental Justice - ISA)
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

Meeting notes

January 6, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Via Webex call

(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 146-158-3462

Meeting password: 1234

In-person meeting are not being held at this time due to the pandemic. Meeting participation is limited to access by joining the meeting through a computer or telephone conference line.

Attending

Commissioners

Weston Brinkley – Chair
Sarah Rehder - Vice-Chair
Elena Arakaki
Elby Jones
Julia Michalak
Josh Morris
Stuart Niven
Shari Selch
Blake Voorhees

Staff

Sandra Pinto Urrutia - OSE

Guests

Toby Thaler – CM Pedersen’s office

Public

None

Absent- Excused

Whit Bouton
Jessica Jones
Michael Walton

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 with the UFC’s land acknowledgement. Weston welcomed Toby Thaler to the meeting. Toby didn’t have public comment but shared that his 2021 work plan includes working on the urban forestry consolidation statement of legislative intent (SLI), which

asks the Executive, the UFC, and the UF Core Team to evaluate models for consolidating the City's urban forest management functions and, based on this evaluation, make recommendations on how changes could be implemented. He clarified that the language in the SLI was intent on giving equal power to all three groups to do this work.

Public comment: None

Adoption of December 2 and December 8 meeting notes: Commissioners reviewed meeting notes.

ACTION: A motion to approve the December 2 meeting notes as written was made, seconded, and approved.

ACTION: A motion to approve the December 9 meeting notes as written was made, seconded, and approved.

Seattle Parks and Recreation briefing discussion

Commissioners discussed and agreed to produce a thank you letter that would include specific comments on the Cheasty pilot's success parameters and Green Seattle Partnership. Weston, Sarah, and Josh will work on this for discussion at the next meeting. Sandra will provide an initial draft to Sarah.

UFC leadership roles

Weston would like to encourage people to run for leadership roles being that this is his last full year with the Commission. His second term ends 3/31/22 and would like to work on succession planning. Commissioners discussed the chair and vice-chair roles providing an opportunity for questions.

Sandra gave a historic perspective of the chair role and clarified that the level of involvement depends on the individual. Having a clear work plan is helpful for her to produce agendas (which she then runs by the chair for input).

Weston shared his experience and the amount of time he spends on research and issue preparation. He also mentioned that the one role that he was surprised by, in terms of the amount of time necessary, was recruitment. Sandra clarified that interview panel participation and opportunities to participate in invitations for interviews for articles or presentations, can be shared with the full Commission so other members can participate if they so choose.

Sarah expressed concern about the spokesperson role. Sandra shared that there had been only one instance, in her 11-year tenure with the UFC, where the chair spoke to the press about a recommendation.

Sandra will incorporate draft language into the Bylaws to provide more detailed information on both leadership roles.

NOTE: Meeting notes about this item are not exhaustive. For more details please listen to the digital recording of the meeting at: <http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocs.htm>

Draft 2020 annual report

Weston walked the group through the draft document. Commissioners provided input and agreed that several items should be added:

- The UFC was posed to actively share the tree regulations one-pager. Sarah did share it with the Magnolia Neighborhood Council before the pandemic shutdown.
- Mention the work done through deliberative sessions for the UFMP update and the work on tree regulations.
- Include the growth in the UFC list serve from a couple hundred to over 700 subscribers.

- Include the accessibility language incorporated into the UFC website (based on ADA trainings Sandra took in 2020).

2021 UFC work plan

Sandra introduced the topic by saying that the draft document was based on the 2020 work plan and wanted Commissioners to discuss which items needed to be kept in the 2021 work plan.

Commissioners began discussing the document. Weston encouraged people to think about what areas they would like to engage in. This is a living document but would like to adopt a version that will be a companion to the 2020 annual report.

Sandra will add changes discussed and re-send for further discussion.

Racial equity and UFC work: this item got moved to next week's agenda.

Public comment: None

Adjourn: Weston adjourned the meeting.

Public input: (see next page and posted notes)

From: heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:51 AM

To: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

Cc: Stuart Niven <panorarbor@gmail.com>; David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>; SeattleIT <SeattleIT@seattle.gov>; Glundberg-Prossor, Kristen <Kristen.Glundberg-Prossor@seattle.gov>; Heidi Siegelbaum (Heidi.Siegelbaum@wsu.edu) <Heidi.Siegelbaum@wsu.edu>

Subject: Example page from King County Comp Plan

CAUTION: External Email

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/executive/performance-strategy-budget/regional-planning/king-county-comprehensive-plan.aspx>

Hi Sandra

I thought you would be interested in the layout from King County on a possible page structure for OSE/SDCI when it comes to public participation around major issues. I think your city IT people could make it possible.

About 4 years ago the City stripped away all peer to peer contacts on its websites including an understanding of which practitioners work on discrete issues, instead leaving a general number where you can never find who you need. This happened yesterday when I tried to contact the Environmental Justice and Equity folks and the program manager's contact information (like a phone number) was not on the page.

I actually contacted Mami Hara about it because I could not find stormwater peers on the SPU web site. This continues to be a problem.

Please let me know who to contact in the City of Seattle IT world because this lack of functionality is a de facto barrier to effective problem solving and seriously gets in the way of any meaningful public participation.

Many thanks,
Heidi

Heidi Siegelbaum
Heidi@calyxsite.com

(206) 784-4265

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/HeidiSiegelbaum>

From: heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>

Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 8:55 AM

To: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>

Cc: Stuart Niven <panorarbor@gmail.com>; David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

Subject: Tree cut for development at 85th and 30th- there is STILL room for it to have stayed given the development footprint

CAUTION: External Email



Hi Sandra

I had sent you this photo before about a large tree (Stuart can confirm the size but I'm going to guess **30 inches**) was taken out- FOR NO REASON- for this development. This tree was on the very edge of the property.

As this building is being built, I can see that this space is totally unoccupied by the building footprint and could have been built without removing this tree. I want to know what you and SDCI are doing to do about it and would appreciate a response telling me the steps of your investigation and the results of this investigation.

David sends you hundreds of violations. Where on the City's website are the resolution being stored? Who is getting fined and where are the funds going? Please tell me.

The property is on the north side of 85th.

All the best,
Heidi

Heidi Siegelbaum
Heidi@calyxsite.com

(206) 784-4265

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/HeidiSiegelbaum>

From: heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 3:04 PM
To: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>
Subject: Good model for public participation from another city- might consider adopting such a model

CAUTION: External Email

<https://srcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/28198/How-to-Participate-in-Public-Meetings?bidId=>

Heidi Siegelbaum
Heidi@calyxsite.com

(206) 784-4265

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/HeidiSiegelbaum>

From: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:34 AM
To: PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>
Cc: Catherine LePreux <catherine@lecofrancaise.com>; Sharon LeVine <sllevineusc@yahoo.com>; Amy Carlson <amy.carlson@comcast.net>; mary wallon <mwallon21@gmail.com>; janice@seattlejobs.org; anne@cafewalter.com; Jen.simonic@gmail.com; Priscilla Carrier <pcarrier1401@gmail.com>; Shannon Nichol & Travis Godbout <nicholgodbout@gmail.com>; supriyauchil@gmail.com; Anita CONNELL <anitajconnell@gmail.com>; Jon GOFORTH <saxgoforth@gmail.com>; David SMITH <dsmith@paragonrea.com>; Georgine Price <georgineprice@gmail.com>; smoses@centerlrc.com; kerryrrek@me.com; Penny Vik <penny@speakeasy.net>; 19marsh@gmail.com; Walter Harley <walterh@cafewalter.com>; j3lane@aol.com; jspeake@gmail.com; damon@centerlrc.com; Bruce Firestone <bfstone@comcast.net>; John EVANS <misterevans@gmail.com>; Philip Mullen <Philip.mullen@mercer.com>; emilygatesgrimm@gmail.com; Carol BUTTERFIELD <cjbutterfield@seanet.com>; Lathrop Douglas <lathropdoug@gmail.com>; Paul Swanson (swansonp@lanepowell.com) <swansonp@lanepowell.com>; dreelfs@msn.com; Romi Gordon <romidax@aol.com>; Natalie.idesign@gmail.com; Douglas Hodge <dmhodge07@gmail.com>; ejnholt@hotmail.com; tim.prouty@gmail.com; Rosalie Alhadeff <roly@rolya.net>;

Dina.Alhadeff@gmail.com; snesbitt@aussieswithtails.com; Allan Kollar <allan@ajkollar.com>; Peri Hartman <perih@kotatko.com>; Bill Gillis <wfgillis@comcast.net>; Linda PERLSTEIN <lindaperlstein@gmail.com>; degrimm@gmail.com; Bill Wanless <gardens@drizzle.com>; jmarshall@davidsmarshall.com; Nancy Andrews <nancyan@me.com>; Gordon Enos <gordenos91@gmail.com>; Karen Tanzy <ktanzy@yahoo.com>; Alan Sclater <alan@sclaterarch.com>; randgprice@gmail.com; Travis Godbout <travis@travisgodbout.com>; Chuck Gregg & Erica Schutte <gregg_family@me.com>; knpapadopulos@gmail.com; BrianLonergan703@yahoo.com; Paul DAVIS & Kimberly McKITTRICK <paul@nosmallplans.com>; Kevin Tarchenski <kevin.tarchenski@gmail.com>; Spencer.welton@gmail.com; Owen Leinbach <owen.leinbach@marriott.com>; swards@gmail.com; John Shepherd <jmshepherd@gmail.com>; Catherine Lehmann-Reide <catlehmman.reide@gmail.com>; Don & Carol Olsby <diehard_don@msn.com>; Nat Hopper <nat.hopper79@gmail.com>; arkhachaturova@gmail.com; Dennis Flaherty <vedicsciences@vedicsciences.com>; Travis GODBOUT <travis@propellantcg.com>; donna_maynooth@yahoo.com; burtonholt@yahoo.com; Stacy MILRANY <stacymilrany@mac.com>; Jenny SMITH <djksmith@hotmail.com>; hchou@onvia.com; Catherine & Stuart Kendall <kate614@comcast.net>; David Montanaro <david@montanaro.com>; danielle.tarchenski@live.com; John Byrum <jbyrum@bakersfieldpipe.com>; John MILLER <john@starempires.com>; juliettedelfs@gmail.com; Monica GORDON <monicagordon81@gmail.com>; enarazaki@aol.com; paolo_swanson@hotmail.com; Raymond GORDON <raymond.gordon@gmail.com>; swardstrom@gmail.com; John VIK <jvik@bet-r.com>; shauna849@yahoo.com; faith sohl <fvsbiz@gmail.com>; Philippe H. Enos <philenos@gmail.com>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; McGarry, Deborah <Deborah.McGarry@seattle.gov>; Dawson, Parker <Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov>; jennifer.vinz@gmail.com

Subject: 6 rowhouses at 172 Galer Street and removal of 11 trees

CAUTION: External Email

Seattle Public Resource Center-

Thank you for considering comments on the design of six new market-rate rowhouses on a 7,400 sq ft lot at 172 Galer Street (SDCI #3035107)

[Design Review Proposal](#)

"Administrative Design Review for a 3-story, 4-unit rowhouse building and a 3-story, 2-unit rowhouse building. Parking for 6 vehicles is proposed. Existing building to be demolished. "

In addition to an attention to the lack of an contextual aesthetic for the development, Green Canopy Homes should consider a more appropriate name: Remove-Green-Canopy Homes. It appears all 11 trees on this site will be removed, including an exceptional tree noted to be retained, but includes excavation within the inner critical root zone of the tree. Clearly about 40 percent of the exceptional tree would be limbed in order to build the three-story rowhouses.

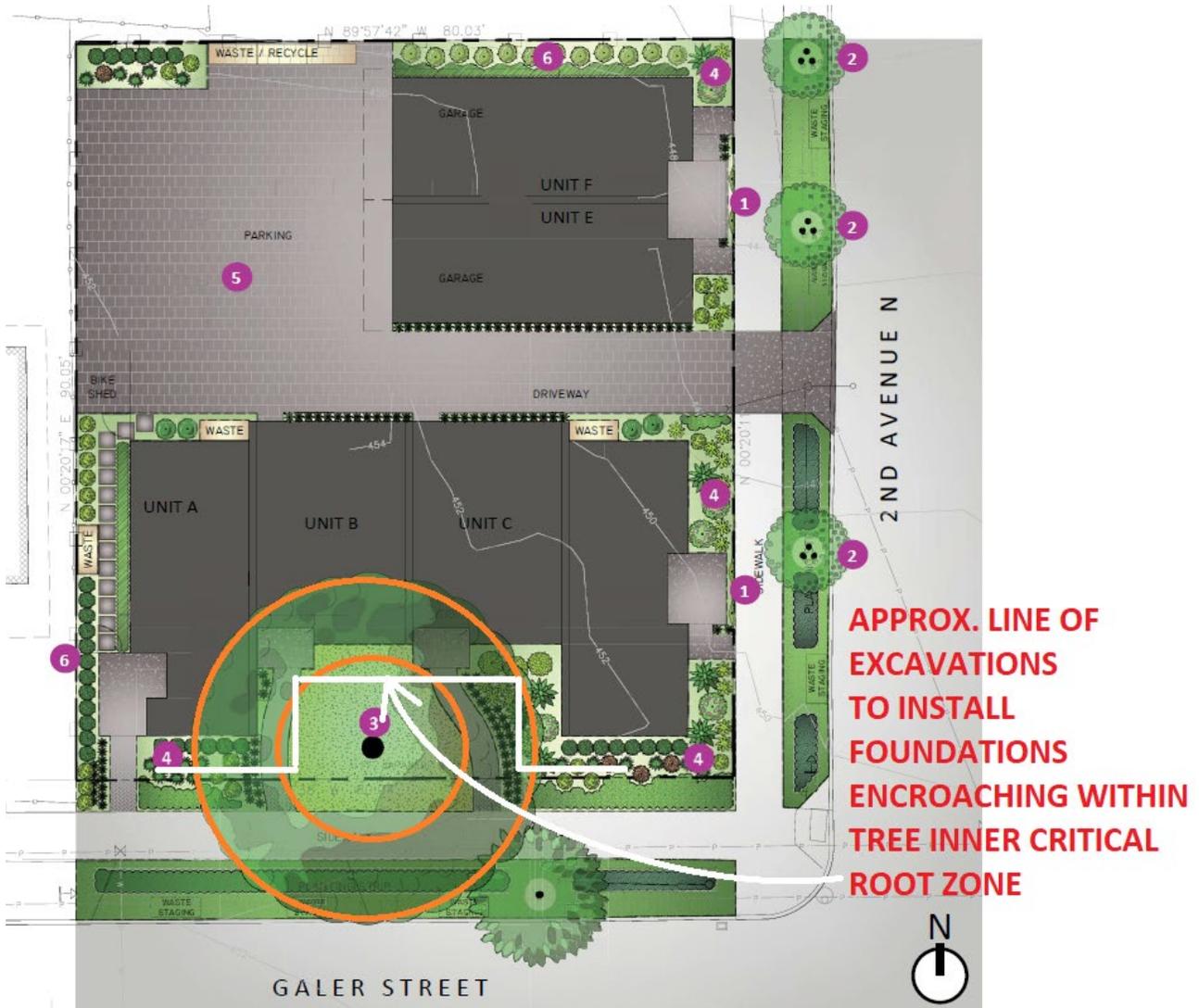
A better effort must be made to retain two exceptional trees identified by the city arborist and missed in the Davie Tree report.

That effort must include SMC 25.11 measures to implement design departures to retain exceptional trees.

Let's maintain public involvement in the Queen Anne residential communities. It does not appear to be an effective means of reaching out to neighbors. A community meeting was held last summer on 7/23/2019 from 6:00-7:00 at the Queen Anne Branch Library. The time, date and location for the meeting was included in both the fact sheet that the owner delivered via mail and in an online survey. Yet, there were no attendees.

David Moehring
dmoehring@consultant.com
TreePAC board member





1505 2ND AVE N	ACTIVE	View Permit & Complaint Status
166 GALER ST	ACTIVE	View Permit & Complaint Status
168 GALER ST	ACTIVE	View Permit & Complaint Status
170 GALER ST	ACTIVE	View Permit & Complaint Status
172 GALER ST	ACTIVE	View Permit & Complaint Status

From: Stuart Niven <panorabor@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:48 PM

To: Rasmussen, Betty <Betty.Rasmussen@seattle.gov>

Cc: heidi@calyxsite.com; dmoehring@consultant.com; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; Humphries, Paul <Paul.Humphries@seattle.gov>; McGarry, Deborah <Deborah.McGarry@seattle.gov>; Emery, Chanda <Chanda.Emery@Seattle.gov>; Thaler,

Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; LEG_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>

Subject: Re: FW: Tree cut for development at 85th and 30th- there is STILL room for it to have stayed given the development footprint

CAUTION: External Email

Dear Betty and Nathan,

Thank you for your response to Heidi's valid and poignant request for an answer to why a potentially 'exceptional', healthy spruce tree (based on the colour of the wood in the photos of the stump) was removed for an approved project to develop a single family lot into a five unit 'rowhouse' property. Unfortunately, your suggestion of submitting a 'complaint' through the online portal is neither helpful or useful to anyone now the tree has already been removed. By coincidence I have recently received a response to one of my many and regular complaints to SDCI about illegal tree removals and violations of the SMC 25.11 and DR 2008-16, in which the inspector Shantel McEachin claims the result of the inspection was "No Access/Unable to Observe" and that she was "Not able to access property for measurement of one tree." Please see the attached photographs which I took when I first observed the violation of SMC 25.11 which I had attached to my complaint (008549-20CP) which clearly show more than three trees greater than 6" dbh having been removed from the site, prior to the submission of a construction permit, as well as the brutalisation of an amazing 'exceptional' true cedar which has been written into history by inclusion in Aurthur Lee Jacobson's "Trees Of Seattle" book which was first published over 10 years ago, which should be a violation of the DR for Exceptional Trees as it is clearly well outside of the very basic and clear ANSI A-300 Pruning Standards. There are no access issues as the stumps are all visible from the street and there are no fences, gates or restrictions for accessing the property. If permission not been given to access the property is the issue then this adds to the fundamental problem of the complaint based system as in general, who will ever allow permission onto a property where the property owner has knowingly violated the tree protection code?! Complaining about trees being removed illegally does nothing to help protect trees and the lack of enforcement of SDCI's own regulations is not helping. Suggesting to Heidi to submit a complaint about a tree already removed is a waste of time as knowing how it goes, despite the stump being clearly visible in photographs, even if the site inspector is able to view it, they will likely claim "no access" was possible, so no measurement was possible, therefore no violation is concluded. Even if an inspector were to measure the stump, the developer would simply say the tree was preventing the development potential then the removal would be permitted, after the fact and again, no violation would be found to have taken place. Basically, trees are not protected under any circumstances in Seattle and currently I am starting to feel that if there was no SMC25.11 or DR 2008-16, there would be no noticeable difference in how many healthy trees are being removed on a daily basis in the city, which quite frankly is both abhorrent and embarrassing for a city which is viewed by the rest of the country as a forward thinking, progressive city.

Returning to this property, I have looked into the development documents and there is no evidence of an arborist report or tree inventory for the property which is a violation of SDCI's building code is it not(?), and suspiciously the surveyor's plans show the tree but do not document its size (DBH), yet they have plotted other trees on the property which are smaller and do have DBH information. Having seen the same land surveyor remove 'exceptional' trees from surveys to aid their removal by developers, it is highly likely they have neglected to add the measurement of this tree to avoid highlighting its size and possible 'exceptional'

status. However, as you both know, 'exceptional' trees can and continue to be removed by developers both before and during the construction process as technically, as the current SMC 25.11 Tree 'Protection' and DR 2008-16 for 'Exceptional' trees is being used in such a way as to allow the removal of any and all 'exceptional' trees on any property undergoing development, with little or no push back on developers by SDCI, despite the wording of the code to allow "the Director" the ability to enforce tree protection during construction. It seems some developers do not realise this so they continue to remove trees illegally before applying for construction permits, or they sneak around the weak and poorly enforced codes to work the system to help them build as much as they want, without resistance from SDCI, when in reality they do not need to employ such devious tactics as all they need to do is claim the trees are preventing their 'development potential' and they will be approved to remove as many trees as they need to, regardless of the trees' size, condition and species.

As far as I am observing and experiencing, SDCI has no interest in applying any of their own tree 'protection' codes as they relate to development or even on 'regular' property, not undergoing 'development' The only violation I have heard of that was filed against the property owner and tree removal service was following the removal of a healthy, exceptional honey locust tree in Maple Leaf by Ballard Tree Service earlier this year and the only reason the violation was found was because I had been invited to perform an assessment on the tree by the homeowner and so had evidence of its size and condition, but I had to produce a 'sworn affidavit / statement' to legally claim that I had visited the site to take measurements and assess the tree, otherwise the violation would not have been found as the tree company ground the stump and the property owner refused to allow the inspector access to the property! This is no way to 'protect' trees as in most cases, an arborist with my knowledge, experience and credentials will not be invited to assess a tree a property owner wants to remove, so the removal companies and unethical arborists will continue to do what they have been doing for many years now and simply manipulate the already broken system within SDCI and remove whatever trees they want to, knowing they are immune from punishment.

Please respect Heidi's request for an inquest into this situation and remember your own department has codes in place to protect trees like this one, with the buck stopping at 'the Director' who according to my interpretation of SMC 25.11 can do a significantly better job of enforcing the code to actually protect trees in Seattle, not just those considered 'exceptional' but actually all trees over 6" DBH.

Thank you and kind regards,

Stuart Niven, BA (Hons)

PanorArborist

www.panorarbor.com

[ISA Certified Arborist PN-7245A & Tree Risk Assessment Qualification \(TRAQ\)](#)

[Arborist on Seattle Audubon Society Conservation Committee](#)

[Arborist on Seattle's Urban Forestry Commission](#)

[Board Member of TreePAC](#)

[WA Lic# PANORL*852P1](#) (Click to link to WA L&I's Verify a Contractor Page)



From: MartinWesterman <artartart@seanet.com>

Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 3:38 PM

To: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

Cc: Victoria Nelson <johnvick@comcast.net>; Michael Oxman <michaeloxman@comcast.net>; Mary Fleck <maryfleckws@gmail.com>; wizardishere.wb <wizardishere.wb@gmail.com>; Peggy Sturdivant <peggysturdivant@gmail.com>; Karen Lyons <karen@kjlyons.com>; John McNulty <johnm4502@gmail.com>; Elaine Ike <elaineike@hotmail.com>

Subject: Re: SGSC comments: Draft Urban Forest Management Plan

CAUTION: External Email

Hi again, Sandra.

We discussed addenda to our original comments, and wonder if we could get them included with our original statement? Here's the addenda letter:

Thank you for your support around this.

Martin Westerman, Director, [SGSC](#)
SEATTLE GREEN SPACES COALITION
www.seattlegreenspacescoalition.org
Urban Forestry Commission
December 14, 2020

Re: Addenda to SGSC comments on Seattle's draft 2020 Urban Forest Management Plan

To whom it may concern:

The SGSC files these additional public comments on Seattle's draft 2020 Urban Forest Management Plan. The draft does not address other issues that concern us, including:

1) The 2020 Draft UFMP does not acknowledge that the water and green spaces within Seattle's 142.5 square mile area provide more than \$3 billion worth of benefits and savings to our city every year. The city does not account for a penny of this "natural capital" value, and the Draft UFMP does not address the erosion, nor the restoration of this natural capital, or its contributions to Seattle's stated goals. Specifically,

a) Natural capital provides benefits and savings across the city that include erosion and stormwater management and control, provision of habitats and pollinator corridors, support for commercial fisheries and agriculture, recreation space and improved public health, oxygen production and carbon sink; pocket parks, tree and land banks; enhanced property value; urban agriculture space (for P-Patches and community gardens), and more,

b) Seattle's urban forest, green and water space areas help the city meet its goals for carbon footprint reduction, tree canopy and urban forest expansion, and the Equity & Environment Agenda. The Draft UFMP should state that it is designed to support these goals,

c) The Draft UFMP should acknowledge its purposeful design to help Seattle grow as a sustainable, resilient, equitable and livable city for this generation, and generations to come.

2) Different entities own pieces of Seattle's urban forest, green and water space areas. They include colleges and universities, city, county, state and federal governments and agencies, the Port of Seattle and others. The Draft UFMP should address coordination of these landowners to achieve the aims of the plan.

3) The Draft UFMP does not prioritize the Seattle area's environment on an equal footing with private and public real estate development. It should take the opportunity to take the bold step of creating this value proposition: make a statement that supports the resources it is designed to protect. That statement could read:

"Whereas, Seattle's open, green and water spaces are tangible assets essential to public health, urban resilience, equity and sustainability, therefore the City of Seattle will integrate development within this context, to meet the needs of communities, neighborhoods, and the entire city."

4) From Thornton Creek in north Seattle to Fauntleroy Creek in south Seattle, development has significantly shrunk or eliminated watershed drainage areas. It has in most cases polluted their waters, shellfish and fishing resources, and squeezed out salmon spawning areas (see Fauntleroy illustration – shrunk from its original 493 acres pre-1920 to 194 acres today). Trees and green spaces do not exist in isolation. Rather, they are integral elements in ecosystems. Again, the Draft UFMP should address management within an ecosystem context.

Thank you again for inviting public comments on the Draft UFMP. The SGSC looks forward to seeing an improved and effective plan emerge from this process.

In community,

Elaine Ike, Mary Fleck, Martin Westerman,
Co-founders & Director, for the Board
[Seattle Green Spaces Coalition](#)

Attachment:

Shrinking Fauntleroy Creek watershed drainage area, pre-1920 (blue line) to 2020 (red line)



From: Clark Wiegman <dadaville@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>
Subject: Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

CAUTION: External Email

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process

- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Include street trees in groves.
- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."
- Add "All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can't be removed."
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to "TREE PROTECTION". Remove references to "Exceptional Trees" only and change to "Trees". e.g., change "Exceptional Tree Protection Areas" to "Tree Protection Areas".
- SECTION 4. Add "The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle's Equity and Environment Initiative."
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require "one or more trees" to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.

- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director's Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT's registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor's license to ensure they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Clark Wiegman

dadaville@comcast.net

1214 NW 121st St

Seattle, Washington 98177

From: Nancy Miller <nsergeant@comcast.net>

Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2020 9:04 AM

To: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

Subject: Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

CAUTION: External Email

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated

Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Include street trees in groves.
- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."
- Add "All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can't be removed."
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to "TREE PROTECTION". Remove references to "Exceptional Trees" only and change to "Trees". e.g., change "Exceptional Tree Protection Areas" to "Tree Protection Areas".
- SECTION 4. Add "The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under

Seattle's Equity and Environment Initiative.”

- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director's Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Nancy Miller

nsergeant@comcast.net

11045 8TH AVE NE, #610

SEATTLE, Washington 98125

From: samuel berkerley <bargorr@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2020 11:35 AM

To: Rundquist, Nolan <Nolan.Rundquist@seattle.gov>

Cc: Helms, Stephanie <Stephanie.Helms@seattle.gov>; Morgan, Darren <Darren.Morgan@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; DOT_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; info@plantamnesty.org; uwbg@u.washington.edu; urbhort@uw.edu; info@northwesthort.org

Subject: Re: Heritage Tree(s) Suffering and Dying

Hello to:

Nolan Rundquist
Stephanie Helms
Darren Morgan
Sandra Pinto de Bader
Seattle Trees
Plant Amnesty
University of Washington Botanical Gardens
University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture
Northwest Horticultural Society

- The last email I received from Stephanie Helms on September 21, 2020 stated that the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) - *the property owner responsible for the diseased dying suffering Elm trees* - had received notification to remove the diseased Elms, located on Harvard Ave East between Roy and Mercer streets.
- Additionally, I was advised that I would be informed when the permit for tree removal was issued.
- After nearly 3 months, I have not been contacted re the permit for said removal, yet
- Several (now) Heritage Elm trees continue to suffer and die.

As you know, each day that elapses while these Heritage Elm trees are ignored puts at risk the other (nearby) Heritage Elms.

Exactly when will the 3 (or more, now?) Elm trees be responsibly removed by a responsible company?

I first reported on May 30, 2018, that one Heritage Elm Tree was suffering.

Why does the the City of Seattle allow these trees to be ignored for nearly 2 and 1 half years?

Has the City of Seattle Urban Forestry ceased its efforts to protect our urban forests?

On Thursday, August 20, 2020, 10:00:37 AM PDT, samuel berkerley <bargorr@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Nolan Rundquist (or the arborist responding in his stead):

I phoned your office then phoned SDOT Customer Service who directed me to email you.

1. A city-owned tree located directly in front of the entrance of 610 Harvard Avenue East has apparently died (Management of the adjacent property advises the tree is the responsibility of the city).
2. If the tree cannot be rescued, its prompt removal will avoid injury - or property damage such as that of the Harvard Avenue East Sudden Branch Drop Event on the morning of Saturday August 15.
3. I suspect poor trimming in the Spring of 2018 involved infected blades as, prior to that, the tree was healthy.
4. The tree recovered somewhat in the Spring of 2019; but, by now, its leaves are brown and falling.

5. Will you please consider all of the above (and its history below) and reply to my message as soon as possible?

Thank you

On Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 08:48:07 AM PDT, DOT_SeattleTrees <seattle.trees@seattle.gov> wrote:

Hello Samuel

The arborist on my staff who is assigned to this area of the city has been keeping her eye on these trees for the past couple of months.

We're going to do another field check soon, to see if we're dealing with an insect/disease, or something physiological.

The trees are the maintenance responsibility of the abutting property owner in this particular instance. If the trees have contracted Dutch Elm Disease, there is no cure, with the only remedy being tree removal so the disease doesn't spread to other elms in the area. I've seen a few elms that are stressed this year, that are putting all of their energy into seed production. When this happens, they typically don't produce leaves until later in the spring/summer, but they do usually come out of the stress.

NR

NOLAN RUNDQUIST

City Arborist

Seattle Department of Transportation

Maintenance and Operations Division

Urban Forestry/Asphalt-
Concrete Paving & Engineering/ROW Infrastructure Maintenance/Emergency Response

ISA Certified Arborist / Municipal Specialist PN-1624AM

206-615-0957 (Tel)

From: samuel berkerley <bargorr@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 9:40 AM

To: TreesforSeattle <TreesforSeattle@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>; DOT_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; Rundquist, Nolan <Nolan.Rundquist@seattle.gov>; info@plantamnesty.org; uwbq@u.washington.edu; urbhort@uw.edu; info@northwesthort.org

Subject: Mature Elm Trees with Current and Significant Pest(s)

To all interested parties:

Nolan Rundquist, Seattle Arborist
SDOT Heritage Tree Program
City of Seattle Urban Forestry Commission
SDOT Tree & Landscaping Program
Trees For Seattle
Plant Amnesty
UW Botanic Gardens
Urban Forest Symposium
Northwest Horticultural Society

Good morning,

Unsure of those stake holders commissioned to support urban forestry, I contacted several of you.

I would like to report the following:

The mature (80+ years old) Elms which reside on the east side of Harvard Ave. E., between Mercer and Roy streets, are experiencing extreme stress, presumably due to pestilence or disease. The leaf destruction is particularly devastating at the top third of their canopy. The Elms and their leaf cover were consistently healthy until they were "trimmed" last month. The Elms' leaf cover is now at an extreme minimum. These mature and stately Elms have graced the neighborhood for decades.

As you are aware, neglected trees of this age and size are often ultimately removed - a process that eliminates local and migrating birds and urban wildlife habitat, decreases the urban canopy, and foments the financial ease of further real estate development.

I hope all of you will please reply with an update to answer.

From: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2020 8:17 PM

To: PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>

Cc: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; McGarry, Deborah <Deborah.McGarry@seattle.gov>

Subject: Design Review recommends remove exceptional tree at 3417 Harbor Ave SW

CAUTION: External Email

Looking at Page 5 of 18 Design Review Report for 3417 Harbor Ave SW
It states:

*"The Board was inclined to support **removal of the Exceptional tree to accommodate the project's new landscaping** and courtyard but before recommending approval of this design, they would like to hear a summary of the SDCI tree reviewer's feedback regarding the health of the existing tree. (DC2-A-1. Site Characteristics and Uses, CS1-C Topography)"*

I am just not sure if the DRB consulted with an arborist to have a subjective building design alternative trump retention of exceptional trees?

Please explain at what point does the Design Review Board have the authority to recommend deviations from the Seattle tree protection code? Would it then not make sense for the public to be allowed to comment on code-related concerns during these design reviews?

(Hint: I already did but it appears the comment was not recorded:

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- *Would like to see more information on the lot line condition along the north edge.*
- *Concerned with disturbing the steep slope.*
- *Some concern with the vehicle access located along Harbor Avenue.*
- *Concerned with the blank wall condition along Harbor Avenue.)*

Sincerely,

David Moehring
TreePAC Board Member
dmoehring@consultant.com

Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM

From: "Campaz, Brinn" <Brinn.Campaz@Seattle.Gov>

To: No recipient address

Subject: Meeting Report for Project No. 3035986-LU located at 3417 Harbor Ave SW

Hello,

Please find the attached report summarizing the most recent meeting for the proposed development located at 3417 Harbor Ave SW. You are receiving this message because you have been listed as a Party of Record for this project, due to previous meeting attendance or public comment.

If you are unable to open the meeting report attachment, please visit the Design Review website link here and enter the project number or address:

<http://www.seattle.gov/DPD/aboutus/news/events/DesignReview/SearchPastReviews/default.aspx>.

-

[The project plans and application materials \(including the attached meeting report\) can also be found by typing in the project address in the Seattle Services Portal:](#)

<https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/portal/Cap/CapHome.aspx?module=DPDPermits&TabName=DPDPermits>

[Please note that project plans and application materials submitted prior to April 30, 2018 can be viewed in our electronic library:](#)

<http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>.

-

If you have further questions or concerns related to the project, please contact the Public Resource Center at prc@seattle.gov, or the planner, Crystal Torres, at Crystal.Torres@Seattle.gov.



Brinn Campaz

Administrative Specialist, Design Review Program

City of Seattle [Department of Construction and Inspections](#)

P.O. Box 34019, Seattle, WA 98124-4019

P: 206.684.8919

From: Janetway <janetway@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 10:13 AM

To: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

Cc: PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; McGarry, Deborah <Deborah.McGarry@seattle.gov>

Subject: Re: Design Review recommends remove exceptional tree at 3417 Harbor Ave SW

CAUTION: External Email

How the Hell does Design Review have any authority on whether to destroy an exceptional tree? It makes zero sense.

I get it that Design is important to working around existing trees, but this is just wrong! 😡

Janet

Sent from my iPad

From: Jessica Souyoutzis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 7:04 PM

To: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

Subject: Please Protect Seattle's Trees

CAUTION: External Email

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Jessica Souyoutzis

jsouyoutzis@gmail.com

2560 NE 96th St

From: Merrilie Gunnier <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, December 25, 2020 7:44 PM
To: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>
Subject: Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

CAUTION: External Email

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
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- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."

- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as “a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns.” Include street trees in groves.
- Add “Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.”
- Add “All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can’t be removed.”
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to “TREE PROTECTION”. Remove references to “Exceptional Trees” only and change to “Trees”. e.g., change “Exceptional Tree Protection Areas” to “Tree Protection Areas”.
- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Merrilie Gunnier

merrilieg@yahoo.com

1628 sunset Ave sw

Seattle , Oregon 97116

From: Helen Winkler <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>
Subject: Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

CAUTION: External Email

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Helen Winkler

helenjean43@hotmail.com

1742A NW 59th St

Seattle, Washington 98107

From: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 10:06 PM
To: DOT_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; DOT_LA <DOT_LA@seattle.gov>
Cc: PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; Queen Anne Historic Architecture Preservation Association <QAHAPA_all+noreply@googlegroups.com>; queenannecc@gmail.com; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; 3terrell@gmail.com
Subject: Why chainsaw a 150 year old Healthy Sycamore tree in Uptown street
Importance: High

Dear Seattle Trees.

Help avoid climate change and retain the street trees at 400 and 412 QUEEN ANNE AVE N.

SDCI Project:3033479-LU and (3033395-EG)

Project Description: Land Use Application to allow a 7-story, 110-unit apartment building with retail. Parking for 98 vehicles proposed. Existing buildings to be demolished.

Please provide a copy of the arborist report on the street trees and why three (3) trees are marked to be removed. Photos have been attached.

Unless we are missing it, there does not appear to be any **arborist report** on the Electronic Document Management System of SDCI. Nor is there any mention of existing tree removal in the April 2020 design packet or the issued design report dated December 21, 2020.

On Harrison Street between Queen Anne Avenue North and 1st Ave North, three trees are scheduled to be removed, (Record SDOTTREE0001040). They are being removed to "enable a private construction project". Not sure what that really means.... One of the trees is a Healthy Sycamore tree (London Plane) with a **diameter of 48 inches and is over 150 years old**. They live for 600 years. The trees scheduled to be removed are less than one block from the Climate Pledge Arena. Ironic... isn't it?

Kind regards,

David Moehring AIA NCARB
TreePAC Board Member
312-965-0634

From: Kevin Murphy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 9:57 AM

To: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

Subject: Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Kevin Murphy

kemurphy1972@hotmail.com

526 30th Ave East

Seattle, Washington 98112

From: Timothy Humes <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2020 5:02 PM

To: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

Subject: Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

CAUTION: External Email

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Timothy Humes

britdanhuj@aol.com

5105 1st Ave NW

Seattle, Washington 98107

From: Nikoli Stevens <nikoli99@uw.edu>
Sent: Saturday, January 2, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>
Subject: Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

CAUTION: External Email

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Having watched many of the prominent trees in the U-Dist get removed with the 520 updates and by developers, this needs to stop immediately. As a college student, I had hoped to see the 30-40 year old trees become large for my children, but just like Seattle's history of clear cutting every city park in the 20s-40s, they are disappearing again.

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and

larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city.”

- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as “a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns.” Include street trees in groves.
- Add “Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.”
- Add “All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can’t be removed.”
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to “TREE PROTECTION”. Remove references to “Exceptional Trees” only and change to “Trees”. e.g., change “Exceptional Tree Protection Areas” to “Tree Protection Areas”.
- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor’s license to ensure they have workers’ compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the

city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

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