

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Peg Staeheli, Chair • Tom Early, Vice-Chair
Gordon Bradley • Leif Fixen • Donna Kostka • Jeff Reibman • Erik Rundell • Steve Zemke

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 9, 2014 v2

Meeting Notes

SMT 2750

700 5th Avenue, Seattle

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Attending

Commissioners

Peg Staeheli - chair

Tom Early - vice-chair

Gordon Bradley

Leif Fixen

Donna Kostka

Joanna Nelson de Flores (not voting)

Erik Rundell

Steve Zemke

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader

Public

None

Absent- Excused

Jeff Reibman

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

Peg called the meeting to order and introduced Joanna Nelson de Flores as the recently appointed commissioner for Position #7 (NGO). Joanna's appointment was moved for confirmation by Full Council on Monday, July 14.

Chair report

None.

Approval of June 4 and June 11 meeting notes

ACTION: A motion was made to approve the June 4 meeting notes as amended. The motion was seconded and carried.

ACTION: A motion was made to approve the June 11 meeting notes as written. The motion was seconded and carried.

Letter to CM Bagshaw regarding DPD's tree ordinance for trees on private property

The Commission reviewed Resolution 31138 and discussed possible approaches to the letter. It was agreed that the letter would include mention of the Mayor's participation in the US Conference of Mayors; would include a table comparing Seattle to several cities (both in Washington and nationwide) regarding work on tree ordinances.

It will be important to involve a sub-committee from the UFC to participate in ongoing work by DPD without triggering open public meetings act.

Identify the policies mentioned in Resolution 31138 and when DPD presents a new proposal the UFC would review the work for compliance with those policies.

ACTION: A motion was made to approve the letter as amended including a tree ordinance comparison table. The motion was seconded and carried.

Open discussion on work plan updates

Discussed and updated deadlines in the Work Plan.

Peg requested that over the next four months each Commissioner commits to attend one event that is related to trees and represent UFC. It could be pulling ivy at a park, write a letter to a local paper (prior review by UFC necessary), or attend a Design Commission or other Commission meeting. Attend a tree walk.

Steve attended the Comp Plan meeting.

Sandra will begin the process to add a Get Engaged member to the Commission through the legislative process to amend the Ordinance.

Public comment

None

New business and announcements

Steve had a couple of items:

- Article with bill to protect tree canopy in Montgomery County, MD:
<http://www.deeproot.com/blog/blog-entries/further-measures-to-protect-tree-canopy-in-montgomery-county-md>
- Asking for feedback on calculations he did to figure out how many trees are needed for Seattle to achieve its 30% canopy cover goal by 2037.

Preliminary Draft Assessment of the number of trees that need to be planted every year in Seattle to reach 30% canopy goal by 2037 without additional tree protections like Portland has passed

Seattle's Urban Forest Stewardship Plan calls for Seattle reaching a 30% canopy goal by 2037. Seattle's current tree canopy is about 23%.

Seattle's Department of Planning and Development says that Seattle's land area is 83 square miles or 53,113 acres.

A Seattle canopy cover of 30% canopy = 15,934 acres.

Seattle's current canopy cover of 23% canopy = 12,216 acres.

15,934 acres – 12,216 acres = 3718 additional acres of canopy cover needed by 2037.

3718 acres / 23 years = 162 acres of new canopy needed every year to reach 30% canopy goal by 2037

Portland, Oregon in their city-wide Tree Policy and Regulatory Improvement Project report, June 2011, calculated that planting 900 medium size canopy trees (on average) would generate only 12 acres of future canopy growth

162 acres/ 12 acres X 900 trees = 13,150 new average medium size trees need to be planted in Seattle each year to reach a 30% canopy goal by 2037 assuming each year there is also no net loss of canopy as the baseline. These trees are in addition to any lost during development or removed from private property or removed in the public sector like street trees or park trees.

Detailed analysis of Portland's calculations is in Volume 1 – Recommended Draft Report to City Council Dec 2010 starting on page 144 - "Tree Canopy Benefits, Financial Impacts and Budget Proposal". Portland calculated that their tree ordinance would for the same amount of money spent just on planting trees on 12 acres, they could generate about 140 acres of canopy per year

Steve Zemke

July 9, 2014

Adjourn