

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Tom Early, Chair • Steve Zemke, Vice-Chair
Weston Brinkley • Leif Fixen • Mariska Kecskes • Donna Kostka • Richard Martin • Joanna Nelson de Flores
Erik Rundell • Andrew Zellers

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

March 2, 2016

Meeting Notes

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

Attending

Commissioners

Tom Early – chair
Steve Zemke – vice-chair
Weston Brinkley
Mariska Kecskes
Donna Kostka
Joanna Nelson de Flores
Erik Rundell
Andrew Zellers

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE
Darren Morgan - SDOT

Public

Evan Shaw – Seattle Audubon

Absent- Excused

Leif Fixen
Richard Martin

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

Tom called the meeting to order and read the UFC's mission and agenda.

Public comment

None

Chair report

Tom made a proposal to organize networking meetings with past UFC members. The group will discuss at future meetings.

SDOT budget primer – Darren Morgan

Darren walked the Commission through a one-pager on SDOT's Urban Forestry budget. Annual funding is \$5,381,095 divided among four sections:

1. Arborist Services - \$1,055,645 (20% of program funding)
Street tree permitting and related administration.

- Street tree and asset management (inventory, analysis, tree selection)
 - Customer service (684-TREE)
 - Street tree inspection, hazard tree assessment and work order generation
 - Residential point of contact
 - Staffing:
 - o 1 City Arborist – Nolan Rundquist
 - o 4 arboriculturists
 - o 1 administrative assistant (part time)
 - o Seasonal interns
2. Landscape Architect's Office - \$101,498 (2% of program funding- supplemented by capital projects, grants and other sources)
- Design guidance for all private development beyond single family
 - Design guidance, plan review for City-funded capital projects
 - Lead representative on Right-of-Way Improvement Manual, Standard Plans and Specification updates
 - Plan review for Major Utility Permits
 - Construction inspection for all of the above
 - Special projects
 - Staffing
 - o 1 Sr. Landscape architect – Shane Dewald
 - o 1 Civil Engineer Specialist, sr
 - o 1 arboriculturist
3. Tree, Landscape and Irrigation Maintenance - \$4,064,086 (76% of program funding)
- 40,000 street trees, 50+ irrigation systems, over 110 acres of landscaping
 - Street tree and landscape maintenance (pruning, planting, specialty tree maintenance)
 - Customer service requests related to SDOT owned trees
 - Emergency response including wind storms, snow and ice, encampments
 - Irrigation maintenance, winterization, emergency response
 - Volunteer support
 - Staffing
 - o 1 Operations manager – Joshua Erickson
 - o 1 arboriculturist
 - o 2 landscape supervisors
 - o 2 sr. gardeners
 - o 11 gardeners
 - o 1 sr. irrigation specialist
 - o 1 irrigation technician
 - o 3 lead tree trimmers
 - o 6 tree trimmers
 - o 1 administrative specialist
4. Work under contract for other City departments - \$159,866 (3% of program funding)

Georgetown and South Park Street Tree project tour

Darren drove Commissioners to areas of town where SDOT has experienced high rejection rates for new street tree planting. The Commission stopped by Oxbow Park to see the newly planted trees thanks to a partnership between SDOT and OSE for pavement removal and tree planting. Commissioners had the opportunity to use SDOT's Tree Collection app on the field. Darren also showed the Commission newly planted street trees on East Marginal Way.

Public comment

None

New business and announcements

None

Adjourn

Public input

From: Future Queen Anne [<mailto:FutureQueenAnne@outlook.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 11:37 AM

To: Amrhein, Seth; Rips, Bruce; Sugimura, Diane

Cc: Susan Allen; Shu, Sandra US; Arbutus; PRC; dan@promusenergy.com; rossi.maddalena@gmail.com; Pinto de Bader, Sandra

Subject: Project #3015522, Tree Report discrepancies

Hi Seth & Bruce,

Attached is a breakdown of the major discrepancies in the tree reports produced by Toll's two arborists. Given the material differences, an independent verification of tree size and health of the nine trees that are no longer considered "Exceptional" seems warranted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Terri Johnston

on behalf of Future Queen Anne