

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Tom Early, Chair • Steve Zemke, Vice-Chair
Weston Brinkley • Leif Fixen • Reid Haefer • 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

October 5, 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
Leif Fixen
Reid Haefer
Donna Kostka
Joanna Nelson de Flores
Erik Rundell
Andrew Zellers

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE
Jon Jainga - Parks

Public

Lance Young

Absent- Excused

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, read the Commission’s mission and the agenda.

Public comment

Lance Young sent a master letter with pictures. He spoke at the previous meeting. It would be nice to have the ability to spend more time. Tom suggested I put something in writing the questions I have so the utility can respond. There is a good summary of the letter on the first three paragraphs. 18% of the canopy in Seattle is in the right-of-way. SCL over-pruning is affecting the canopy. They are not willing to talk about this any further, that’s why I’m coming out to you. I would like your help to continue to press them. SCL uses increased clearances. Lance went into some detail about pre- and post- trim practices and compared SCL’s to other cities.

Adoption of September 7 and September 14 meeting notes

ACTION: A motion to approve the September 7 meeting notes as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

ACTION: A motion to approve the September 14 meeting notes as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

Parks budget briefing and tour – Jon Jainga (Parks)

Jon presented Parks' 2016 budget and took the Commission to the West Seattle site where ≈150 public trees were cut down to enhance private views.

2016 budget overview:

Urban Forest Tree Division:

- General Fund \$1,451,210 (covers equipment, gas and salaries for staff)
- Capital projects:
 - o Hazardous trees fund: \$200K
 - o Tree replacement: \$95K

Total: \$1,746,210

Green Seattle Partnership:

- General Fund: \$718,995
- Capital projects:
 - o REET: \$1,700,000
 - o Saving our City Forests Park District Fund: \$2,197,000
 - o Operation: \$499,175

Total: \$5,115,170

They are looking to create an arborist tree care worker apprenticeship program in partnership with South Seattle College.

UFC question: are you teaming with SCL?

Answer: no, because it doesn't include the line clearance piece.

They currently have 3 tree crews (the third crew came out of District funding) with eight certified tree trimmer arborists (six have passes assessment management through ISA) and two arboriculturists.

Public comment:

n/a

New Business:

None

Adjourn

Public input:

From: Boni Biery [mailto:birdsbeesfishtrees@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 02, 2016 2:55 PM
To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>
Subject: The Regional Cost of Over-pruning

Dear Urban Forestry Commissioners,

I am aware that Mr. Young is writing to you about the overly aggressive pruning that SCL is doing in the area. While I can not speak to electrical detail, I feel it is also important to consider the long term impacts these practices will have. We live in an unprecedented time of climate changes that are putting our trees under stress. We have not recovered from the summer drought of 2015 and all the evergreens are heavily loaded with cones demonstrated the fact they are risk of failure. It is like a last gasp to produce seed and procreate one more time while they can. And who knows what the future holds.

Meanwhile the trees with the misfortune of growing near SCL power lines are having so much canopy removed they might fail under ideal circumstances. I would like to know how many trees SCL has pruned in the PNW over the last two years. I we know that, we know just how many trees may be lost.

I implore you, as representatives of these trees, to press SCL to reduce the size of the "envelope" they feel necessary to match the federal guidelines. It's time to stop the insanity and let our trees live another day.

always,
Boni

-----Original Message-----

From: Lance Young [mailto:lance_young@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 9:07 AM
To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>
Subject: Right of Way Tree Preservation

Hi Sandra

Would you please forward the attached letter and supporting documents on the the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission for their review, and thank you for you long standing service to our regions environment!

Sincerely
Lance Young
Interurban Trail Tree Preservation Society (ITTPS)
206-363-0859

To: Urban Forestry Commission (co. Commission Coordinator sandra.pinto_de_bader@seattle.gov)
 Re: Right of Way Tree Preservation

I am writing to you because the members of the Urban Forestry Commission have always been strong advocates for our urban green spaces, and because you understand the value of trees and green space to our urban environment. They provide energy savings to home owners by providing cooling shade in the summer and by reducing convective heat loss during the winter. This is important because currently in the US 67% of our electrical energy is produced from fossil fuels. Trees reduce CO2 production through energy savings and sequester global warming gasses that are produced. I have recently been to two city council meetings in two different regions in packed rooms of citizens concerned about loss of trees and green space. Trees are becoming ever more important to a large and growing number of people.

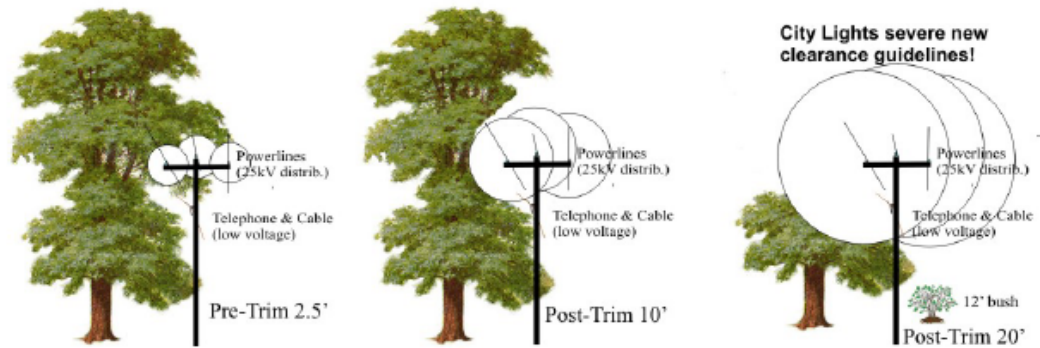
This is a time critical issue is that our power company, Seattle City Light (SCL) continues to unnecessarily threaten a significant portion of our region's canopy. In Seattle alone 27% of our city's total surface area is right of way land compared to only 11% in parks and natural areas (see 2013 Urban Forestry Stewardship Plan p. 38). Presuming about half of this canopy is managed by the power company crews (one side of the street), the total canopy affected by SCL pruning standards is significant. If reasonable pruning standards are used, similar to those used by other utilities in our region, this could add/protect as much as 4% of the city's total canopy. To put this in perspective that's about half of Seattle's goal of increasing canopy from 23% to 30% by 2037. All this could be done with a simple pruning policy decision. The pruning policies by this public power utility affect not just Seattle but our entire region. The potential regional impacts of SCL pruning standards could have critically significant effects on our urban canopy region wide.

The information on the following pages has been brought to the attention of the utility, but they have yet to correct the errors, and have repeatedly rejected any further discussion on the subject. Therefore we now need independent advocates to help escalate the matter to a level that cares enough about our canopy to assure the necessary changes to SCL pruning standards are made. I would suggest that Kshama Sawant chair of the city energy committee be contacted, and request that an investigative sub committee be formed, and composed of independent utility arborists from Portland and certified arborists from Seattle to review and provide updated pruning recommendations for SCL.

Several questions need be asked of the Utility:

1. Why are SCL power line to vegetation clearances two to three times that of other Utilities in our region?

Seattle	Pre-Trim clearance 10'-15',	Post-Trim 19'-24' (10'-15' plus 4 years of growth)
Portland	Pre-Trim 3'	Post-Trim 8'-10'
Snohomish	Pre-Trim 4'	Post-Trim 12' (Snohomish is on a 5 year trim cycle)
2. Why have Seattle City Light's vegetation clearances been increased (doubled) over the past five or six years?
3. Why are we increasing rather than reducing and refining our clearance standards in the face of reducing Federal clearance distances and dramatically improving pruning techniques?



These important questions need to be asked of the Utility regarding line clearances on our city owned street trees, however, we should establish some common facts and terminology first. Where not otherwise specified I will be

discussing "distribution" or street power lines and voltages of 69,000 volts or less. Also for consistency I will use nine feet (9') as the standard for 4 years of vegetation regrowth. This comes directly from SCL's own 2011 estimates for "the fastest growing species found on SCL's ROW system". The NERC (North American Electric Reliability Corporation) has been selected by the Federal Government to deal with transmission line integrity/safety issues. They are the ones that have the scientific research done and establish financial penalties for utilities that don't manage their corner of the national transmission system well enough to prevent problems for the national grid. The NERC publishes a table of Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distances (MVCD) which provide a minimum standard (see attached FAC-003 table). To this are added factors for line sag and wind sway etc. to calculate a minimum pre trimming power line clearance. Most regional power companies use 2.5 to about 4 feet for this. Then finally there is the post trimming clearance which becomes the guidelines provided to the tree pruning crews as the distances the power company wants them to achieve after the pruning job is done. Confusingly even these post trimming clearances are called minimum rather than maximum vegetation clearances to allow flexibility for pruners to use proper ANSI standard heading cuts, for directional pruning. Further because SCL staff has in the past demonstrated a propensity to try and discredit naysayers rather than answer the hard questions about policies, the majority of the following information has been drawn directly from their own documents.

So we have the following Vegetation to Line Clearance Distances:

MVCD = NERC Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distance

Pre-Trim = power company established distance to trigger a pruning cycle

Post-Trim = The distance the power company tells the pruning crews to cut to.

1. Why are Seattle City Light's (SCL) minimum vegetation to power line clearances two to three times that of other utilities in our region?

Background: Portland Oregon (Pre Trim = 3', Post Trim 8'-10') Portland is a similar urban environment with similar urban forest canopy stresses. Their policy for vegetation under power lines states "any tree potentially affecting a primary distribution line shall be pruned to prevent any intrusion within THREE feet of the line for the duration of the tree maintenance cycle. Intrusion of limited small branches and regrowth will be tolerated" "this clearance at the time of pruning shall be ten feet below the primary conductors". Portland's side clearances for these lines are Pre Trim distance of three feet and Post Trim of eight feet (Please see attached Portland General Electric Vegetation Clearance Policy p.4,5,6)

Snohomish (Pre Trim = 4', Post Trim 12') Snohomish is a more rural utility and operates on a longer pruning cycle than Seattle (5 years). Their "Tree Pruning specifications" ie. Post Trim policy states "Snohomish County PUD ... specifies providing 12 feet of clearance to the side, 15 feet of clearance above, and 2 ft. of clearance below the lowest communication lines". The communication lines are telephone lines so the 2' would be added to the distance these are below the power lines. Please see attached page 4 of Snohomish PUD Overhead Line Clearance guidelines.

Seattle City Light (Pre Trim = 10' or 15', Post Trim = 19'-24') City Light's "Vegetation Management Tree Trimming Program" states "The objective is to have our minimum clearances hold for our entire 4 year cycle. Our pruning clearances are: minimum 10' clearance for slow growing species, minimum 15' clearance for fast growing species" (so 10' to 15'+9'= 19'-24'). Please see page 2 of attached document (SCLTreeTrimmingProgram.pdf). Also see statements made by SCL at the October 9th 2015 Urban Forestry Commission meeting, and the October 5th 2015 Shoreline City Council Meeting, where they were asked why they needed these huge clearances.

When Seattle City Light has been presented with this information they have in the past provided any number of rationalizations for these clearances. One of these is that Washington State law requires these clearances, when in actuality it does not. The two most commonly listed laws are WAC 296.24.960, and RCW 64.12.035. The WAC requires SCL to hire properly qualified and equipped workers to work near lines or else shut them off. The RCW says nothing about vegetation clearance and instead indemnifies SCL against liability for removing hazard trees. Further if state laws actually affected vegetation clearance distances wouldn't these same laws affect Snohomish, Jefferson, or other parts of our state?



The overly severe clearance guidelines will almost certainly be lethal for trees like this one.

Another common rationale given is that Seattle's street lines are twice the voltage of most other utilities. Seattle's lines are predominantly 26 kV, many of the other US utilities have standardized on 12kv. So while this sounds logical on the surface it demonstrates a surprising and worrisome lack of understanding of the engineering principles involved. You will remember earlier that I mentioned the NERC does/sponsors the definitive research regarding power line integrity and safety. They publish a document entitled, not surprisingly for engineers the "FAC-003" (attached FAC-003-4_MVCD_table.pdf). The latest version dated 3/14/16 provides the results of Battelle Institute's studies on "Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distances". Their table lumps Seattle voltages, Portland voltages and utilities at twice the voltage of Seattle all into the same minimum clearance category (MVCD = 0.4 meters). Which is well within the pre trim clearances used before the recent changes were made. So if SCL's voltages being higher than Portland really make a difference why is this not reflected in the scientific research for power lines of much higher voltage than Seattle's?

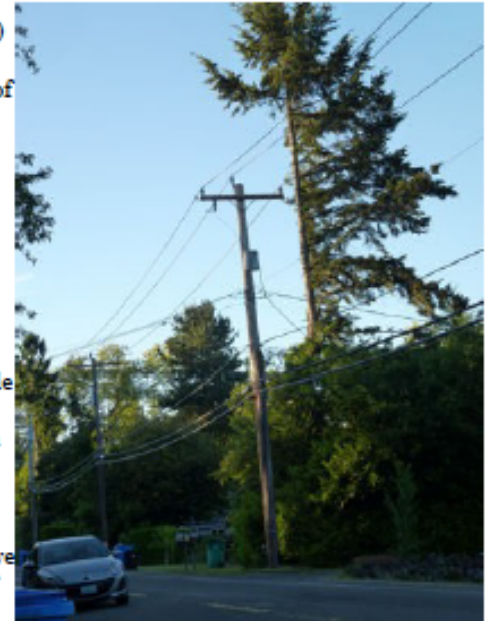
2. Why have Seattle City Light's vegetation clearances been increased (nearly doubled) over the past five years.

When The Power Company staff has been approached on this subject they have repeatedly said that nothing has changed, and that the vegetation post trim clearance standards ($19' = 10' + 4$ years of growth) have remained the same. However the documentation shows something else. Each power company that ties into the national grid is required to file a "Transmission Vegetation Management Program" TVMP and keep it current. Please notice that these clearance distances listed are for 115 kV power lines or four times Seattle street line voltages.

2011 SCL Federal Filing (Pre Trim = 2.6', Post Trim = 12.4') The 2011 TVMP states "Clearance standards used for trees on the ROW (right of way) are the same as the construction clearance standards set for vertical clearance above buildings; 12.4 ft for 120 kV ... Experience has shown that these clearances generally provide a time margin before vegetation control is required again (4 year cycle), based on the growth rates of alder and cottonwood, which are the fastest growing species found on SCL's ROW system" (page 30). Page 31 further clarifies that the 12' is indeed the Post Prune clearance stating "The achieved clearances stated above of 12' (for 115kV)... is sufficient to encompass 4 years of vegetation re growth on the transmission ROW and not encroach into the minimum vegetation clearance of 2.6'" (see attached).

2014 Federal Filing (Pre Trim = 16.5' or maybe 3.5', Post Trim = 16.5' + 9') The 2014 TVMP states "For SCL's 115 kV transmission lines, a minimum standing clearance of 16.5 feet is specified" (Page 30 & 31). The wording of this document is much more obscure than the previous for whatever reason and says further that "SCL achieved vegetation clearances are derived using the most conservative MVCD distances ... 3.49 feet". (see attached) So however you want to interpret the wording SCL has increased the clearance standards significantly, not kept them the same as has been said.

Another example of the significant increase in clearances that SCL is currently using over just a few years ago comes from the contract wording for the pruning crews. Where the rubber meets the road so to speak. Kemp West Pruning Contract 2013 (Post Trim = 10') This is from the City of Seattle "Power Line Clearance Specifications" for pruning sub contractor Kemp West. Since the contractors are only called in once the trimming is needed a Pre Trim distance is not relevant. "The primary clearing limits ... extend out ... to a distance of a minimum of 10-ft below and off to each side of the conductor(s) and 15-ft over-top of the conductor(s)". and to further clarify that this is the POST TRIM distance being talked about "All vegetation above the conductors shall be removed to a height of 15-ft". Please see page 14 of the contract



2016 Distribution Tree Trimming Program (Pre Trim = 10'-15', Post Trim = 19'-24') ($10'-15'$ plus 4 years of growth). See page two of the attached PDF "SCLTreeTrimmingProgram.pdf" "The objective is to have our minimum clearances hold for our entire 4 year cycle. Our pruning clearances are: a minimum of 10' clearance for slow growing species, a minimum of 15' clearance for fast growing species". Also from the August 12th 2011 Briefing for Shoreline City staff "SCL clarified that they rely on authority from RCW 64.12.035, WAC-296-24-960 ... for vegetation clearance ... SCL minimum requirements for clearance for 26kV distribution lines is 10 feet plus 4 to 5 years of growth". Again these clearances are

vastly greater than those specified just a few years ago not the same as SCL staff has continually insisted. This begs the question, do they not know these clearances are greater than they need to be, is it a misunderstanding of poorly worded documents that has spread through the organization to vegetation management senior staff and web sites. Whatever the reason, it is severely damaging/reducing our urban forest canopy for no good cause, and needs to be corrected.

If this is simply an issue of misunderstanding I would strongly urge the Utility to make a few simple changes to their documents so that it is more clear to staff what is ment. All documents should clearly refer to pre-trim and post-trim clearances or perhaps minimum clearance before cycle pruning and after cycle pruning etc. Listing both of these as the same "minimum vegetation clearance" causes too much confusion. More specifically the web site at <http://www.seattle.gov/light/vegmgmt/treethim.htm> should be corrected by removing the last sentence above the clearance tables, and the final column of the table should be labeled something like "Required Clearance after pruning". Their D9-80 "Construction Guideline Tree Clearance" drawings, referred to by many of their other documents, could be easily clarified by labeling the "Minimum Clearances ft" column as "Minimum Clearance, after trimming in ft". If it helps an example with red-letter changes has been attached to this email (see ScID980_Mod.pdf).



These changes could save a significant amount of canopy!

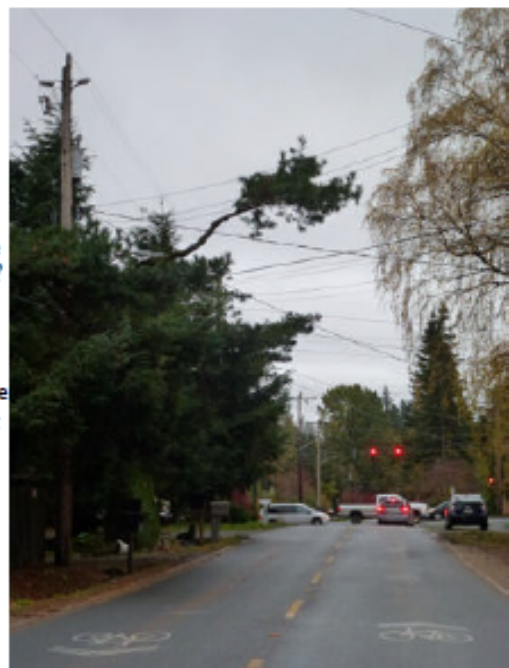
3. Why is our Power Company increasing instead of reducing their line clearance and canopy removal in a world where technology and understanding of these things is improving? Since 2010 the federal government FERC/NERC has done a lot of new testing and come up with new minimum vegetation clearance distances (MVCD's). In that time the clearances they require have been reduced by about half a foot(from 2.6' to 2' for 115kv). These new clearances have a large safety margin built in, one in a million chance of any kind of arc-over event ever happening.

Tree pruning techniques 10+ years ago consisted of topping or effectively hedge pruning trees. We learned that this type of cutting caused accelerated regrowth directly back toward the void created. Now thanks to Dr. Alex Shigo, our own Cass Turnbull and others we use heading cuts and directional pruning, which allows us to effectively train the tree/shrub to grow the direction we want it to. We have far more knowledge now than ever before about trees, tree growth, pruning, and tree tolerances for topping, pruning, and reshaping. With all this new knowledge and better science why are we not able to save more canopy than we used to ten or twenty years ago?

These topics have lots of technical background to them that may well be better dealt with in presentation form. We are also currently working on some ideas to promote/aid in better and more aesthetic tree pruning with more species specific tree care for our Pacific Northwest area which we would be happy to share with the Commission.

Would you please make sure that the Mayors office is aware of this problem threatening our regions trees.

Thank you for caring for our forests and green space!
Lance Young
Interurban Trail Tree Preservation Society
206-363-0859



From: Ann Prezyna [mailto:houseboata@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2016 5:13 PM

To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>

Subject: Right of Way Tree Preservation

Dear Ms. Pinto de Bader:

Please forward this letter to all members of the Urban Forestry Commission in advance of tomorrow's Parks Department Tour. Thank you.

Best,

Ann E. Prezyna
2031 Fairview Ave E
Seattle, WA 98102

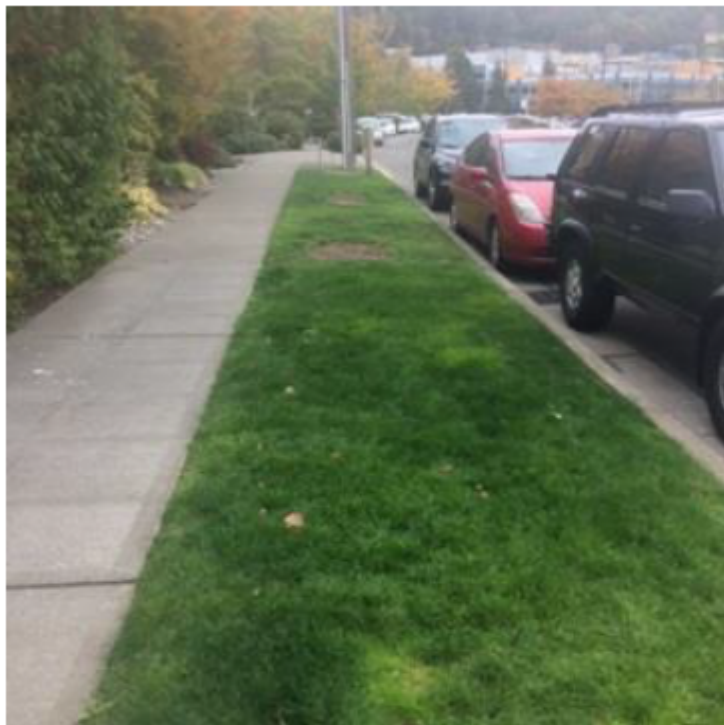
Ann E. Prezyna
2031 Fairview Ave E
Seattle WA 98102

Dear Urban Forestry Commissioners:

I am an environmental attorney writing in support of the request of the Interurban Trail Tree Preservation Society (signed by Lance Young) for a change in the way that Seattle City Light maintains their rights of way. I have first-hand experience with the excessive line clearances in current practice. I am a member of the Fig Newtown Coop that own a private parking lot at 2022 Fairview Ave E. In June of this year and without advance notice, a City Light cutting crew arrived on scene and aggressively pruned what had once been a very healthy and large poplar on the edge of our lot. It is now severely maimed and at peril of becoming a hazard tree.



A similar fate was experienced by numerous other trees along Fairview Ave E that became unsightly and damaged to the point of needing removal. They were otherwise healthy, beautiful trees. Here is the spot where they stood.



To my eyes, these pruning events were far in excess of that needed to maintain the right of way. Having read the letter to you from Lance Young, I echo his request for your support in securing a change in attitude and policy of City Light towards our urban forest that will save trees and increase our urban canopy without jeopardizing the integrity of telephone and cable lines. I personally favor adoption of the Portland standards: 3' pre-trim distances and 8' to 10' post-trim distances as outlined in Mr. Young's letter.

I will share Mr. Young's letter with my parking coop and with the Eastlake Community Council, of which I am a member. I expect both organizations will urge a similar change in course for street tree maintenance to preserve green space in our increasingly urban environment. We are in imminent danger of losing large street trees if no action is taken.

Sincerely,
Ann E. Prezyda
Ann E. Prezyda

From: Stuart Niven [mailto:panorarbor@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2016 10:25 AM
To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>
Cc: Lance Young <lance_young@yahoo.com>
Subject: Letter of Support to Correspondence from Lance Young re SCL

Sandra,

With regard to your meeting this afternoon, please can you use the attached letter of support for the documentation being submitted by Lance Young of Friends of The Interurban Trail.

Thank you very much,

Stuart



PanorArbor LLC

Holistic and Environmentally Responsible
360° Tree Care & Arbor-Aerial Photography

Address: 8023 18th Ave NE,
Seattle, WA 98115

Tel: 206 501 9659

Email: panorarbor@gmail.com

Web: www.panorarbor.com

Sandra Pinto de Bader, Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator
Office of Sustainability and Environment, City of Seattle
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2748, P.O. Box 94729
Seattle, WA 98124-4729

E: Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@seattle.gov T: (206) 684-3194

Dear Sandra,

Subject: Right of Way Tree Preservation

As I practicing consulting and climbing arborist in the City of Seattle, and as an advocate of environmentally responsible thoughts and actions, I would like to urge your organisation to directly encourage Seattle City Light (SCL) to change their current pruning policies when it comes to vegetation management throughout the City.

The current 'pre-trim' and 'post-trim' clearance distances are quite simply unsustainable and if carried out without change will decimate a large portion of the urban canopy where trees are under or immediately adjacent to power lines. As a considerable percentage of the pruning work that my company carries out is focused on ensuring that there is adequate clearance from utility service drops, including domestic power and communications cables, from trees on our clients' properties, I am perfectly aware of the necessity for well thought out pruning techniques to safely and effectively achieve this.

Having worked for a utility arborist company in the UK, and having had to pass a series of examinations prior to working on any pruning crews, I am well aware of the additional risks associated with trees that are growing near high voltage lines, but knowing the industry standards there as well as on mainland Europe, the current distances required by SCL are far beyond what is accepted as being the industry standard.

If all of the trees that I see on a regular basis, driving to and from work sites, as well as what I see when enjoying walking and joking through the amazingly green neighbourhoods of Seattle (which was one of the lures of the City that brought my wife and I to the Northwest from Scotland in 2008), are systematically pruned to the current SCL limits, the landscape will be dramatically affected in such a way that it could take decades before the tree loving majority of 'Seattle-ites', me included, will ever see lush tree lined streets again. As it is, there are already hundreds of trees that have been dramatically over-pruned and are already showing signs of ill-health and decline.

I vow my support to your cause for increasing the urban canopy in Seattle into the future, so I urge Seattle City Light to reverse their pruning standards to the previous levels and keep them in line with the rest of the Western world. Seattle should and could be at the forefront of arboricultural progress but our utility line clearance regime is letting us down, which is a terrible shame, and an embarrassment to our peers around the country.

I wish you and the rest of the commission the best of luck with your future discussions with Seattle City Light.

Kindest regards,

Stuart Niven

Produced for PanorArbor LLC (Lic# PANORL*852P1) by Stuart Niven; ISA Certified Arborist(PN-7245A) & Tree Risk Assessor(TRAQ). "Enjoy and respect trees everywhere, all of the time."

From: Nick Snyder [mailto:prismtreecare@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2016 8:37 AM
To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>
Subject: Letter of Concern over SCL pruning standards

Good morning Sandra,

I am a certified Arborist who works in Seattle quite often. I have been working with Lance young to present the commission with a report detailing SCL's troubling expansion of their pruning standards. Please find attached my letter of support for his findings. Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Nick Snyder
ISA Certified Arborist
PN-7473A



Prism Tree Care
415 Madrona Way NE
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
(425)-422-2867
prismtreecare@gmail.com

To: Urban Forestry Commission
Re: Right of Way Tree Preservation

PRESERVING THE URBAN CANOPY

October 4th, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

In my role as a consulting ISA Certified Arborist working within the city of Seattle I often find myself tasked to work with clients distressed over Seattle City Light (SCL) contracted pruning work. I have found on many occasions they go far beyond any reasonable clearance concern a trained arborist would have. On a number of occasions I have approached SCL crews doing routine line clearance about their protocols and been rebuffed.

This has been a growing concern among those of us troubled by the shrinking urban canopy brought about by development of open lots. Considering those losses we cannot allow our publicly owned trees to be damaged beyond help by our own public utility's activities. In Lance's letter he outlines clearly the obvious changes in protocol over the past 5 years and he shows how clearly this is way beyond what is necessary to provide safe reliable power to our city. The pruning already done under the expanded pruning standards will impact our city for years to come, we cannot return those trees to health and beauty but we can stop more trees falling victim.

I hope that the Commission feels similarly and will act in any way it can to get SCL to answer for the changes and institute more modern pruning techniques and standards.

Regards,
Nicholas Snyder
Nicholas Snyder
ISA Certified Arborist
PN-7473A

Prepared by Nick Snyder ISA Certified Arborist PN-7473A
www.prismtreecare.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Lance Young [mailto:lance_young@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 06, 2016 10:39 PM
To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>
Subject: Regarding 10/5/16 meeting outcome

Hi Sandra

Would you please send this on to Tom and also I guess to Steve since it sounds like he will be acting chair next week, and please also send confirmation to me that the message has been received and forwarded.

Thank you for your service to this important Commission

+++++

Subject: Regarding 10/5/16 meeting outcome
To: Seattle Urban Forester Commission Chairman

First let me thank you for providing time during your meetings for public comments. This allows individuals or organizations with a time critical issue to come to a meeting bring it to your attention. Thanks for giving us this opportunity at your last meeting to speak about the on going issue of power line clearances in our region.

It sounded like the result of our comments at your last meeting will be an invitation to Seattle City Light staff to come to the commission and provide another presentation on their pruning policies. I feel the need to express how unproductive and unbalanced this approach would be. You will recall that at the previous meeting our group requested the opportunity to make just such a presentation to the Commission on the subject. We were asked to provide a written/email document for the commission instead, because the calendar was so busy.

The last time we brought up this important and now even more urgent issue to the commissions attention (last year), the very same thing happened. We had a few minutes to provide a public comment and the Utility was invited to provide an entire presentation of whatever length on their policies, procedures and programs. Nothing was resolved that time. If we follow this same course again it is unlikely that anything productive will be accomplished this time either, except that everyone will get frustrated again, and several people will spend a significant amount of time preparing independent presentations on their views instead of answering the important questions before us.

Instead I would like to suggest that SCL be asked to provide a written response to the written inquiry. Thus both perspectives can be much more easily compared and contrasted. Further this allows time to do independent reading to either confirm or deny said perspectives. If this is not possible I would request that we at the very least be provided equal time for a rebuttal after SCL has given their pitch.

It would be extraordinarily unfair and unbalanced for all involved, for the commission to provide one party an open forum, and limit the opposing perspective to a brief comment. Similarly providing a print only outlet for one party, and an interactive outlet for a second party is also unbalanced. It is possible that a balanced forum, like the one I am suggesting, would dissuade some agencies/agents

from participating but at least then it is personal choice that is limiting the perspective, and not the system.

I would also like to suggest for future consideration that the Commission might consider inviting those who have brought up issues to be allowed to participate in the inquiry of whatever agency is in the spotlight, to some limited extent. Often the commission members, are experts in their own field, but are not as well read in the specifics of the topics being presented. Tree Pack's comments two meetings ago come immediately to mind. The outcome of this might be that more of the issues of importance can be brought to light, and perhaps more detailed and positive outcomes can result. Just a thought for the suggestion box

Thank You for listening to our concerns
Lance Young (ITTPS)
206-363-0859

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

-----Original Message-----

From: Lance Young [mailto:lance_young@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 09, 2016 6:59 PM
To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>
Subject: Right of Way Tree Preservation

Hi Sandra

On Second thought I think it is probably more appropriate to send this communications to the entire commission rather than excluding anyone. Would you please see that this gets sent to all members of the Urban Forestry Commission, and please if you would, also send confirmation to me that the message has been received and forwarded on to the members.

Thank you
Lance

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Subject: Regarding 10/5/16 meeting
To: Seattle Urban Forester Commission Chairman

First let me thank you for providing time during your meetings for public comments. This allows individuals or organizations with a time critical issue to come to a meeting and bring it to your attention. Thanks for giving us this opportunity at your last meeting, to speak about the on going issue of power line clearances in our region.

It sounded like the result of our comments at your last meeting will be an invitation to Seattle City Light staff to come to the commission and provide another presentation on their pruning policies. I feel the need to express how unproductive and unbalanced this approach would be. You will recall that at the previous meeting our group requested the opportunity to make just such a presentation to the

Commission on the subject. We were asked to provide a written/email document for the commission instead, because the calendar was so busy.

The last time we brought up this important and now even more urgent issue to the commissions attention (last year), the very same thing happened. We had a few minutes to provide a public comment and the Utility was invited to provide an entire presentation of whatever length on their policies, procedures and programs. Nothing was resolved that time. If we follow this same course again it is unlikely that anything productive will be accomplished this time either, except that everyone will get frustrated again, and several people will spend a significant amount of time preparing independent presentations on their views instead of answering the important questions before us.

Instead I would like to suggest that SCL be asked to provide a written response to the written inquiry. Thus both perspectives can be much more easily compared and contrasted. Further this allows time to do independent reading to either confirm or deny said perspectives. If this is not possible I would request that we at the very least be provided equal time for a rebuttal after SCL has given their pitch.

It would be extraordinarily unfair and unbalanced for all involved, for the commission to provide one party an open forum, and limit the opposing perspective to a brief comment. Similarly providing a print only outlet for one party, and an interactive outlet for a second party is also unbalanced. It is possible that a balanced forum, like the one I am suggesting, would dissuade some agencies/agents from participating but at least then it is personal choice that is limiting the perspective, and not the system.

I would also like to suggest for future consideration that the Commission might consider inviting those who have brought up issues to be allowed to participate in the inquiry of whatever agency is in the spotlight, to some limited extent. Often the commission members, are experts in their own field, but are not as well read in the specifics of the topics being presented. Tree Pack's comments two meetings ago come immediately to mind. The outcome of this might be that more of the issues of importance can be brought to light, and perhaps more detailed and positive outcomes can result. Just a thought for the suggestion box

Thank You for listening to our concerns
Lance Young (ITTPS)
206-363-0859

From: cassturnbull@comcast.net [mailto:cassturnbull@comcast.net]

Sent: Sunday, October 09, 2016 12:54 PM

To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>

Subject: DADUs again. Yes, again.

Hi Sandra, could you pass this on to the commission.

I believe that the UFC has not yet weighed in on the Detatched Accessory Dwelling Unit legislation. I wanted to be clearer on my own personal analysis.

I feel that Density is a good and necessary thing as well as being inevitable. Our job is to see that our density goals be achieved with the least possible negative effects on the Urban Forest and the city as a whole. I am neither for nor

against DADUs, but we need to understand and quantify their relative effect on the forest. The same goes for other land use decisions. Then the City can make informed choices and/or require mitigation to replace any lost Ecosystem Services due to canopy reductions.

I am certain that the SDCI, and the Planners are incorrect in their determination that DADUs will have no significant effect on the environment or Seattle's tree cover. This is so for three reasons. The representative who recently made his presentation explained that their determination with the assumption 1) there won't be many people building DADUs based on our past development history (before this legislation eases the rules to encourage more) 2) they are looking at a short timeline. The rep didn't say how long a period they were considering when assessing the environmental impact, but he balked when I asked what the effect on the environment would be in 50 years, which IS what I believe planners should look at. He specifically said they don't look that far into the future. And 3) the determination was based on the fact that the amount of lot coverage, (the footprint of the buildings) for houses combined with DADUs was the same for a single house on a same sized lot (35%). But they failed to note that by dividing up the lot by having two buildings, they eliminate the amount of permeable land that is contiguous. That means many fewer places on the property are large enough to support trees.

Remember that illustration I keep passing around?

Therefore, the city's changes that are being proposed to encourage DADUs do, in fact, have a large potential impact in Seattle's tree canopy. As do most land use changes in the Single Family Zone which, as you know, contains over 50% of the City's land and over 50% trees.

What we do about that is a completely different question. We could fund more public open space to mitigate. We could encourage smaller footprint homes for two people. We could encourage even taller housing in parts of the City. We could decide there is enough canopy coverage elsewhere that we can proceed. We could decide that Seattle must adopt less ambitious canopy coverage goals in order to accommodate more density. I don't know.

But I feel it is the job of the Commission to understand and communicate relevant facts about the changes that will impact the Urban Forest.

We are remiss if we do not ask for a reevaluation based on a longer time line, and the reduction of planting spaces due to contiguous land reduction necessitated by developing two houses on one lot. The Mayor and the Council need to be informed, especially since they came to the UFC.

Thank you for considering these comments.

PS. For those who are interested, the 'No Place for Old Trees' epic PowerPoint video has been released. It is on the PlantAmnesty YouTube channel. I do a much better job in it than I did in my pathetic presentation earlier this year.

Cass