

**SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Tom Early, Chair • Steve Zemke, Vice-Chair  
Weston Brinkley • Leif Fixen • Reid Haefer • Craig Johnson • Donna Kostka  
Joanna Nelson de Flores • Sarah Rehder • 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*

**June 14, 2017**

**Meeting Notes**

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

**Attending**

Commissioners

Tom Early – chair  
Weston Brinkley  
Craig Johnson  
Joanna Nelson de Flores  
Sarah Rehder  
Andrew Zellers

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE

Guests

Carrie Ferrence – City Fruit

Public

None

**Absent- Excused**

Leif Fixen  
Reid Haefer  
Donna Kostka  
Steve Zemke – vice-chair

**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.

**Public comment**

None.

**Mandatory Housing Affordability EIS discussion**

Craig walked the Commission through his draft letter and explained the MHA. The Mandatory Housing Affordability undertook an Environmental Impact Statement and it’s open for public comment through July 23. The MHA is part of the City’s grand bargain to increase affordable housing. It’s both an expansion of the urban villages and areas where they are increasing development capacity within urban villages. As an example, if an area is currently zoned NC40 it could increase to NC55 plus additional floor coverage area. Whoever wants to develop would need to provide affordable housing on the site (5-8% of units) or would need to pay a fee on the full Gross Floor Area (GFA), which includes parking above grade.

The EIS is looking at the impacts of the MHA provisions. The EIS looked at ‘no action’ and two other options. Part of the analysis was to look at the impacts on tree canopy. In terms of mitigation measures, it doesn’t mention tree planting.

The UFC discussed. Craig will work on a new iteration of the letter for discussion at the next meeting.

### **City Fruit new Executive Director introduction**

They had a big impact in 2016. Last year's harvest numbers: 55,000 lbs. of fruit. The majority goes to 40 food banks and community partners. Worked on 6 neighborhoods and 16 public orchards.

In the spring they prune and take care of orchards. Just wrapped up Safe Seattle Apples, which is the program to place netting on fruit trees to protect fruit. City Fruit installed the netting on public lands and sold netting to private property owners. They are doing a lot of education and engagement in the summer, then go into their harvest phase.

This year they are dealing with some weather-related issues, with the long, late rains that have delayed fruit production. They are concerned about moths. Not anticipating a good harvest of cherries. Nets are kept on a couple of months.

This year also they are rearing up for growth: adding two neighborhoods to Queen Anne and Magnolia. They are following the trees to prioritize neighborhoods. Launching two collection opportunities. They have a small crew to harvest. They are launching Harvest Heroes (volunteers to help harvest) and Harvest Hubs (for weekly collections to pick fruit harvested by home owners).

They are launching a campaign to collect numbers from people that harvest their own fruit and use it themselves. This will give them good data of how many fruit trees are in Seattle and how much of the fruit is already being harvested.

Plums, pears, and apples are most the fruit they harvest. They do cherries mostly for entertainment purposes and to launch the season. They sell a small percentage of their harvest. Work with 30 restaurants (The Dahlia bakery buys from them weekly).

UFC comment/question: Do you work with Fare Start?

Response: They don't. Because of their training component, they don't have the flexibility to deal with the variability of City Fruit's harvest.

They donate fruit to Seattle Cider. They took 9 tons of apples from City Fruit last year to produce cider. Seattle Cider takes crab apples and damaged fruit that they wouldn't be able to place otherwise. This is a great tool for raising awareness of the importance and size of the fruit urban forest.

UFC comment/question: Do you work with Pike Place market?

Response: They don't. They are hoping to launch their own CSA program, which they currently work on with UW.

They are working to expand programmatic work to engage more diverse populations. Worked with 200 diverse students to teach them about trees. This year they'll work with Parks Department community centers to bring students to orchards once a week in the fall. They will be teaching them to harvest and prune. They will be rolling out Spring, Summer, and Fall camps to offer programs year-around. They will also be adding a work training component for participants to get certified in orchard practices so they can hire from that pool.

UFC comment/question: Are you solely focused in Seattle?

Response: Yes

They are developing their 10-year plan and will be expanding to all Seattle neighborhoods. They focus a lot on education. They ask a lot of questions on how the fruit is grown to make sure there is no pesticide included.

UFC comment/question: Are there fact sheets to help home owners?

Response: They do have a newsletter to help fruit tree owners.

They use Sales Force software to manage their tree database. 85-90% of the fruit are used for the public good.

UFC comment/question: What is the City's funding level for City Fruit?

Response: they have a \$66K annual contract with Parks and Recreation for orchard stewardship and harvesting. They do additional activities that are not included in the contract. City Fruit's annual budget is \$320K.

The UFC will likely write a letter of support for City Fruit.

**Work Plan items discussion**

Move to next meeting

**Public comment**

None

**New Business**

None

**Adjourn**

**Public input:**

None