

**SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Weston Brinkley, Chair • Joanna Nelson de Flores, Vice-Chair  
Tom Early • Megan Herzog • Craig Johnson  
Sarah Rehder • Sandra Whiting • Andrew Zellers • 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*

**January 3, 2018**

**Meeting Notes**

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

**Attending**

Commissioners

Weston Brinkley– chair  
Joanna Nelson de Flores – vice-chair  
Craig Johnson  
Tom Early  
Megan Herzog  
Sarah Rehder  
Sandra Whiting  
Andrew Zellers  
Steve Zemke

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE  
Brian Mickelson - SPU  
Keith Ward (SPU)  
Alberto Rodriguez (OSE)

Public

None

**Absent- Excused**

None

**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 as the new chair.  
Steve recommended sending a letter about the house donation to Schmitz Park.

**Public comment**

None

**Approval of December 6 and December 13 meeting notes**

**ACTION: A motion to approve the December 6 meeting notes as written was made, seconded, and approved.**

**ACTION: A motion to approve the December 13 meeting notes as written was made, seconded, and approved.**

**SPU Ship Canal Water Quality Project briefing**

Keith Ward from SPU presented two projects to the Commission: the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave W water main replacement project and the Ship Canal Water Quality Project.

3<sup>rd</sup> Ave W water main replacement project. This location has a large drinking water and two sewage pipes. Recently, King County replaced their sewer pipes, tunneling to the west to put the new pipes in. This project will remove sewer pipes that are no longer being used and will put in a new 24" water line to improve drinking water service and reliability. The tunnel was built in 1913 and it's still sound. The pipes did need replacement. The water line and connections will take place on both sides of the ship canal. They are developing a mitigation plan for tree impacts.

UFC question/comment: how long will the project take?

Answer: 12-13 months

Ship Canal water quality project: Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) exist when there is only one pipe on the street (usually old infrastructure) that carries both sewage and stormwater. On a dry day sewage goes to the treatment plant. On a heavy rain day, you add drainage to the system, overwhelming it and causing it to overflow (there are 85 locations for overflows). SPU is working on bringing these locations to federal compliance by 2025. This is a joint project between SPU and King County. There are 7 overflow locations (Seattle has 5; King County has 2). They are going to install a 2.7-mile-long tunnel/tank 19ft diameter. A pump station in Ballard will pump that water into the treatment plant.

UFC question/comment: how does King County's role fit in being that the project is in Seattle.

Answer: The City of Seattle has smaller systems to get the water to King County. The County has many tunnels under the city. They have their own CSO program. The City of Seattle has basins throughout the city. King County has dedicated areas that they have to handle.

UFC question/comment: what has been the planning for infrastructure sizing considering the rate of growth we are experiencing?

Answer: the biggest driver for infrastructure sizing is climate change data. They originally scoped the tunnel at a smaller size (all based on past modeling). They have been continually updating their sizing based on new models. They increased the diameter from 14ft to 19ft.

UFC question/comment: is West Point able to handle increased flow?

Answer: That issue was not about capacity. It was a mechanical failure.

UFC question/comment: what happens if this new tunnel fills up?

Answer: This project will handle 16 million gallons of overflow. It will not stop everything. They'll have to catch the water before they get to the CSO location. The federal requirement is overflowing no more than once a year over 20 years.

Tree overview:

Kelsey Whittaker is the PM that is working on tree impacts. They are working to balance the commitment to preserve trees and core sewer and drainage service delivery and the need to maintain critical underground infrastructure.

UFC question/comment: is the 2 for 1 replacement effort considering tree canopy or just stems? The UFC urges SPU to consider replacing the canopy that will reduce runoff.

Answer: they have been applying the policy based on tree quantity and when they take out an exceptional tree they work on replacing with equivalent canopy.

UFC question/comment: how are you looking at the evergreen vs. deciduous issue? We are losing evergreen trees and they are those that provide the most benefit, especially when there is more rain.

Answer: The landscape consultant is providing recommendations.

Project design is at 60% and shows 99 trees slated for removal. 26 are exceptional (13,183 sqft canopy cover in Ballard and Fremont). 10 are dead or dying. Reasons for removal include: excavation for site remediation, mechanical and other control vaults, drop shafts, diversion structures, above ground structures. They are proposing to plant trees at a different location. They are going to be planting trees at the South Operations Center. They have been coordinating with SDOT as well. They have 5 sites where near-surface work will take place. The biggest need for replanting is in Ballard (taking out 74 trees).

Neighborhood impacts:

- Ballard
  - o Site remediation requires excavation of property's north end.
  - o 38 trees removed (24 exceptional)
  - o 74 replacement trees (26 on-site, 48 off-site)
- East Ballard
  - o Large underground mechanical and odor control vaults
  - o 5 trees removed (no exceptional trees)
  - o 10 replacement trees (25 on-site)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave W Water Main replacement
  - o New water 24" main beneath Ship Canal
  - o New 12" water main on north side of Ship Canal
  - o Shared tree removal and mitigation approach with Ship Canal Project
- Fremont
  - o Underground shaft and diversion structure locations conflict with trees
  - o 11 trees removed (2 exceptional)
  - o 22 replacement trees (16 on-site, 4 off-site)
- N Queen Anne
  - o Drop shaft and structure conflict with trees
  - o 33 trees removed (no exceptional trees)
  - o 66 replacement trees (13 on-site, 17 off-site)
- Wallingford
  - o Storage tunnel and East shaft
  - o Site remediation
  - o 4 trees removed (no exceptional trees)
  - o 8 replacement trees (31 on-site)

Sandra PdB recommended the project team to talk to Jana Dilley and OSE about proper application of the 2 for 1 tree replacement executive order. Any suggestions on tree species and restoration design would be appreciated in the next month.

UFC question/comment: Is there a preliminary planting plan?

Answer: Yes, Kelsey will send to Sandra PdB and she will distribute.

UFC question/comment: consider also investing in the Duwamish area to provide more benefits associated with trees.

Sandra PdB to reach out to Kelsey and Ward to set up meeting with Core Team to share info with them.

### **Duwamish Valley Program**

Alberto Rodriguez is the Duwamish Valley Program lead. He talked about the Duwamish Valley Program and how it is advancing environmental justice in the Duwamish Valley.

There are areas within the City where residents experience life very differently than the more affluent areas of Seattle. One of those areas is the Duwamish Valley (a superfund site).

The program's goal is to advance environmental justice and equitable development. The program provides an intersectional approach to equity issues.

Why the Duwamish Valley? Because the concentration of underserved communities is high. There are well documented disparities. South Park and Georgetown have on average 13 fewer years of life expectancy.

The City put together the Duwamish Valley Action Team to manage over 160 projects and programs having an impact in the DV.

The DV Program has six racial equity outcomes:

- Healthy communities
- Thriving neighborhoods
- Prosperity in place
- Employment and economic opportunity
- Equitable access to City resources, accountability, and decision-making
- Community leadership and capacity building

Core Team's role:

- Sustain momentum to achieve program objectives
- Set agendas
- Represent the DVAT at briefings
- Bring policy, program and capita project perspective to Core Team.

Team members:

- Complete picture of Capital and programmatic investments
- Engage with near-term actions to maximize alignment with objectives
- Contribute to action plan describing how future investments align
- Identify future resource needs

Duwamish Valley Action Plan

Per feedback from the Capital Cabinet, we organized our work and recommendations in the following manner:

- Near-term actions (0-1 years) – staff
  - o Capacity building through Equity and Environment Initiative report-backs
  - o De-paving and tree planting
  - o Youth programming and training
  - o Duwamish Waterway Park
  - o Tree planting planning and engagement
  - o South Park Neighborhood Center
- Mid-term recommendations (1-5 years) – managers
  - o Working with City departments to explore opportunities to embed racial equity.
- Long-term recommendations (5+ years) - Directors

Part of the Healthy Environment effort includes tree planting and maintenance

Goal: increase overall tree canopy coverage and maintain and improve the health of existing trees in South Park and Georgetown. By fall 2018, establish tree canopy goals specific to South Park and Georgetown.

Strategies:

- Tree planting and maintenance in City-owned right-of-way and residential properties
- Tree planting and maintenance in industrial lands
- Increase, improve, and maintain tree canopy coverage in non-City owned ROW and in agency-owned properties.

Other opportunities:

- South Park Community Center site plan and implementation
- Georgetown off-leash area
- Georgetown/South Park connection
- Drainage and street improvements (in industrial area of South Park)
- Duwamish Technical Training Center
- South Park Plaza
- Duwamish River Opportunity Fund

City leadership direction:

- Duwamish Valley is a priority
- Departments to collaborate
- Explore innovative solutions
- Realize multiple benefits
- Sustained focus
- Achieve prosperity in place

UFC question/comment:

- Quantifying goals to be able to keep track. In terms of outreach, look at ways to bring the importance of maintenance and preservation of large trees. Consider working with the youth to ID exceptional trees in the neighborhood and maybe give people awards to increase awareness.
- Have the youth monitor progress?
- Where do the leaves go when the Youth Corps collect them? Can SPU do additional pick up? Or maybe recycle the leaves on site.
- What are the triggers for displacement that you are trying to battle.

**Draft welcome letter for Mayor Durkan – Move to next week**

**Comments on SDCI Director’s Rule 2017-21**

The Commission reviewed and discussed the draft letter.

**2017 Annual Report and 2018 Work Plan – move to next week**

**Public comment**

None

**New Business**

None

**Adjourn**

**Public input:**

None