

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

February 14, 2018

Meeting Notes

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

Attending

Commissioners

Weston Brinkley – chair
Tom Early
Megan Herzog
Sarah Rehder
Sandra Whiting
Andrew Zellers
Steve Zemke

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE
Maggie Glowacki

Guests

Spencer Williams, CM Rob Johnson’s office

Public

None

Absent- Excused

Craig Johnson
Joanna Nelson de Flores – 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

Weston called the meeting to order

Public comment

None

Councilmember Johnson visit with the UFC

Spencer Williams – CM Johnson staff

CM Johnson is not able to attend the meeting today. Spencer was part of the growth management team in Portland and worked for Seattle Housing Authority.

CM Johnson’s office has been focusing on two urban forestry related actions in last couple of months:

- EO from Mayor Burgess
- Director’s Rules

They agree with the UFC’s position that valuation as proposed in SDCI’s Director’s Rule 2017-21 is not high enough. As they look at a revision of the DR they will be working with SDCI to tweak it. They will also look at addressing equity issues.

UFC has been advocating for tree ordinance update and CM Johnson is currently considering:

- Consolidating who regulates trees – maybe through a tree czar? It will be important to simplify that piece.
- Update exceptional tree definition to include more descriptors, age, location, to capture more trees that are exceptional.
- Recognize that trees are vital infrastructure
- Permitting – structure a permit for all tree actions – to provide clarity to property owners and whenever there is dispute, provide a clear chain of records and a simple process. Would like to get a fee structure in place that is not burdensome from an administrative point of view and simple from a public point of view.
- Would like to increase fines (in DR or code)
- Include the concept of replacement of equivalent canopy
- Increase design flexibility. Example was in U-District. Departable standards for pathways to tree preservation.
- Green Factor as part of MHA. Better valuating existing trees on site including larger trees.

There was a rich conversation with CM Johnson staff Spencer Williams. To hear the content please visit the digital recording at:

<http://video.seattle.gov:8080/podcasts/urbanforestrycommission/UFC021418meeting.MP3>

2017 Annual Report and transmittal letter – discussion and possible vote

The Commission discussed and edited both the annual report and the transmittal letter.

ACTION: A motion to approve the 2017 Annual Report as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

ACTION: A motion to approve the 2017 Annual Report transmittal letter as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

Ship Canal Water Quality Program/3rd Ave Water Main project planting plans review, discussion, and vote.

Sandra described the changes she made to the letter to emphasize native plantings. The Commission discussed and provided edits.

ACTION: A motion to approve the letter of recommendation as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

2018 Work Plan review discussion and possible vote.

The Commission discussed and updated the work plan. This will be an ongoing process for this living document.

Public comment

None

New Business

Mandatory Housing Affordability – people have appealed the EIS.

Adjourn

Public input

None