

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair • Sandra Whiting (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist) Vice-Chair
Steve Zemke (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • Sarah Rehder (Position #4 – Hydrologist)
Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • Michael Walton (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)
Joanna Nelson de Flores (Position #7 – NGO) • Andrew Zellers (Position #8 – Development)
Craig Johnson (Position #9 – Economist) • Bonnie Lei (Position #10 – Get Engaged)
Whit Bouton (Position #11 – Environmental Justice) • Jessica Jones (Position #12 – Public Health)
Shari Selch (Position #13 – Community/Neighborhood)

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 9, 2019

Meeting Notes

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

Attending

Commissioners

Whit Bouton
Craig Johnson
Jessica Jones
Bonnie Lei
Stuart Niven
Sarah Rehder
Shari Selch
Michael Walton
Andrew Zellers
Steve Zemke

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE

Guests

Elijah Selch

Public

Elizabeth Archambault
Thomas Palm

Absent- Excused

Weston Brinkley – chair
Sandra Whiting – vice-chair
Joanna Nelson de Flores

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

Steve Zemke, filling in for the chair and vice-chair, called the meeting to order.

Public comment

Elizabeth Archambault – she is a resident who grew up in Seattle. She recently moved from Queen Anne to South Lake Union and has been a Tree Ambassador for the past year. She is concerned about the urban forest and would like to support ongoing protection of the urban forest because trees are a key piece of our infrastructure that provide many benefits, including cleaning our air, calming traffic, etc. Seattle parks are key to migrating birds. Seattle is changing and we need more trees as well as maintaining the trees we have. It's unacceptable that new construction can remove any trees without replacement. She'd like to see trees replaced by actual trees. Trees have value and build strong communities.

2019 UFC work plan – initial discussion

The Commission began reviewing the 2019 work plan and will continue to do so in February.

Letter RE SMC 25.11 – initial discussion – Move to February.

Letter RE: MHA Ordinance Amendments – initial discussion

Steve walked the group through his draft. The Commission discussed and edited the draft.

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

Discovery Park Pilot – initial discussion- – Move to February.

Public comment

Thomas Palm – He wanted to hear the discussion on the Discovery Park Pilot. Would like to be informed when the UFC will talk about the letter of recommendation.

New Business

PdB will Invite SDCI and OPCD to brief the UFC.

Questions to asks:

SDCI

- How to work with UFC
- Where can UFC fill a need
- Status of tree ordinance update
- Status of Executive Order 2017-11 implementation
- Status of implementation of SMT 25.11
- Enforcement and policy implementation
- Staff to invite: Art Pederson and Clay Antieau
- 30-minute tour – go to intake desk and walk how people file a plan
-

OPCD:

- What issues does OPCD vs. SDCI work on
- Differences between SDCI and OPCD
- Who to talk to for what issues

Invite SDOT and PARKS to visit with the UFC at the same time

- Tree permits and posting – Nolan
- St tree ordinance – how is it working, challenges?
- 30 minute – go to intake desk and walk how people permit

Adjourn

Public Input:

From: Suzanne Grant <suzanne@grantharper.net>

Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2019 1:12 PM

To: An, Noah <Noah.An@seattle.gov>; Freeman, Ketil <Ketil.Freeman@seattle.gov>;
geoff.wentlandt@seattle.gov

Cc: Johnson, Rob <Rob.Johnson@seattle.gov>; Lumsden, Faith <Faith.Lumsden@seattle.gov>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; McConaghy, Eric <Eric.McConaghy@seattle.gov>; Juarez, Debora

<Debor.Juarez@seattle.gov>; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>;
cynthia.phillips@seattle.gov; O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>; Sawant, Kshama
<Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov>; Dilley, Jana <Jana.Dilley@seattle.gov>; DOT_SeattleTrees
<Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; ppceditor@nwlink.com; Strauss, Daniel <Daniel.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Josh
Morris <joshm@seattleaudubon.org>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>;
info@jayinslee.com; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>; qamagnews@nwlink.com
Subject: MHA removing Tree Protection within Single Family zones is WRONG!

Dear Seattle law makers on tree retention and protection ---

Does Mayor Jenny Durkan or Governor Jay Inslee or State Representative Gael Tarleton know of Seattle City Council's plans to eliminate significant tree protections within the Mandatory Housing Affordability Legislation being finalized in January–February? This must be some type of reversible mistake. In what way is affordable housing related to reducing the need for tree retention /on–site tree replanting requirements for Single–Family–zoned lots in Seattle? Why this proposed move now following the prior Mayor's Executive Order for stronger (not weaker) Tree Protection?

There must be an significant error within the proposed MHA Legislation (CB 119184) on pages 378 and 379 relative to removing tree protection on sites undergoing development within single–family zones. The existing code requirement of SMC 23.44.008.I requires at least 2–inches of tree diameter for every 1,000 square foot of lot area (see diagram below that attempts to demonstrate the current tree retention requirement.) The MHA Council Bill shows this code requirement being struck in its entirety. This is a huge change *with significant climate and wildlife effects!*

I am sorry, but the proposed "*Green Factor*" alternative to tree retention or replacement as shown on pages 374 to 377 is a joke. Why? Does anyone really believe that a medium–sized tree is no better than ~400 square foot of permeable paving as suggested with the 'Green Factor'? I am not even sure why 'permeable paving' and 'mulch' are equitably considered relative to environmental issues mitigated by trees such as urban heat island effect, carbon sequestration, and wildlife pathways.

The trees within single–family zones were not even addressed within the city's–prepared MHA FEIS. Seattle must have both density AND open space for trees – not just one or the other. Other cities around the world have done it, so it is no mystery. Unfortunately, tree–lined streets will never happen throughout the city until power lines are buried.

Please assure us that this error is corrected, and that tree protection and retention requirements for single–family zones remain unaltered within the forthcoming MHA legislation.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Grant
2723 4th Ave W
Seattle, WA 98119

From: Anne Siems <annesiemsart@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2019 8:11 PM

To: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

Cc: An, Noah <Noah.An@seattle.gov>; Freeman, Ketil <Ketil.Freeman@seattle.gov>; geoff.wentlandt@seattle.gov; McConaghy, Eric <Eric.McConaghy@seattle.gov>; Sawant, Kshama <Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov>; Juarez, Debora <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>; Johnson, Rob <Rob.Johnson@seattle.gov>; cynthia.phillips@seattle.gov; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; Lumsden, Faith <Faith.Lumsden@seattle.gov>; Dilley, Jana <Jana.Dilley@seattle.gov>; DOT_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; ppceditor@nwlink.com; Strauss, Daniel <Daniel.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Magnolia Community Council <magnoliacommunityclub@gmail.com>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Josh Morris <joshm@seattleaudubon.org>; Stuart Niven <panorarbor@gmail.com>; info@jayinslee.com; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>; qamagnews@nwlink.com

Subject: Re: MHA removing Tree Protection within SF-zones (originally noted on 9/5/18)

Save the Trees!

Revise your plan to keep protecting trees in Seattle.

For environmental reasons, for livability reasons for our future.

Density and green space must go together.

Permeable paving is NO replacement for actual trees and shrubs - I am sure that is obvious.

Our future depends on trees. Trees are the answer.

MHA Legislation (CB 119184) needs to be reviewed!!!

We are staying alert and holding you accountable, as will our children and their children!

the Siems -Eggert Family in Ballard

From: Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>

Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2019 11:33 AM

To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>; O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>

Subject: Re: Urban Forestry Commission letter RE: Battery Street Tunnel closure opportunities

CM O'Brien, Sandra and Urban Forestry Commission Board Members, and colleagues:

Thank you for including me on this letter to CM Mike O'Brien urging the new post-viaduct street designs to incorporate growing green trees in Belltown, particularly along Battery Street and on the block between Western/1st and Battery/Bell.

Belltown leaders have been diligently working with SDOT, WSDOT, SPU, Parks DON and others over the past few years to dedicate more gray street space to green space. This desire has been repeatedly raised as the neighborhood is becoming increasingly dense and will serve as a major corridor to and from the new Arena and Seattle Center. Belltown has few parks and will benefit greatly with additional greenery and exposed water like what has been created along Vine Street.

Here is an excellent study done by Mithun this past year on the topic of "Greener Belltown, Bluer Sound." the <https://www.seattleu.edu/media/cejs/images/conferences/pnw-2018-climate-resilience-summit/City-Nature-for-Urban-Resilience.pdf>. Many good technical ideas and recommendations for trees and water re-use in the Belltown neighborhood are included.

I want to underscore my support for these efforts to add trees and greenery to Battery Street and beyond, and to give serious consideration --even for temporary or partial useage -- to what is affectionately called the Belltown BOPP -- the Belltown Orchard and P-Patch. I recognize the design challenges, but we should step up to meet those challenges as a green community as the viaduct is removed.

Please know this is a top priority for me in D7 this year and I appreciate your assistance.

--Sally

Sally Bagshaw
Seattle City Councilmember
206 684 8801

From: Elizabeth Archambault <elizabeth.archambault@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2019 9:46 AM
To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>
Subject: Re: New documents posted on the Urban Forestry Commission website

Good Morning Sandra,

First: Happy New Year 2019! Second: it is with great sadness and disappointment that I've read the Seattle City Council's plans to eliminate significant tree protections within the MHA Legislation being finalized in January-February. I think also it is a call to action for all folks in the City of Seattle who understand the awful nature of what will happen if these drastic changes are voted in. As a citizen of Seattle for my lifetime and as a Tree Ambassador for a year, I'd like to write an email in opposition to these proposed changes and if you and the committee would think it helpful I'd would attend Council meetings and speak against these proposed changes.

Third: I wanted to let you know that I belong to the Queen Anne Transportation Committee and we have a meeting this coming Monday January 7th, where I want to speak with the Transportation Chair about creating a sub-committee to inquire about SDOT's intentions / planning for planting street trees in their re-configuration of certain streets due to the Key Arena Renovations. I've read the current Queen Anne Design Guide Lines from 2016. These Design Guide Lines should now be updated to include the street reconfiguration for the renovation efforts, I think. And although these guidelines are housed in Seattle Department of Construction & Inspection, I think, that updating and planning for additional planting of street trees should begin now so that we can have a successful outcome in planting additional street trees.

Let me know what you think about ways I can be the most helpful in combating the MHA Legislation being finalized in January-February and as well as pitching the idea of a Tree Planting Transportation sub committee .

Elizabeth Archambault