

Urban Forestry Commission

January 27, 2010 DRAFT Retreat Meeting Summary

Jefferson Horticulture Building Conference Room
1600 S. Dakota Street 9:00am – 2:00pm

Attending

Commissioners

Elizabetha Stacishin-Moura, Chair
John Small
Kirk Prindle
Peg Staeheli
John Hushagen
Gordon Bradley
Matt Mega, Vice-Chair
Jeff Reibman

Staff

Tracy Morgenstern, OSE
Brennon Staley, DPD
Brent Schmidt, SCL
Jana Dilley, OSE
Mark Mead, Parks
Nolan Rundquist, SDOT
Darren Morgan, SDOT
Shane Dewald, SDOT

Public

Andrea Okomski, Melissa Poe, Rich Ellison,
Michael Oxman, Margaret Thouless

Staff Presentations

Staff provided presentations on:

Canopy cover, City flyover, UFMP overview, resident survey results, City tree planting and maintenance, Green Seattle Partnership, incentive programs, regulations, and audit findings.

Exercise

Commissioners participated in a brainstorming exercise responding to four questions and an open opportunity to offer ideas. The ideas were captured by staff. The questions were:

- How do we increase the quality and quantity of street tree maintenance, given the fact that the majority of street trees are privately maintained? Many of the oldest and largest street trees in the city are the maintenance responsibility of abutting property owners.
- How can tree protection regulations limit tree removal without discouraging planting and while accommodating other uses such as light access, solar panels, views, gardens, etc?
- How can we provide cost-effective incentives to encourage planting and retention in order to make trees a benefit rather than a burden?
- With limited City resources, how can we make progress in promoting the value of trees and inspiring tree retention, care, and planting?
- Other thoughts

Lunch

Councilmember Licata addressed the Commissioners.

Workplan Discussion

Members discussed the process for developing their workplan. It was decided that staff would provide the 5-Year Implementation Strategy for the UFMP in advance of the next regular meeting (February 3, 2010) to help commissioners consider what issues to take up and how to best organize into committees.

Members also requested that DPD staff begin the discussion of tree protection regulations at the February 3rd meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____

Elizabeta Stacishin-Moura, Chair
Urban Forestry Commission