

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Leif Fixen, Chair • Tom Early, Vice-Chair

Gordon Bradley • Donna Kostka • Joanna Nelson de Flores • Jeff Reibman • Erik Rundell • Peg Staeheli • 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

March 4, 2015

Meeting Notes

Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 2750 (27th floor)

700 5th Avenue, Seattle

Attending

Commissioners

Leif Fixen - chair

Tom Early – vice chair

Donna Kostka

Joanna Nelson de Flores

Richard Martin (not voting)

Erik Rundell

Steve Zemke

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE

Public

Linda Murtfeldt (Seattle Audubon)

Absent- Excused

Gordon Bradley

Jeff Reibman

Peg Staeheli

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

Leif called the meeting to order

Public comment

Linda Murtfeldt – Linda is the Chair of conservation committee of Seattle Auduborn. Seattle Audubon is hoping to help Seattle become greener by retaining trees and not turning everything into recreation areas. They are working on preserving native and animal species in our city while creating green equity.

Adoption of February 4 and February 11 meeting notes

ACTION: A motion to approve the February 4 meeting notes as amended was made, seconded and approved.

ACTION: A motion to approve the February 11 meeting notes as written was made, seconded and approved.

Follow-up items

- **Report on visit with Parks Board – Tom and Steve**

Tom and Steve shared the following points that came out of their visit with the Parks Board:

1. Tree topping: Brief discussion about tree topping for tree retention. Encouraged UFC to weigh in. Encourage City to clarify their policy.
2. Cheasty Mountain Bike Pilot Project: the Parks Board is moving forward with the pilot project. They are looking for an answer to the question of how to rank the ecological services provided by the existing site. What would be the proposal's impact based on such ranking. In conjunction with the proposed improvements to the site (take out invasives, plant new trees/plants, and introduce two trails). How do you determine how the site is going to be affected?
3. Balancing the restorative and rehabilitative qualities of people visiting these areas and the ecological functions derived from maintaining these areas. How much can the pilot project improve the site so as to end up with an enhanced ecosystem? What are the benefits of getting kids and young people involved? Interested in having people enjoy and benefit from open spaces while learning about the importance of the urban forest.
4. Steve encouraged the Board to weigh in on areas such as street trees adjacent to Parks; the tree replacement recommendation issued by the UFC, and encouraged the Board to issue a letter to City Council and the Mayor.
5. It would be a good idea for the UFC to do a briefing to the new head of the Parks Department.
6. The Board said they are interested in a continued dialogue with the UFC.
7. This was a very good meeting.

Follow up items:

- Revisit the tree trimming for views. Sandra to schedule a briefing with Parks regarding pruning for views.

Right-of-way Improvements Manual – Tom is working on comments. Make a formal statement about Greenways that should include trees and vegetation to make it a true Greenway. Tom will send comments to Leif. Sandra checked with SDOT and they said Jeff has been involved in this effort. Tom will send his comments to Jeff.

- **Representative for Parks' Focus Groups – Donna (3/28)**

Donna will be representing the Commission in the focus group.

Follow-up items:

- Sandra will ask Susanne Rockwell to get the details to Donna.

- **Mini-Summit attendance (4/4) Do we want a table at the Open House?**

The meeting is Saturday, April 4 in Seattle Center. Donna is already attending the Open House and offered to place UFC materials at her table.

Follow-up items:

- Sandra will provide materials to Donna, including: UFC one-pager, 2014 Annual Report, 2015 Wrok Plan and UFSP Executive Summary.

- **Arboretum Multi-use Trail – tree removal list – UFC action?**

The Commission reviewed the tree removal list provided by the project manager. Leif walked the site and saw that the even though the trees to be removed are marked, there is no project sign or any other explanation for the 18 ft wide road that is coming in. A lot of large trees are coming out and it sets a double

standard. Leif was questioning the need to create a new, separate path. He would encourage for them to follow the process that other developments have to go through. Push for the project to follow 2x1 and not 1x1 replacement.

Follow-up items:

- UFC to write letter to CC and Mayor with cc to Parks and Arboretum. The letter will mention:
 - Received briefing.
 - Received removal list. Lots of trees, large and native.
 - We've identified a deficit/conflict in terms of a couple of policies.
 - UFC walked the path.
 - Concerned about existing parallel path.
 - Project should follow City policy of 2x1.
 - Commission to receive a list of replacement trees with species and size.
- Sandra to request list of replacement trees.

Notice to the public – as SDOT so people know what's going on. Yellow ribbon.

- **Cheasty Tour**

SANDRA TO RE-SEND DIRECTIONS TO TOUR.

Parks Board issued a letter in support of cross trails.

Steve to send Sandra an article about bike trails. TO SHARE WITH THE UFC.

- **Trees and Solar legislation – UFC letter**

The Commission checked Leg.gov.wa to see if SB 5414 moved out of Committee and found that the Bill did not move forward.

- **Other Work Plan items**

- **Planning Commission – reaching out to UFC**

The Planning Commission is currently working on the Comp Plan update and would like to visit with the Urban Forestry Commission. Leif, Erik, Jeff are the subcommittee to participate in this process.

Follow-up items:

- Sandra will schedule the Planning Commission meeting in May.
- Sandra will ask Brennon for the draft Environment, Parks, and Transportation elements for Commission review.
- Erik will send Sandra elements to discuss. Sandra will send to Jesseca in the Planning Commission.

- **Meetings with MO and CC – Mayor visit on 4/8**

Agenda for the visit:

Introductions

Opening Remarks by Mayor

Q&A:

- Stewardship Plan – 23% to 30% (referenced into Comp Plan – referenced)
- Canopy cover assessment
- Public trees – GSP and 2x1. Parks – GSP restoration efforts – thank him for his support.
- Private Property – DPD ordinance

Closing Remarks by Mayor

End

Sandra to give Pedro 2014 Progress Report, 2015 work plan, and UFSP Executive Summary

- **Statements of Financial Interest**

Sandra passed around Statements of Financial Interest for all Commissioners to fill out.

Upcoming agenda items

Tom will email comments for ROWIM to Jeff, who is working with DPD.

Tom is working on a letter to past Commission members to invite them to stay involved.

Erik will send out the Comp Plan areas related to trees.

Request briefing on Freight Master Plan

Work on a tour of South industrial areas

Ask for a briefing on Move Seattle

Schedule Mayor's visit

Schedule Planning Commission's visit

Ask for list of new trees for arboretum

Draft letter on arboretum trail

Parks briefing on trimming for views

GSP briefing on the 10-year plan update once a draft is ready

New business and announcements

None

Adjourn

Leif adjourned the meeting

Public input

None