

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Leif Fixen, Chair • Tom Early, Vice-Chair

Gordon Bradley • Mariska Kecskes • Donna Kostka • Richard Martin • Joanna Nelson de Flores • Jeff Reibman
Erik Rundell • 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

September 2, 2015

Meeting Notes

Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 2750 (27th floor)

700 5th Avenue, Seattle

Attending

Commissioners

Tom Early – vice chair

Gordon Bradley

Mariska Kecskes (not voting)

Donna Kostka

Jeff Reibman

Erik Rundell

Steve Zemke (acting chair)

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE

Public

Lance Young

Catherine Morrison

Darrell Howe

Sarah Welch

Absent- Excused

Leif Fixen - chair

Richard Martin

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 (acting chair) read the Commission's mission and the agenda.

Public comment

Lance Young – Would like to talk about preservation of forest habitat in the Interurban Trail in Shoreline. He came to talk to the UFC a couple of years ago and thought the issue was resolved when Shoreline and SCL had a letter of understanding that would only remove trees if they were hazardous. The letter was incorporated into the Franchise Agreement. This issue came up again when neighbors received a letter from SCL saying that they were going to be doing maintenance this year and that they will only be preserving trees if they are significant. SCL is now back with a new definition of what a tree is and the community is now looking at losing over 100 trees along the trail. If pruning happens it will remove habitat. There are several bird species that rely on those trees.

The last time SCL pruned, they did an excellent job and did it according to the agreement. He is hoping that the Commission might consider writing a letter to SCL or the Mayor or both, requesting that they honor the agreement with Shoreline. They currently got a reprieve until the end of the month.

UFC Question: Did you follow up with Shoreline City Council?

Answer: Yes, they just heard about it two weeks ago. Seattle City Council is on recess. The Shoreline City Council spoke to the intent of the original agreement and requested that SCL postpone removals until the situation had been reviewed.

UFC question: what has changed that is driving this?

Answer: Do not know. But SCL said that it's less expensive to remove trees than coming back to prune trees every year. The area he is talking about is half a mile of pruning every four years.

UFC Question: Have people written letters to SCL? How many people are involved?

Answer: The area SCL is pruning this year is between 145th to 155th. Adjacent property owners were contacted.

UFC Question: What is SCL's policy around pruning and removing trees?

ACTION: Sandra to invite SCL to come to UFC meeting to talk about their policy. The UFC asked Lance to submit samples of letters sent by property owners.

Kate Morrison – City Fruit

Kate wanted to thank the Commission for the letter of support as delivered a basket with fruit harvested by City Fruit.

Sarah Welch – She is a resident of Beacon Hill, Forest Steward. Wanted to thank Commissioners for the letter issued August 12 about Parks' supplemental guidelines for natural areas and greenbelts.

Darrell Howe – He is concerned about the current work on reclassification of natural areas that Parks is undergoing. He sees that the number of natural areas went from 3,600 to 900. What happened to the rest of the acres?

Adoption of August 5 and August 12 meeting notes

ACTION: A motion to approve the August 5 meeting notes as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

ACTION: A motion to approve the August 12 meeting notes as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

Draft Comprehensive Plan - discussion

Commissioners discussed the Comp Plan draft document. Jeff and Erik will produce a draft letter for vote at next week's meeting.

Some of the comments include:

- Executive summary – clear that they have a number of different items, and canopy should jump out but it's not referenced.
- Under Parks, add a policy P.1.13 to protect ECAs.
- Include UFSP in listing of Examples of Implementing Plans on page 16.

- LU5.8 – talk about the urban forest, not just infiltration.
- GS4.1 add ECAs to the list and don't just talk about evergreen forests.
- Under Natural Areas Growth Strategies – a new GS4.8 – Growth strategies should consider Seattle's Urban Forest Write a point specific to the urban forest inside the Natural Environment element.
- Find a place to insert soil volume. There is a huge competition for space in the urban environment. Increase awareness to provide appropriate soil volume to support trees and landscapes.
- T2.6 – What does Greening mean? In the transition zone we would like to see Greening defined or broken into greening of transportation (biking, walking) and with respect with increased vegetation and trees.
- What does storage mean?
- T3.15 – Add greening (trees)
- T4.5 – increase diversity of species selection. Increase and enhance the public street tree canopy...
- Include language in the industrial areas recognizing the relationship between industrial areas and ECA... try to get something about balancing. Big RSJI impacts in industrial areas.
- LU11.11 – impact to adjacent property owners
- Add Transition zone, and tree canopy to the Glossary.
- GS4.7 - Also talk about protecting existing wildlife habitat.
- GS4.2 – mention Parks' view corridors.

Erik and Jeff will work on a draft letter for consideration at next meeting.

When writing the letter talk about general interest in elevating the UF and explaining why the UFC disagrees with one point and then provide the proposed new language. It will be important to give a statement of the UFC's intent and specific language.

Welcome letter to Jesús Aguirre – discussion and possible vote

Commissioners discussed the draft letter and proposed amendments.

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

New business and announcements

None

Adjourn

Public Input

From: Future Queen Anne [mailto:FutureQueenAnne@outlook.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 2:20 PM

To: Rips, Bruce

Cc: Arbutus; Pinto de Bader, Sandra

Subject: Re: Important: Re: Project#3015522 Arborist Report

Thanks Bruce for requesting the attachments that were to be part of the Tree Report for SEPA.

The Drip Line Exhibit was required per a DPD Letter of Correction. Tree Solutions Tree Report dated February 10, 2015, page 4 of 17, under 5.a. -provides this response: "A tree drip line exhibit showing the area of potential impacts below the canopy of the retained trees has been attached to this report."

To properly review Tree Solutions report these three attachments are essential, especially with material differences between Toll's prior arborist's report and their current arborist Tree Solutions' report, reducing the number of exceptional trees.

Will the applicant be required to provide an updated report, given that the siting of buildings has changed in the new Streamlined Review Design site plan since the February report based on on old plan was submitted?

Thanks again for your help. I will try to reach you by phone too.

Terri Johnston
206.719.5889

From: Rips, Bruce <Bruce.Rips@seattle.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 4:01 PM
To: Future Queen Anne
Subject: RE: Important: Re: Project#3015522 Arborist Report

Hi Teri,

I will ask for the Table of Trees and ask them to clarify what ARB-1 is. I don't see the reference for a Drip Line Exhibit on p. 4.

Thanks,

Bruce

From: Future Queen Anne [<mailto:FutureQueenAnne@outlook.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:50 AM
To: Rips, Bruce
Cc: Amrhein, Seth
Subject: Important: Re: Project#3015522 Arborist Report

Hi Bruce,

To clarify, the three attachments missing from Tree Solutions Arborist Report dated Feb. 10, 2015 and posted June 29, 2015 on the DPD website are:

- 1) **Table of Trees** (referenced as an attachment on page 1 of the report)
- 2) **ARB-1** (referenced as an attachment on page 4)
- 3) **Tree Drip Line Exhibit** (referenced as an attachment on page 4)

Without these three missing, key attachments it is hard to analyze the report. Could you please either email these to me today or post them? We are meeting with our arborist tomorrow morning.

Thanks for your help.

Terri Johnston
206.719.5889

From: Future Queen Anne
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 3:30 PM
To: Rips, Bruce
Subject: Re: Project#3015522 Arborist Report

I have the arborist report. However, the report refers to documents "ARB-1" attached to the report and "a tree drip line exhibit ... attached to this report". Neither are part of what is posted online.

Terri

From: Rips, Bruce <Bruce.Rips@seattle.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 3:26 PM
To: Future Queen Anne
Subject: RE: Project#3015522 Arborist Report

Terri,

I'm unclear of what you're requesting. The arborist report you attached is available on the DPD web site.

Bruce

From: Future Queen Anne [<mailto:FutureQueenAnne@outlook.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 1:28 PM
To: Rips, Bruce; PRC
Subject: Project#3015522 Arborist Report

Hi Bruce,

I am searching for the referenced attachments to Toll's Tree Solutions Arborist Report. See page 4, 4.a and 5.a of their report that refer to the documents.

Can you please post these on the DPD website?

Thank you!

Terri Johnston

From: Heidi Siegelbaum [mailto:Heidi@calyxsite.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 10:25 AM
To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra
Subject: For Urban Forestry commission

http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/conference/proceedings/2014/2014_JCaseyClapp_Thesis%202.pdf

Hi Sandra

I trust your summer went well and that you are happy... please make the above document available to the UFC the next time you gather documents. Feel free to call if you have any questions and thank you!

Best,
Heidi

Heidi Siegelbaum

Calyx

(206) 784-4265

<http://www.calyxsite.com>