

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Tom Early, Chair • Steve Zemke, Vice-Chair
Weston Brinkley • Leif Fixen • Reid Haefer • Donna Kostka • Richard Martin • Joanna Nelson de Flores
Erik Rundell • Andrew Zellers

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 1, 2017

Meeting Notes

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

Attending

Commissioners

Tom Early – chair
Steve Zemke – vice-chair
Weston Brinkley
Leif Fixen
Reid Haefer
Craig Johnson (non-voting)
Joanna Nelson de Flores
Erik Rundell
Andrew Zellers

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE
Doug Critchfield - Parks
Jon Jainga - Parks
Garrett Farrell - Parks

Guests

Tom Burgess – Drive Zero
Isaac Kastama – Drive Zero
Jason Morse - AHBL
Kristin Glandon - AHBL

Absent- Excused

Donna Kostka
Richard Martin

Public

None

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 called the meeting to order.

Public comment

None.

Adoption of January 4 and January 11 meeting notes

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

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

Drive Zero and Urban Forestry

Tom Burgess and Isaac Kastama presented the Drive Zero. Their mission is to connect driving behavior to carbon offsets by paying into a fund to plant trees. They can use a device on the car and the phone to determine how many miles someone drives and automatically work on offsetting emissions (around \$20 per month). There are several devices that can measure how much someone is driving.

They found that people care about trees, which were the most popular option to offset carbon emissions. People like the direct tie between driving behavior and local offsets. Participant payments would create a pool to fund urban forestry projects.

How it works:

- Download the app
- Automatically count the miles you drive
- We invest in certified projects and bill your credit card
- You track your carbon offsets in the app
- Tweet your glory!

Drive Zero is set up as a B Corporation and they are currently developing the app. They are interested in having City of Seattle participate in the launch. They are looking to partner with car-sharing companies and the Lyfts of the world. As they grow, they want to encourage continuing to look at urban forestry.

UFC questions/comments:

How did you arrive at the \$0.02 per mile?

Answer: they can share the specifics of how they calculated it with the UFC.

UFC questions/comments:

Do you have a sense of the impact electric vehicles will have? Is that going to drastically impact calculations?

Answer: there could be enough room in the market.

UFC questions/comments:

Will you be including the carbon foot print of vehicle production?

Answer: they haven't looked at that yet.

UFC questions/comments:

The State is looking at how user fees would work. If that's on the horizon how would that interact with your car model. Would it mean two trackers in a car?

Answer: the tracking technology is evolving. There are a couple of models they are looking at as they develop the app. They want to make it simple. They'll look at what the pilot produces.

Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle Garden Club Centennial Garden

Jason Morse AHBL landscape architecture company presented the Azalea Garden project to the UFC. He is a member of the board of directors for the Arboretum Foundation,

The Washington Park Arboretum is a partnership between the Arboretum Foundation, the Parks Department, and the University of Washington.

Seattle Garden Club donated \$100K to the Arboretum for the building of a garden. The project team identified a site near Azalea Way and Pond from the original Olmsted plan. There is a grove of cedars there. They would like to remove 3 cedars (29", 23", 35" (exceptional) DBH) with a 1,136 sf of canopy loss projected.

UFC questions/comments:

When you remove the stumps, will you be damaging the root zone of the neighboring cedars?

Answer: not concerned about damaging them.

UFC questions/comments:

Have you identified other sites to place this garden?

Answer: there are precious few lawn areas that they don't want to look at. Olmsted brothers originally identified this area for ornamentals. It's next to the pond. The Garden Club wants a prominent location, which was one of the conditions of the grant. The site was chosen very carefully.

UFC questions/comments:

How close is this to the loop trail?

Answer: the loop trail crosses Azalea Way beyond the pond.

UFC questions/comments:

What will happen to the cedar wood?

Answer: If the size is right would like to use the logs as a sitting area for kids in the education center. Could find use in the stream area. The stream was daylighted with the construction of loop trail. Cedar would be used on site.

UFC questions/comments:

The 2 for 1 policy would require Parks to plant two more trees.

Answer: Arboretum has an agreement with Parks and this doesn't apply to them but the project team is willing to plant additional trees to comply with the policy.

The UFC insisted that the 2 for 1 is important.

UFC questions/comments:

It might seem silly to be discussing three trees but it's chipping away at large conifers. It sets up a precedent.

Planting two for one is not the solution.

Answer: the arboretum is a collection of plants from around the world.

UFC questions/comments:

We must be very clear about the value those trees provide (social value, ecosystem services, etc.) and the public sees trees coming down. They are coming down for 520, for UW master plan, etc. It's also happening on private property across the city.

Answer: they are not building a freeway but a garden. It's a plant collection from around the world. That was the purpose from the start.

UFC questions/comments:

The public doesn't see it that way and it's important to consider that.

Answer: the understory is lawn and they are proposing to remove the lawn. They are only asking to remove three trees.

UFC questions/comments:

The UFC is tasked with preserving canopy. Due to the species and the size of those trees their roots are probably meshed together and acting as one. You should make sure to minimize the impact on neighboring trees so they are less stressed. Consider the placement of the new trees so that they don't shade each other.

UFC questions/comments:

Make sure there is a sign notifying the public of what the project will be doing and the impacts on trees.

Place notices on trees.

Answer: they have also posted the dollar value of trees and it helps inform and educate the public. Expect to start construction in the spring and be done by the summer.

UFC questions/comments:

The UFC wants to reiterate the importance of updating a master plan for the Arboretum given the changes in the circumstances in Seattle and increased densification.

Answer: Will bring it up with the Arboretum. Have tabled China, Chilean, and Australian gardens due to lack of funding. Their plan runs from 2001 and it was good for 20 years.

Jon Jainga – that exceptional tree could become a heritage tree. The UFC would like to issue a letter saying we are bumping into these issues all over. Where else in the city can we accommodate large conifers. Would like to have a discussion with Council. Leif to start a draft letter. Sandra to continue working on getting a date to deliver annual report and work plan to Council. Also, request a meeting to discuss tree protection.

Draft letter of recommendation RE: pruning cycles - continues

Sandra to review Steve's letter and create a new iteration and send to Steve and Tom. Move to next week to continue discussion.

Public comment

None.

New Business

GSP shareholder meeting is this Saturday.

Urge the City to plant a tree in Cass' honor. Weston heard that they are planning a proclamation.

Would like to sign a card and send it to her husband. Send letter to City Council and Mayor urging them to honor her.

Adjourn

Public input:

None.