SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
Weston Brinkley, Chair • Joanna Nelson de Flores, Vice-Chair
Tom Early • Megan Herzog • Craig Johnson
Sarah Rehder • Sandra Whiting • Andrew Zellers • 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 14, 2018
Meeting Notes
Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 2750 (27th floor)
700 5th Avenue, Seattle

Attending

Commissioners
Joanna Nelson de Flores – vice-chair
Tom Early
Megan Herzog
Craig Johnson
Sarah Rehder
Andrew Zellers
Steve Zemke

Staff
Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE
Jana Dilley - Trees for Seattle

Public
Richard Ellison

Absent- Excused
Weston Brinkley – chair
Sandra Whiting

*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
Joanna called the meeting to order

Public comment
Richard Ellison – Has been involved with the urban forestry community for years. Wants to talk about
invasives and MHA-HALA. Under MHA there is an opportunity to do something to remove invasives when
properties are getting developed. As we lose tree canopy on streets and steep slopes invasive plants move
in. The City needs to reach out to residents to educate them about the threat of invasive plants. Open space
and green space lost now will be lost in perpetuity because there is no planting space being created. City
should allow developers to build taller buildings to save trees. Development is exacerbating the heat island
effect when removing trees. UFC needs to provide stronger wording in its recommendations to save trees.

Trees for Seattle presentation
Jana Dilley, the Trees for Seattle (T4S) supervisor provided an update on 2017 accomplishments. T4S team is
housed in SPU but it's funded inter-departmental in nature.

Outreach, communications, and technical assistance
- Engages 2,000 people
- Monthly newsletter to 2,600 people

- 350 technical assistance requests filled
- 635 Facebook followers
- Completed transition to new brand (from reLeaf to Trees for Seattle)

Volunteer engagement
- 1,625 volunteer hours
- Trained 25 news Tree Ambassadors
- 6 volunteer trainings
- 30 Tree Stewardship events at 14 sites
- Cared for 200 public trees
- 15 tree walks (14 new)

Residential planting
- Planted 1,014 trees with 478 households
- 2 structural pruning workshops for 38 people
- 2 right tree-right place workshops for 21 people
- Planted 17 trees for 9 elderly and/or disabled residents
- Conducted field evaluation of past planted trees & provided feedback to residents
- Moved to advance tree purchasing

Interdepartmental, community, regional work
- Supported UF Core Team and Interdepartmental team efforts
- Supported SCL in planting 21 replacement trees at 8 households
- Led Park(ing) Day and Arbor Day (Beacon Hill in partnership with KC million trees and Plant for the Planet)

Urban Forestry Equity
- Targeted Trees for Neighborhoods outreach to Rainier Valley
- Provided career training for DIRT Corps and Duwamish Valley Youth Corps members
- Implementing actions from T4N Inclusive Outreach & Engagement Plan
    o Changes to application system

2018 Goals
- Complete staff transitions
- Explore options for south end tree distribution location
- Onboard new T4N 5-year support contract
- Pilot changes to volunteer recruitment
- Develop and deepen partnerships with community organization
- Support Urban Forest Stewardship Plan update

UFC comment/question: Was the SCL tree replacement from their voucher program.
Answer: SCL forms 70% of the program's budget. When SCL removes a tree from a property, contractors provide information about T4N. SCL provides the contact information to T4S and the T4N program contacts them to offer them free trees.

UFC comment/question: Wanted to give Jana kudos for her participation in the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps training on last year's project.
UFC comment/question: what's the delta between the number of trees you give away and the number of applications you receive.

Answer: people tend to like smaller flowering trees and we still have a waiting list for those. We continue to push for people to take larger conifers.

UFC comment/question: when you go back to check on the trees planted in past years, what's the survival rate?
Answer: started visiting trees and survival rate for 2014 trees is around 90%.

UFC comment/question: how are SDOT landscapes chosen? Can neighborhoods choose ROW landscapes in their neighborhood?
Answer: SDOT has a list of sites that are not maintained by SDOT (due to lack of capacity); Tree Ambassadors go through that list and evaluate for volunteer safety and most impact; they look at places where they can either plant trees or maintain mature trees (and usually this means removing ivy); lastly, they look at geographic distribution. They will be adding a Stewardship section in the SDOT online story map.

There is a tree walk in Magnolia this weekend with a St Patrick's Day theme. Go to the Trees for Seattle website to get more information.

MHA Ordinance discussion continues
Steve testified at a Council meeting on MHA and talked to CM Johnson about the ideas UFC has on this.
CM Johnson's proposal:
- Tree removal permit for private and public property.
- Fee-in-lieu system
- Stronger protection for trees
- Consolidating tree oversight into two City entities: one public and one private instead of the 9 City departments.

It appears there is momentum here. So, UFC might want to weigh in sooner rather than later.

The Commission discussed.

Work on tailoring the principles that Council can use in their Whereas statements in their Ordinance. If you wordsmith, it well it will end up in the right direction.

Commission will continue the discussion at the April 4 meeting.

Public comment
None

New Business
None

Adjourn

Public input
None