

## SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair • Sandra Whiting (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist) Vice-Chair  
Steve Zemke (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • Sarah Rehder (Position #4 – Hydrologist)  
Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • Michael Walton (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)  
Joanna Nelson de Flores (Position #7 – NGO) • Andrew Zellers (Position #8 – Development)  
Craig Johnson (Position #9 – Economist) • Bonnie Lei (Position #10 – Get Engaged)  
Whit Bouton (Position #11 – Environmental Justice) • Jessica Jones (Position #12 – Public Health)  
Shari Selch (Position #13 – Community/Neighborhood)

*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*

**April 10, 2019**

### Meeting Notes

Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 2750 (27<sup>th</sup> floor)  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle

#### **Attending**

##### Commissioners

Weston Brinkley – Chair  
Sandra Whiting – Vice-Chair  
Craig Johnson  
Bonnie Lei  
Joanna Nelson de Flores  
Stuart Niven  
Josh Morris (non-voting)  
Sarah Rehder  
Shari Selch  
Michael Walton  
Steve Zemke

##### Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE

##### Guests

Elijah Selch

##### Public

None

##### Absent- Excused

Whit Bouton  
Jessica Jones  
Andrew Zellers

**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**

Weston called the meeting to order

#### **Public comment**

None

#### **2018 UFC Annual Report transmittal letter**

The UFC discussed and approved the 2018 Annual Report transmittal letter. Weston and Sandra will be presenting the report to Council on April 16.

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

**Tree Regulations conversation**

Commissioners engaged in a discussion to clarify the UFC’s position on several policy issues. This will help the UFC’s small group working on editing the D7 version of the ordinance update to finalize the draft to then engage with CM Bagshaw and Central Staff in conversations around it.

The discussion included how to call the permit that is currently is referred to as ‘minor’ permit vs. ‘major.’ The idea of using during development vs. outside of development. It would be important to clarify what development entails. If there is a construction permit for something, then it would be “major” (or inside development).

Discussed Weston’s diagram and three policy discussion items

1. Submitting materials/applying for permit
  - a. Should permits outside of development (minimal) be free?
2. Posting notice/and feedback (2 weeks in advance)
3. Tree categories

The following were some of the items discussed:

- Need to agree on a definition for hazardous tree. It will be important to be addressed otherwise it might become a loophole.
- Change posting requirement from notice of approved permit to notice of application to allow the community for time to provide input/comment. There would be a physical component and an online component.
- Replacement trees would not be able to be removed.
- Tree categories
  - o The UFC is considering not only tree characteristics (size, species) but also the number of trees being removed.
  - o Replacement trees need to get established
  - o Keep track of replacement trees so they don’t get removed
  - o Fee-in-lieu

**Public comment**

None

**New Business**

None

**Adjourn**

**Public input: see next page**

**From:** Dewald, Shane <Shane.Dewald@seattle.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 14, 2019 8:42 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Morgan, Darren <Darren.Morgan@seattle.gov>; Markovich, Joe <Joe.Markovich@seattle.gov>; Roberts, Ben <Ben.Roberts@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: [seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group] FW: Loyal Heights Substation

Sandra, I am confident that SDOT UF will appropriately enforce tree Protection requirements for any trees that actually "straddle" the ROW line since they would be "SDOT Regulated" street trees.

I am including Darren and Joe Markovich to have them in the loop--I am including Ben Roberts as the Forester for my Office assigned to Projects in north Seattle to check in w SCL / SDCI to confirm the status of the trees--as SDOT Regulated (or not).

--shane

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Margaret Staeheli <mpegrose@gmail.com>  
**Date:** April 13, 2019 at 2:20:51 PM PDT  
**To:** [Mike.OBrien@seattle.gov](mailto:Mike.OBrien@seattle.gov)  
**Cc:** [Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov), [Shane.Dewald@seattle.gov](mailto:Shane.Dewald@seattle.gov)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group] FW: Loyal Heights Substation

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mike -

(I don't live in your district but received as I was on the Urban Forestry Commission for 6+ years.

My questions are- with all the attached information- it seems hypocritical for the City to put out an rfp without 1) an arborist's report on the Douglas Firs and Cedars that are on or near the property line and identifying any goals or points to show how the project would not harm the trees. I think it could be done however few projects under SDCI actually implement viable protection- rules are arbitrarily enforced.

But why if council votes to increase canopy goals isn't there a concurrent value consciousness of a City development rfp to set an example?

I understand the housing issue and I know the techniques exist to allow both housing construction and trees.

Could you look into this with Office of Housing?

thank you!

Peg

Peg Staeheli  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "\"Arne\"" (via seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group Mailing List) <[seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net](mailto:seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net)>

**Date:** April 13, 2019 at 12:18:42 PM PDT

**To:** <[seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net](mailto:seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net)>, <[treepac\\_seattle-request@lists.riseup.net](mailto:treepac_seattle-request@lists.riseup.net)>

**Subject:** [seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group] FW: Loyal Heights Substation

**Reply-To:** [arental2722@gmail.com](mailto:arental2722@gmail.com)

It seems that Seattle City Light is moving forward with their plans to develop the Loyal Heights substation property at 7750 28<sup>th</sup> Ave NW with possible negative impact on the large trees that straddle the property line. Has anyone heard about this and/or other similar properties? Does anyone know the current legal status regarding how close to these exceptional trees they can build?

Thank you,

Arnie Hammerman  
425-239-6526

## Seeking developer for surplus land at Loyal Heights:

The City of Seattle Office of Housing (OH) is seeking proposals from qualified developers interested in acquiring the City-owned land located at 7750 28th Avenue NW (Loyal Heights), to develop resale-restricted affordable ownership housing at the site.

The City's objectives to create lasting community benefit include an affordability period of not less than 50 years, maximizing the site's development potential and the creation of high-quality product. Proposals are due by May 24, 2019 by 12:00 PM noon. View the RFP below. Questions can be directed to Erika Malone 206-684-0247, [erika.malone@seattle.gov](mailto:erika.malone@seattle.gov).

- [Request for Proposals](#)
- [Proposal Checklist](#)
- [Loyal Heights Forms \(selected forms from the Combined Funders Application for Homeownership application\)](#)

Additional background information and due diligence reports, surveys maps, etc.

- [King County Property Report](#)
- [Sewer and Drainage Report](#)
- [Water Service Map](#)
- [Water Report](#)
- [Land and Tree Survey](#)
- [Construction Completion Report](#)
- [Department of Ecology NFA Memo](#)

*At Large in Ballard*

*Read columns and book reviews at [peggysturdivant.com](http://peggysturdivant.com)*