

## SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair • Steve Zemke (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist), Vice-Chair  
Sarah Rehder (Position #4 – Hydrologist) • Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA)  
Michael Walton (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)  
Joshua Morris (Position #7 – NGO) • Steven Fry (Position #8 – Development)  
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*

**August 7, 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  
Steve Zemke - Chair  
Steven Fry  
Jessica Jones  
Josh Morris  
Sarah Rehder  
Shari Selch  
Michael Walton

##### Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE

##### Guests

Elijah Selch

##### Absent- Excused

Whit Bouton  
Bonnie Lei  
Stuart Niven

##### Public

Eliza Ramsey

**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

#### Adoption of July 3 and July 10 meeting notes – moved to next week

#### Update on tree regulations conversation

Weston mentioned that Council is interested to move the tree regulations update forward this year. There is interest in making sure we are engaging communities that haven't been at the table thus far including renters with meetings in the North and South end of City.

The UFC group met with DM Moseley. It was a positive meeting with the MO agreeing for SDCI and OSE to spend staff time for engagement.

Steve Zemke asked where things were in terms of the instruction DM Moseley made. Would like to have a discussion on what has been proposed.

The UFC brainstormed ideas to move the work forward and engage community. Some of the ideas include:

- Sandra will extend an invitation to SDCI and Central Staff to continue the conversation and meet with the small group to answer any questions.
- The Nature Conservancy is doing the rooted in Puget Sound campaign – maybe a way to share information. It's also a good idea to use the UFMP update process in partnership with the tree regulations piece.
- Clearly stating what the ordinance is proposing and stating that other cities are doing similar things would help.
- It's unlikely that we'll get detailed input from people that are not already involved with trees. We need to provide the info in a way that will engage them.
- Use Next Door, community meetings, instead of them coming to us. Survey to farmers market.
- Does it have to be a physical event?
- Use SDCI's list on permits or other.
- Staying high-level would be helpful
- Get a broader showing of support for trees in Seattle.
- The ordinance needs to be simplified making the important points short and clear.
- The Commission discussed the approach and the timeline for an ordinance to move forward this year.
- Sandra was tasked with putting together a two-pager stating the benefits of trees and UF, why important to protect, and what would the ordinance do.
- Steve shared the website Dontclearcutseattle.com

Sandra to create a separate section in the Resources page for the tree regulations draft and input received. SDCI updated two documents: TIP 242 and 103.

#### **Work Plan review**

The UFC adopted the 8/7/19 version of the work plan

**ACTION: A motion to approve the 2019 work plan as amended was made, seconded, and approved.**

#### **Public comment**

None

#### **New Business**

Steve is encouraging the UFC to look at the climate crisis next year,

#### **Adjourn**

#### **Public input:**

**(see posted notes)**

**From:** Kathleen Hegarty <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 27, 2019 8:59 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please preserve Seattle's valuable and irreplaceable tree canopy

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle continues to lose its trees. Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance now. I support the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Kathleen Hegarty  
[katiehegarty@yahoo.com](mailto:katiehegarty@yahoo.com)  
9222 30th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Anne Roda <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 27, 2019 11:38 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please update the tree ordinance now

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

This is deeply important for Seattle, the whole region and ultimately the planet.

Thank you!

Anne Roda  
[a.roda@comcast.net](mailto:a.roda@comcast.net)

1130 N 82nd St #A  
Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Patricia Cannon <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 27, 2019 3:11 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please update the tree ordinance now

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Patricia Cannon  
[pattycannon@gmail.com](mailto:pattycannon@gmail.com)  
8160 21 Avenue NE  
Seattle , Washington 98115

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**From:** Annie Thoe <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 31, 2019 10:09 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our legacy tree canopy, Fight Global Warming Now!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Your are in position to do something right now to stop Seattle from losing our large trees and canopy to fight global warming-- which can't be replaced by planting little

ornamental ones. Ethopia is prioritizing tree planting with 350 million trees already planted in one day! It's unimaginable that we keep cutting our large trees down and can't design around them. Aren't we smarter than that-- is greed the only force that runs our government? We can't afford to cut these trees when we need to be planting twice as many more to stop global warming. Temperatures are rising, air and water quality is worsening, fires-- what more evidence and facts do you need to act now? Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance now. I support the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission. Be the change by enforcing this new updated ordinance-- and also pass a budget to enforce it. Enforcement is the critical action we need to save our trees and keep our country healthy and vibrant. Thank you for your service! Annie Thoe

Annie Thoe

[anniethoe@gmail.com](mailto:anniethoe@gmail.com)

2201 NE 120th St

Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** Gayle Janzen <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 01, 2019 10:54 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** I Urge you update the tree ordinance now

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Like more and more people in Seattle, I am extremely upset that the developers are allowed to cut down old growth and exceptional trees, so they can put in McMansions. As you are aware, climate change is upon us, so we desperately need a strong, enforceable tree ordinance, and a moratorium on clear cutting until that ordinance is passed. We need more trees - not more McMansions. You can increase housing

without cutting down so many trees. We are sick as we watch our tree canopy being destroyed.

Therefore, I urge you to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Gayle Janzen

[cgjanzen@comcast.net](mailto:cgjanzen@comcast.net)

11232 Dayton Ave N

Seattle, Washington 98133

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**From:** MARIANA SINTAY <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, August 02, 2019 6:29 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please preserve Seattle's valuable and irreplaceable tree canopy

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle is continuing to lose its tree canopy. "Trees create rain."

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance now. I absolutely support the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

MARIANA SINTAY

[MARIANA.SINTAY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MARIANA.SINTAY@GMAIL.COM)

11312 12TH AVE NE

SEATTLE, Washington 98125

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**From:** Heidi Siegelbaum <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, August 02, 2019 12:13 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please preserve Seattle's valuable and irreplaceable tree canopy

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle continues to lose its trees, including the most productive, protective and public health giants. Trees provide oxygen, remove pollutants from the air, provide habitat and shade, cool neighborhoods, reduce flooding and pollution and create community. Yet the city's policies, laws and lack of enforcement are leading to the wholesale destruction/removal of mature trees on private land. It is imperative that the City align its climate, health and environmental policies with a unified forestry policy that requires developers and citizens to protect mature trees of any type. Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance now. I support the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission and increase the number of city wide inspectors and arborists to over 20.

Heidi Siegelbaum

[Heidi@calyxsite.com](mailto:Heidi@calyxsite.com)

3018 NW 85th

Seattle, Washington 98117

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**From:** Charlotte Moss <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2019 11:27 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please preserve Seattle's valuable and irreplaceable tree canopy

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Trees are a vital for healthy air, healthy people, and a healthy planet. Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance now. I support the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Charlotte Moss

[charmoss@gmail.com](mailto:charmoss@gmail.com)

Interlake Ave N

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2019 12:14 PM

**To:** PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; DOT\_LA <DOT\_LA@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** 3032203-LU likely tree grove removal at 8623 37TH AVE S.

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Public Resource Center and Seattle Tree Land Applications.

Please check (1) number of trees, and (2) the tree species, and (3) the existence of a Tree Grove at **8623 37TH AVE S**.

This mostly wooded and undeveloped lot has a Builder (Hunny Construction) looking to subdivide it (via a Lot Boundary Adjustment) even with a likely Code-Protected Tree Grove. (SMC 25.11)

The hired arborist is calling for tree species that are not considered protected unless they are part of a grove. A grove extends onto adjacent lots. Seattle GIS says the east portion of the 10,000 sq ft lot has 50% canopy cover, and the west 3000 sq ft lot portion has 50% canopy cover.

Yet, the arborist drawing only calls for a total of 4 significant trees. See the attached GIS map highlighting the east 10,000 sq ft.



We need either a stronger tree ordinance or closer inspection and enforcement.

David Moehring  
Member, TreePAC  
312-965-0634

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**From:** Kara Kahler <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 06, 2019 5:23 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Seatte Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I'm writing to urge you to keep Seattle green for our children. Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance now. I support the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Kara

Kara Kahler  
[kara95@gmail.com](mailto:kara95@gmail.com)  
6747 21st Ave NW  
Seattle, Washington 98117

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Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Patricia Cannon

[pattycannon@gmail.com](mailto:pattycannon@gmail.com)

8160 21 Avenue NE

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Therefore, I urge you to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

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[charmoss@gmail.com](mailto:charmoss@gmail.com)  
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Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Kara

Kara Kahler  
[kara95@gmail.com](mailto:kara95@gmail.com)

6747 21st Ave NW  
Seattle, Washington 98117

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**From:** Lea Hershkowitz <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 07, 2019 11:04 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please preserve Seattle's valuable and irreplaceable tree canopy

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle continues to lose its trees. Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance now. I support the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Lea Hershkowitz  
[leahershkowitz@gmail.com](mailto:leahershkowitz@gmail.com)  
526 19th Avenue East, 315  
Seattle, Washington 98112

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**From:** Edgar Reyes <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 07, 2019 11:06 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please update the tree ordinance now

**CAUTION: External Email**



Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Edgar Reyes

[reye5507@gmail.com](mailto:reye5507@gmail.com)

9306 51st Ave

Seattle, Washington 98118

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**From:** Ida Fischer <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 07, 2019 11:12 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** I speak for the trees! Please preserve Seattle's valuable and irreplaceable tree canopy

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Hello,

Seattle continues to lose its trees, which are a critical part of what makes Seattle so beautiful and a desirable place to live and work. Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance now. I support the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission. Let's take action before it's too late!

Thank you,

Ida

Ida Fischer

[ida1uwant@gmail.com](mailto:ida1uwant@gmail.com)

3014 Beacon Ave. S.

Seattle, Washington 98144

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**From:** Kelsey Rudd <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 07, 2019 11:13 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please update the tree ordinance now

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Kelsey Rudd

[kelseyrudd6@gmail.com](mailto:kelseyrudd6@gmail.com)

1700 Taylor Ave N, Apt 504

Seattle, Washington 98109

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**From:** Lea Hershkowitz <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 07, 2019 11:15 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please update the tree ordinance now

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Lea Hershkowitz

[leahershkowitz@gmail.com](mailto:leahershkowitz@gmail.com)

526 19th Avenue East, 315

Seattle, Washington 98112

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**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

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Thank you,

Ida

Ida Fischer

[ida1uwant@gmail.com](mailto:ida1uwant@gmail.com)

3014 Beacon Ave. S.

Seattle, Washington 98144

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**From:** Ava Coe <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 08, 2019 11:35 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Problems with Tree Protection

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I'm writing in support of updates to Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance, and would like to share an example of why this is important as it relates to tree removal that recently happened on my block. A developer, who bought a lot that is covered in trees on our street, was able to cut down a 100 year old cedar tree without a permit because of the loophole that exists that if you get an arborist to declare a tree dangerous, you do not need a permit or permission to do so. Developers easily have any number of arborists they work with that can give them whatever response they need to bypass the current permitting process and proceed quickly. This tree was a large beautiful tree with eagles, owls and many other species of birds that regularly were seen. In contrast, a different neighbor who was not familiar with how to bypass this law, has been unable to remove a large tree that is non-native and invasive. This is clearly a problematic law when average citizens understand and are led to believe they must act in one way, and developers know how to easily skirt the rules. I believe the developer knew that this law might potentially change, because he told us that he will not start construction until

December, but he immediately cleared the tree and did nothing else once the sale went through in early July. Please fix this loophole.

Ava Coe

[avacoe@gmail.com](mailto:avacoe@gmail.com)

4207 Burke Ave N

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Diedra Roesijadi <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 08, 2019 11:04 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please preserve Seattle's valuable and irreplaceable tree canopy

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Hello,

Do we have any plans to protect Seattle's trees?

I would like our city council to take efforts to promote better tree cover in the city.

In Belltown, on 2nd (I think) there is a beautiful block of evergreens lining the street. It is stunning! Can we consider to plant more evergreen trees along our streets?

The world desperately needs trees to save our planet. We are supposed to be the evergreen city and all I see is trees getting cut down. Sometimes I see dinky deciduous trees getting planted but they are not enough- nor are they a substitution for the mighty evergreens we have lost due to development.

There are some great ideas through the don't clear cut Seattle group, who I support.

What do you think of measures to better protect our trees?

Diedra Roesijadi  
[diedra@live.com](mailto:diedra@live.com)  
520 N 77th Street  
Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Jessica Dixon <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 08, 2019 12:56 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please update the tree ordinance now

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Jessica Dixon  
[bardjess@msn.com](mailto:bardjess@msn.com)  
328 N 71st St  
Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Cynthia Rose <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 08, 2019 5:41 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please update the tree ordinance now

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Please establish a citywide database for applying for tree removal and replacement permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.

Also please allow removal of no more than 2 significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development. Recently 8 large trees on one lot were cut down in my neighborhood in Pinehurst/Victory Heights area . The loss is being felt by the whole neighborhood! Please stop this type of clear-cutting in Seattle !!

Cynthia Rose

[crose1453@gmail.com](mailto:crose1453@gmail.com)

11557 23rd Ave. NE

Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** Brent McFarlane <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, August 09, 2019 3:44 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please preserve Seattle's valuable and irreplaceable tree canopy

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Just this week our block at N 125th St (District 5) lost another exceptional tree (35" diameter conifer) with no public posting of intent to remove or apparent proof for the need to remove it.

Seattle continues to lose its trees. Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance now. I support the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Brent McFarlane

[mcfarmer@mac.com](mailto:mcfarmer@mac.com)

12248 Phinney Ave N

Seattle, Washington 98133

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**From:** Paige Heggie <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, August 09, 2019 5:14 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please preserve Seattle's valuable and irreplaceable tree canopy

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

My Fremont landlady thinks vegetation is clutter. They once boarded up a nest of baby birds in the attic rafters to wait for them to die, this is the sentiment I am dealing with.

After she saw a Democratic political sign on my porch she called an arborist to remove the last tree I had lobbied to save, a 3 story fir cut down by Bloom Tree Service even though 2 reputable arborists had deemed it healthy - 4207 Phinney Ave. N 98103.

Seattle continues to lose its trees. Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance now. I support the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Paige Heggie

[paigeheggie@hotmail.com](mailto:paigeheggie@hotmail.com)

4207 Phinney Avenue North, Apt 205

Seattle, Washington 98103



**From:** David Moehring <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 11, 2019 3:19 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please preserve Seattle's valuable and irreplaceable tree canopy

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle continues to lose its maturing trees that once formed a canopy to reduce the impacts of local heat island effects. Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance now. I support the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

David Moehring

[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)

3444B 23rd Ave W

Seattle, Washington 98199

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**From:** Barbara Bernard <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2019 7:54 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please update the tree ordinance now

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please stop clear cutting Seattle.

4 lots on my block are being developed and the lost of exceptional trees on these sites has been devastating to the urban wildlife creatures. The storm water run off has increased in the alley way resulting in undercutting in the one and only drain at the end

of the dead end. The impact has been documented and yet the developments continue.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Barbara Bernard

[barbara\\_bernard@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara_bernard@yahoo.com)

3010A 31st Ave W

Seattle , Washington 98199

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**From:** Kjersten Gmeiner <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2019 8:10 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please update the tree ordinance now

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Some of the most important parts:

- Require the replacement of all trees removed that are 6" DBH and larger with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay an in-lieu fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
- Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for exceptional trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit trees over 6"DBH being

removed on undeveloped lots.

Allow removal of no more than 2 significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development

Kjersten Gmeiner

[gmeiner.k@gmail.com](mailto:gmeiner.k@gmail.com)

12051 14th NE

Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** Muriel Lawty <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2019 8:46 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** Please preserve Seattle's valuable and irreplaceable tree canopy

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle continues to lose its trees. Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance now. I support the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

I have fibromyalgia that is triggered by air pollution - trees help clean the air. Below are other reasons with which I agree: (copied from the Don'tClearCut Seattle website)

Trees provide climate crisis mitigation. Ongoing scientific research confirms that reforestation is among the most effective action that can combat the looming climate crisis. As one of the most environmentally aware cities in the nation, Seattle should be taking the lead in the preservation of our urban forest.

Trees clean the air. According to the Nature Conservancy, leaves can filter out fine particulate matter (PM)—one of the most dangerous forms of air pollution, generated from burning biomass and fossil fuels.

Our urban forest is an integral part of our public health infrastructure. Numerous studies have found trees have proved to aid mental health, decrease obesity, and just

generally make people happier.

Urban Heat Island mitigation – Trees are natural and sustainable form of air conditioning. According to the EPA, the heat island effect increases energy costs (e.g., for air conditioning), air pollution levels, and heat-related illness and mortality. This disproportionately impacts low income residents who may not have access to air conditioning. Research published by Climate Central, ranks Seattle as #10 among US cities for urban heat island temperature effects.

Trees are increasingly recognized for their importance in managing runoff and so reducing the toxic runoff into Puget Sound. Their canopies help reduce erosion caused by falling rain. They also provide surface area where rain water lands and evaporates. Roots take up water and help create conditions in the soil that promote infiltration. Trees provide critical habitat for birds and other wildlife. Many birds rely on continuous tree canopy for migration.

Density vs trees is a false choice. Other cities, particularly those designed prior to the automobile, are denser than Seattle and also preserve tree canopy and open space. Vienna Austria, for example, has twice the density, while having more green space than Seattle.

The updated ordinance provides for data collection and reporting. Everyone sees the tree stumps, but it is difficult to accurately determine where all the trees are going. The updated ordinance provides for data collection and reporting. This will enable the city to make informed decisions regarding tree canopy as we move forward.

Certification of tree care professionals (arborists etc) to work in Seattle. The UFC recommended updates to the ordinance require Seattle to license arborists to ensure compliance with laws. This will stop the practice of falsely classifying a healthy tree as hazardous in order to cut it down.

The updated tree ordinance provides predictability and a level playing field to developers.

Muriel Lawty

[m.g.lawty@gmail.com](mailto:m.g.lawty@gmail.com)

3018 NE 137th St #3  
Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** Susan Ward <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2019 10:58 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please update the tree ordinance now

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

It is critical that Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance be updated and strengthened immediate. The changes recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission should be incorporated, and funding for more staff to enforce the Code must be provided. Without better enforcement, not even our current tree code is effective. We must prioritize protecting trees of a significant size, require tree-cutting companies to be registered, and require public posting, both online and on streets, of planned tree cutting. Code requirements should be well-publicized. We must recognize the many benefits tree canopy provides to the health of our citizens, and we must treat tree protection more seriously. Pass the Tree ordinance, with the UFC's recommendations, now, please.

Susan Ward  
[barrettmw@msn.com](mailto:barrettmw@msn.com)  
10330 Wallingford N  
Seattle, Washington 98133

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**From:** Melinda Mueller <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2019 11:05 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please preserve Seattle's valuable and irreplaceable tree canopy

CAUTION: External Email

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle continues to lose its trees. Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance now. I support the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

I see the loss of trees in my neighborhood. Where new development is built in up-zoned areas, the units often abut property lines. What had been yards with trees and shrubs becomes nothing-but-structures, with, at best, narrow planting strips that will never accommodate trees. The developers maximize profits by maximizing units, and more canopy is lost.

This is the wrong direction for addressing climate change.

Melinda Mueller

[mueller.melinda@gmail.com](mailto:mueller.melinda@gmail.com)

7704 16th AVE NW

Seattle, Washington 98117

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**From:** Bernice Maslan <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2019 11:10 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please update the tree ordinance now

CAUTION: External Email

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission. It is shameful that the existing program was evaluated as a big failure and has not been updated. Please protect our trees.

Start by expanding the existing tree removal and replacement permit program, including two week public notice and posting.

The proposed tree ordinance is good. Please allot money for it and approve it this year!

Thank you.

Bernice Maslan  
Seattle resident since 1972, homeowner since 1979.

Bernice Maslan  
[bmaslan@yahoo.com](mailto:bmaslan@yahoo.com)  
9705 1st Ave NW  
Seattle, Washington 98117

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**From:** Heidi Siegelbaum <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2019 5:36 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please update the tree ordinance now

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission. Top provisions include retaining protections for exceptional trees to 24 inches DBH, protect tree groves (and remove institutional loopholes like Ingraham HS) and prohibit trees over 6 inches DBH from being removed on undeveloped lots. You also must hire at least 20 enforcement staff, go back to see whether you have ever enforced your own laws (SMC 25.11.090), an issue worthy of legal review by the City Attorney's Office and register any and all tree service providers for certification. There is rampant violation of the law whereby spurious hazardous tree determinations are made when the other proximate steps to reduce risk have not been taken and hundreds of property owners, developers and companies are removing trees as a condition of sale AND telling neighbors to cut theirs. You HAVE to enact this ordinance- you are laying waste to our green infrastructure and should consider mature trees and that infrastructure as part of the City's Climate Change strategy and Green New Deal. We know you can do better than this.

Heidi Siegelbaum

[Heidi@calyxsite.com](mailto:Heidi@calyxsite.com)

3018 NW 85th Street

Seattle, Washington 98117