



Aaron Clark (Position 1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Alicia Kellogg** (Position 2 – Urban Ecologist) • **Lani Chang** (Position 3 - Natural Resource Agency or University) • **Drue Epping** (Position 5 – Arborist) • **Tristan Fields** (Position 6 – Landscape Architect) • **David Baker** (Position 8 – Development) • **Timothy Randazzo** (Position 10 – Get Engaged) • **Melanie Ocasio** (Position 11 – Environmental Justice) • **Andrea Starbird** (Position 12 Public Health) • **Lia Hall** (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.

Draft meeting notes

August 13, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Via Webex meeting and in-person at the
Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 1872 (18th floor)
700 5th Avenue, Seattle

(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 2503 580 2233

Meeting password: 1234

Attending

Commissioners

Aaron Clark

Drue Epping

Tristan Fields

Alicia Kellogg

Andrea Starbird

Lia Hall

Melanie Ocasio

Public

Susan Fedore

Celeste S.

Sandy Schettler

Steve Zemke

Susan Fedore

David Moehring

Jaxon



Timothy Randazzo

Rob Pavlik

Absent

Adriana

Lani Chang

Teresa

Staff

Kevin Brown

Lauren Urgenson, OSE

Marilyn

Star Berry, OSE

Anabel Roza, City Light

Whitman Bouton, City Light

Facilitator: Drue Epping, Chair and OSE staff

Call to order:

Drue Epping, UFC Chair, called the meeting to order, conducted a roll call of the commissioners and reviewed the agenda.

Public Comment:

David M: Noted May 30, 2025, the Tree Planning Study via the SDOT website (linked in Chat). Noted that this planning was funded by a grant from the DNR to study underserved communities (provided examples: Capitol Hill, page 3; Roxhill, SODO, South Park). Noted that reports show the City's efforts toward equity. Tree canopy cover and the impact from planting trees was discussed. Concern/Contention raised: Tree planting could benefit tree canopy impact from being planted on private land.

Steve Z: Noted concerns over vacancies regarding Position 4 – Hydrologist; Position 6 – NGO; and Economist and urged the UFC to post notices to fill these positions.

Concern: Comprehensive plan; Ordinance 120993. Followed up in Chat with:

See <https://seattle.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7423062&GUID=BE94A92B-AE2B-4714-B644-1DEFBE30E86B> for comprehensive plan amendments on CB 120985 and CB 120993. Item 10 at the very bottom gives the hearing notice on Sept 12 and item 11 covers the amendments proposed on these 2 bills.

Sandy S: Noted current City of Seattle talks with Planet Geo. Noted that previous a tree canopy study did not include plantable areas, volume of canopy present/lost; and it didn't include influence of stormwater. Noted concerns about the study in these regards.



Adoption of Meeting Notes from July 9, 2025:

Meeting notes were reviewed and unanimously adopted with minor revisions to correct the spellings of two commissioners first names.

UFC Commissioner and Liaison updates

Timeline: Public Hearing to discuss the DRAFT One Seattle Comprehensive Plan Amendments on September 12, 2025, and Council will hear on these changes September 17, 2025.

UFC Decision: One Seattle Comprehensive Plan recommendation

Summary: The UFC recommendation letter intends to create highest impact and preserve ecological value, and therefore suggested some revisions and affirmed some statements:

- R1 and R2: Commissioners are in favor of these recommendations and thanked the subgroup. There will be no changes in these sections.

Revision: A discussion was made regarding R3. Suggestion: There should be a notable incentive between retaining large trees versus planting new ones.

Suggestion: Tristan offered to work on diagrams. NR Tree Analysis was referenced. A future diagram could use reference specific codes, e.g., the profile of the house and any setbacks. Drue noted elevating soil volume minimums.

Vote: The UFC held the vote to approve the Comprehensive Plan letter of recommendation with changes: Tristan moved, Alicia seconded, and the UFC unanimously approved the changes on the document.

<https://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=14581222&GUID=0EBB5F34-2B81-4C9A-9A3D-E70392F9FA3A>

Seattle City Light Presentation: Whitman Bouton and Anabel Roza provided a presentation titled, "Seattle City Light Vegetation Management: Overview for the Urban Forestry Commission"

Public Comment:

Steve Z: Provided comments that this is an opportunity for the UFC to give feedback to the City Council and it will have significant impact and take a position on 15 amendments. Point 102.

David M: 2021 Tree Canopy Assessment – 7000 acres. As the UFC thinks about Seattle for future generations, what is the long-term impact of this legislation. Referenced Portland mandated 20% of the canopy.



Sandy S (Chat): As my public comment, I concur with Steve's comment regarding the timing of UFC input. Based on the legislative calendar, it might be a long time until 25.11 and the accompanying development standards in 23 is next opened up. Thank you everyone!

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Chat:

08/13/2025, 3:27 PM Edited David M

Thank you, UFC, for your time. Summary of an ask to the UFC is to (a) invite SDOT's Katey Bean, Senior Landscape Architect of SDOT Urban Forestry, to go through the 7 page reports and their recommendations, (b) UFC discussion to your recommendations to the Mayor and City Council for just these 4 communities, (c) suggest funding for similar additional studies for low-canopy census tracts (i.e. Northgate, Georgetown) and (d) submit your UFC letter to Mayor and City Council with a follow-up timeline (which could be 12 to 18 months). It appears (page 3 in each report) that these four communities will mathematically not be able to match other Seattle communities without incentives provided for Seattle's historically disadvantaged communities. One strategy is Portland Oregon's minimum 40% for less than 6 dwellings and 20% land area for 6 or more dwellings. A second strategy in these neighborhoods is to require adding trees in property sales and renovations (city-funded based on homeowner income) as often real estate transactions are preceded by vegetation reduction or the property had no or maybe one tree. Thank you, DM
Messages sent out of recording range aren't visible.

08/13/2025, 3:13 PM Lia Hall #13

I had the same issue. May be Webex problem.

08/13/2025, 3:06 PM Berry, Star (Copy-pasted UFC Chair's instructions into Webex Chat)

Please Read Before Participating

Welcome! We're glad you're here. To ensure a respectful and productive meeting for everyone, please keep the following guidelines in mind while using the chat box:

Refrain from Disrupting Presentations & Business Items:

Please refrain from using the chat box during presentations or business proceedings to respect our presenters' time and keep focus on the task at hand. Public comments should only be made during the designated public comment periods.

Be Respectful:

We ask that all comments remain kind, and respectful of all participants, including presenters, volunteer commissioners, staff, and fellow attendees. Disrespectful or off-topic messages may lead to changes for chat accessibility in meetings.

Stay On Topic:

Please keep your comments focused on the agenda items and topics being discussed during the meeting. We accept email submissions of other items and topics that can be distributed to UFC commissioners between meetings.

By participating, you agree to follow these guidelines so we can maintain a respectful and effective meeting environment for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation!



08/13/2025, 3:11 PM Sandy Shettler

I have a comment, thank you!

Berry, Star 08/13/2025, 3:14 PM

Kind request: Please repeat ordinance number. It would assist me if you are able to speak slightly slower if you are listing the ordinances number so that we are able to capture your concerns. Thanks in advance.

08/13/2025, 3:24 PM steve zemke

See <https://seattle.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7423062&GUID=BE94A92B-AE2B-4714-B644-1DEFBE30E86B> for comprehensive plan amendments on CB 120985 and CB 120993. item 10 at the very bottom gives the hearing notice on Sept 12 and item 11 covers the amendments proposed on these 2 bills. Your next meeting is Wed Sept 10th

08/13/2025, 3:55 PM David M

Thanks Steve. Assuming the two June 2025 presentations by Central Staff for the 'SELECT COMMITTEE FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN' were shared in advance with the UFC. Please note the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) on page 9 of the June 5th presentation was in error

[<https://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=14262737&GUID=BB225E45-F22F-4EE6-84EC-A1F52A404430>] and was corrected for F.A.R. on page 10 in the following June 13 presentation. [<https://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=14287304&GUID=E152F6DF-29F9-4245-A0F4-3017F0383AB8>]

08/13/2025, 3:26 PM steve zemke

This link should be in the information sent around as mentioned.

08/13/2025, 3:28 PM Berry, Star

Hi Steve, thanks for your comment to me. I will review this after the meeting.

08/13/2025, 3:38 PM David M

BTW, Lowrise Residential zones (LR1) require 25% of the lot area to be Exterior Amenity Areas with up to half on a roof or balcony. However, this exterior amenity area at LR1 townhouses is often part of a 5-foot wide setback distance that includes underground sanitary sewer, domestic water, and power line trenches.

08/13/2025, 3:57 PM Sandy Shettler

Just noting that Amendment 93 includes minimum planting areas.

08/13/2025, 3:57 PM David M

Tree planting volume may be found in 'draft' Director's Rule 11-2020 ... that UFC may ask to see if it should be edited and issued. Link here

<https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/2020/2020docs/7.30.2020DDR11-2020.pdf>

08/13/2025, 3:59 PM steve zemke

You can review specific amendments



08/13/2025, 4:03 PM steve zemke

Your next meeting is Wed Sept 10. Public Hearing is Fri Sept 12th and City Council will vote in following week or so. So you have time to review and take a vote on amendments on Sept 10th and forward to Council. Council is not going to consider other major amendments but say they can do tweaks on ones proposed.

08/13/2025, 4:06 PM Berry, Star

Thank you. Please use Chat during Public Comment portion as per requested at the beginning of the meeting.

08/13/2025, 4:04 PM Urgenson, Lauren

Updated Amendment Package for Public Hearing Notice.pdf

08/13/2025, 4:15 PM Edited David M

How was 10% derived if Portland is at 20% and 40%? If today's canopy cover averages over 30% canopy cover with Neighborhood residential land, what is the year 2037, year 2060, and year 2075 calculated long-term removal of over 7000 canopy areas within Seattle by only requiring 10% canopy cover? We also know from SDOT planting more trees in Right of Way is limited in not possible to replace a longer term two-third reduction of canopy cover within Neighborhood Residential land.

08/13/2025, 4:16 PM Sandy Shettler

This would be great. It will be before the final vote and will be helpful to Council.

08/13/2025, 4:17 PM Berry, Star

We appreciate your thoughts and ideas. Please refrain from comments in Chat until the allotted time for Public Comment, per the Chair's instructions.

08/13/2025, 4:20 PM David M

Sorry, will refrain as asked,

08/13/2025, 4:21 PM Berry, Star

Appreciate you.

Berry, Star08/13/2025, 4:41 PM

9 more min

08/13/2025, 4:57 PM Whit Bouton (Seattle City Light)

Thank you Star for the updates to keep us paced.

08/13/2025, 4:43 PM Tristan Fields (she/her) #6 LA

I'm experiencing some network issues, so I'll keep my video off to help maintain the connection.

08/13/2025, 4:49 PM Berry, Star

@Drue- 1 min time check

08/13/2025, 4:52 PM Rob Pavlik - CMER Riparian Ecologist



Hello everyone! Appreciate your presentations and time. My name is Rob Pavlik and I am a riparian ecologist in the state's adaptive management program for forest practices. Although my work is not currently related to urban forestry, I am a resident of Seattle and have worked in the field of urban forestry in previous positions. I heard about this commission from a friend who works for the city and am simply attending to educate myself on urban forestry related topics within Seattle. Thank you for having me!

08/13/2025, 4:54 PM Tristan Fields (she/her) #6 LA
Thank you for joining, Rob!

08/13/2025, 4:55 PM Lia Hall #13
Welcome! Hope to have you back

08/13/2025, 4:54 PM Sandy Shettler
As my public comment, I concur with Steve's comment regarding the timing of UFC input. Based on the legislative calendar, it might be a long time until 25.11 and the accompanying development standards in 23 is next opened up. Thank you everyone!

08/13/2025, 4:57 PM David M
Seattle has 7.034 acres of canopy within Neighborhood Residential private land. The lot coverage in average today is 34%. See pages 29 and 34 of the 2021 tree canopy assesement report https://seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OSE/Urban%20Forestry/2021%20Tree%20Canopy%20Assessment%20Report_FINAL_230227.pdf

08/13/2025, 4:57 PM Tristan Fields (she/her) #6 LA
Thank you!