

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 (Real Estate Broker) • Bonnie Lei - Position #10 (Get Engaged)
Whit Bouton - Position #11 (Environmental Justice) • Jessica Jones - Position # 12 (Public Health)
Shari Selch - Position # 13 (Community/Neighborhood)

February 6, 2019

Councilmembers Rob Johnson, Mike O'Brien, Lisa Herbold, and Lorena Gonzalez
Council's Planning, Land Use and Zoning Committee
City Hall
600 4th Ave
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Tree protection ordinance update

Dear Councilmembers,

The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) has noted that you have decided to delay further action on updating SMC 25.11 – Tree Protection Ordinance, until after the proposed MHA Ordinance is passed. The UFC is disappointed that you have decided to delay action until the second quarter of 2019, which is now extending to 10 years since the Seattle City Council passed Council Resolution 31138 to update SMC 25.11.

The UFC does however, view this as a timely opportunity to allow for more interaction between the UFC and the PLUZ Committee to assist in moving the ordinance update forward. Part of the rationale behind the creation of the UFC was to support the City in its update of the tree protection ordinance, which was to be first updated back in 2009.

The Ordinance that created the UFC ([Ordinance 123052](#)) established as one of the UFC's responsibilities *"To provide recommendations on legislation concerning urban forestry management, sustainability and protection of associated trees and understory vegetation and related habitat on public or private property prior to its introduction and referral to any Council committee."*

The original purpose of creating this highly technical commission was to have a group of advisors that could provide a wide range of relevant expertise to support the Mayor and Council as the City undertook updating its tree protection ordinance. The UFC would like to offer this expertise.

The UFC would very much welcome the opportunity for a small group of UFC members to meet regularly with Council and Executive staff involved in the drafting of this legislation over the next several months. In this way, the UFC would be able to participate in the deliberative process and support the update of the tree protection ordinance in partnership with the City, before a new draft is presented to your committee.

We have instructed our staff to reach out to you in order to coordinate these meetings.

The UFC looks forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Weston Brinkley'.

Weston Brinkley, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is cursive and clearly reads 'Steve Zemke'.

Steve Zemke

cc: Mayor Durkan, Council President Harrell, Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember Sawant, Jessica Finn Coven, Nathan Torgelson, Michelle Caulfield, Mike Podowski, Noah An, Maggie Glowacki, Art Pederson, Clayton Antieau, Deborah Brown-McGarry, Chanda Emery, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Sara Maxana, Aaron Blumenthal, Eric McConaghy, Yolanda Ho, Susie Levy, Daniel Strauss, Amanda Hohlfeld

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