



## City of Seattle

### Urban Forestry Commission

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#### SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

**Becca Neumann** (Position 4 – Hydrologist), Co-chair

**Joshua Morris** (Position 7 – NGO), Co-Chair

**Alicia Kellog** (Position 2 – Urban Ecologist) • **Hao Liang** (Position 6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)

**David Baker** (Position 8 – Development) • **Nathan Collins** (Position 9 – Financial Analyst)

**Logan Woodyard** (Position 10 – Get Engaged) • **Jessica Hernandez** (Position 11 – Environmental Justice)

**Jessica Jones** (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*

#### Meeting notes

December 6, 2023, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Via Webex call and in-person at the  
Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 1872 (18<sup>th</sup> floor)  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle

(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 2488 684 7823

Meeting password: 1234

#### Attending

##### Commissioners

Josh Morris – Co-Chair

Becca Neumann – Co-Chair

Alicia Kellogg

Nathan Collins

Logan Woodyard

Lia Hall

##### Absent- Excused

Hao Liang

David Baker

Jessica Hernandez

Jessica Jones

##### Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

Lauren Urgenson – OSE

##### Guests

Allen Taylor, Seattle Arborist Association

##### Public

Steve Zemke

Sandy Shettler

JoAnn Herbert

Tina Cohen

Cathy Baker

**NOTE: Meeting notes are not exhaustive. For more details, listen to the digital recording of the meeting at:**  
<https://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocuments>

**Call to order:** Josh called the meeting to order and offered a land acknowledgement.

**Public comment:**

Steve Zemke noted that the Department of Commerce has proposed model legislation for middle housing ordinances. The deadline for providing comments on it is today; he urged Commissioners to submit comments as individuals. House Bill 1110 said that cities cannot have more stringent requirements for single family housing, regarding trees and other issues, than what is currently in place for single family homes. There are no tree requirements in the model legislation, not even for street trees. He also noted that Councilmember Strauss at the last Land Use Committee meeting said that he would not be moving forward with additional legislation at this point, since there is a report due in mid-2024 as called for in the attachment to the tree ordinance. Lastly, he noted hope that the new schedule of one UFC meeting per month is an experiment and that the UFC will evaluate how that is working and adjust as necessary.

Sandy Shettler noted that her group is releasing a report on SDCI's management of the urban forest, based on examples they have collected over two years. They have a petition attached to the report asking the city to consider having trees as an independent division.

Joann Herbert noted she hopes the city can find ways to prune trees away from power lines with more skill. She is also concerned with the number of trees that are being removed. The city doesn't report on the number of trees removed, as they do report trees planted.

Tina Cohen questioned why there is not an Arborist position on the UFC currently.

Cathy Baker is supportive of the tree ordinance but has had difficulty managing trees on her property under the new ordinance. There are Leland cypress trees on the property that are causing problems, but she can't remove them under the new ordinance. She would like the UFC to consider recommending that species be added to the nuisance species list under the new ordinance.

**Chair, Committees, and Coordinator report:**

Patti provided an update on the timing for the next steps in the Comprehensive Plan update process. The next step in the process is release of the draft plan and Environmental Impact Statement. The original schedule for that was October 2023; OPCD reports that will likely now be early 2024.

Josh provided highlights on the budget outcomes. In addition to providing an additional \$30,000 for the Canopy Equity and Resilience Plan development, Council included two of the UFC's other recommendations: that SDCI develop a monitoring and evaluation plan for trees on private property and that they provide options to improve complaint response times during after-hour emergency response.

**Welcome new OSE UF staff Lauren Urgenson**

Lauren introduced herself and her role in the new Senior Urban Forestry Advisor position. She noted that the role of the position is to knit together the vision and strategy for urban forestry across Seattle departments. One of the near-term projects she'll be leading is the development of the Canopy Equity and Resilience Plan. Questions from Commissioners included plans for working with external stakeholders and organizations in developing the plan.

**Adoption of October 4 and 18 meeting notes**

**Action: A motion to adopt the October 4, 2023 meeting notes as written was made, seconded and approved.**

**Action: A motion to adopt the October 18, 2023 meeting notes as written was made, seconded and approved.**

**2024 Leadership election**

Patti reported that four nominations were received for folks to serve as Co-Chairs in 2024: Josh, Becca, Alicia and Hao. Confirmation was needed as to whether Alicia is able to accept the nomination to serve as Co-Chair,

and Alicia confirmed that she is not able to do so. The remaining nominees discussed their interest in serving as Co-Chairs, with Patti reading information provided by Hao via email since he was not able to attend the meeting. A vote of Commissioners resulted in unanimous election of Josh, Becca and Hao to serve as Co-Chairs for 2024.

### **Tree Protection Ordinance**

#### **- Seattle Arborist Association – implementation observations**

Allen Taylor shared information on what tree service providers are experiencing with the new ordinance.

Observations noted by arborists include:

- Enforcement challenges – they are still seeing unmarked trucks out doing work, while the registered TSPs are trying to follow the complicated new rules.
- Tree list associated with Green Factor is from 2008 and needs updating.
- The Environmentally Critical Areas code was not updated along with the tree ordinance and there are challenging aspects between the two codes that make it hard to comply with.

Allen described an exercise of working through SDCI's system to determine what can/should be done with/about trees. He walked through the process and the various decision points and difficulties in navigating the system. If it's a Tier 1 or 2 tree, you need to review which of the 10 types of permits would be needed for work on or remove it. They are concerned that the complexity of the rules will discourage people from planting trees. He noted that it's a confusing system, it's hard for the tree service provider professionals to figure out, and there isn't one portal folks can refer to.

Questions and comments from the Commissioners included:

- Has the SAA worked with SDCI on this yet? They have asked SDCI to come talk with them but they have not yet done so.
- How does the issuance of permits work? Does an inspector come out prior to the work or after? They do not; it is up to the resident and the TSP to do the work according to the appropriate process. The burden on homeowners could be lifted if a city Arborist would come out to evaluate and potentially make the determination of whether a permit is needed. Inspectors only come out if a complaint is made. SDOT does send out an Arboriculturist to make a first evaluation and only if needed do homeowners need to hire a TSP.
- Does SAA experience inconsistency in evaluation of permit processes?
- With the truck marking requirements, is SAA seeing more illegal removals or is it just more apparent because of the marking requirements?
- They have referred to the simplicity of Portland's model, is that something SAA would recommend Seattle move to? It is good to have one point of contact. Our current system is basically unnavigable for regular folks.
- One intent of the ordinance was to prevent indiscriminate removal of trees – is that happening under the ordinance? The ordinance does protect more trees, and there are more trees planted now.
- Since the process for removing a hazard or dead tree is simpler/easier, has that encouraged people to poison or harm their trees so that they will be allowed to remove? Most of the permits his company helps people get are hazard/dead trees. He has only heard stories of this happening, but he hasn't experienced it firsthand. It's hard to pinpoint cause of death. WSDA regulates pesticide use and is very concerned with any of this kind of activity. There is an incentive to let trees die and that is a concern. E.g., structural flaw in a tree that can be saved with proactive management – the process to get approved is harder than the process to remove a hazard tree.
- What are the recommendations to improve processes
- Has SAA seen any action with the payment in lieu option yet? No; Allen predicts few very will use that option since it is much cheaper to plant a tree on site.

#### **- Subgroup report**

The group has developed a spreadsheet of skills and interests of Commissioners, which Patti shared with Commissioners to fill in their skills and interests. Lia also reminded Commissioners that she would like to highlight Commissioners in a series of social media posts, so she would like Commissioners to provide information. Nathan and Josh met today to initiate budget subgroup work and will have a standing agenda item on that and can provide a social media post.

#### **New and returning council members letters**

Josh described the draft letters he'd prepared to welcome new Councilmembers and congratulate returning Councilmembers. Commissioners discussed and edited the letters. The letter to welcome new Councilmembers was adopted. Commissioners decided to wait on adopting the letter for returning Councilmembers so that additional content can be added.

**Action: a motion to adopt the new Councilmember welcome letter was made, seconded and approved.**

**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>**

#### **Public comment:**

Graham Brooks from Arbor Day Foundation noted his appreciation for the UFC's work, and noted that ADF has a lot of resources to offer in the realm of urban forestry.

Steve Zemke noted appreciation for the SAA presentation. He noted that it doesn't take action of Council to require tree removal permits in Chapter 25.11. He disagrees with the perception that the in-lieu fee option won't be used much. Portland's program is very similar, and they are getting good use of it, about \$1M/year. There is potential there that is not being considered.

Joann Herbert noted appreciation for being able to attend the meeting.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 PM.

#### **Meeting chat:**

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:14 PM

Apologies-- major technical difficulties today!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:15 PM

Here is the link to our report: <https://treeactionseattle.com/sdci>

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:15 PM

Cathy, infrastructure threats are an approved removal justification.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:18 PM

Welcome Lauren!! So excited for you!

from Urgenson, Lauren to everyone: 3:18 PM

Thank you!

from Cathy Baker to everyone: 3:23 PM

Hi Sandy - thank you for that comment; we've talked to the City and a TRAQ arborist and we don't think we qualify

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:26 PM

<https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/ennzxeh6e52imp5u1tv3nqs4pvn76pwr> link to Tier 1 and Tier 2 Cties Middle Housing Model Ordinance

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:28 PM

User Guide for Middle Housing Model Ordinance

<https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/n5to9c3272a43zyoyib68lmtnfod5px5>

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:30 PM

WA State Dept of Commerce - Middle Housing in Washington - <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/growth-management/growth-management-topics/planning-for-middle-housing/>

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:35 PM

Good team for leadership!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:52 PM

It's important to note that developers do NOT need to use Tree Service Providers if their project is vested prior to implementation of that law on 11-10-22.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:52 PM

Maybe city needs to have people file for permit to remove trees and have the information resolved to some degree by city

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:53 PM

The burden of this ordinance falls entirely on arborists who follow the law, and homeowners. Developers operate in a completely different system with no restrictions on who, how or when trees are removed.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:57 PM

Following up on vesting, the "window" for vesting is under consideration to be extended by an additional three years. So development could be exempt from following the TSP for an extremely long time, and we will lose thousands more trees before then, many illegally.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:00 PM

Requiring registration and reporting tree removal should be in place for all tree removal work. It is not a vesting issue but a requirement how tree service providers should operate in city

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:02 PM

Allen, that is right on target and an understatement!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:03 PM

Thank you Steve! That would be the simple solution, and it is also what the public expected when the TSP ordinance passed.

from Jo Ann to everyone: 4:04 PM

Yes on Vashon April 2022 unmarked truck on Sat unwilling to say who hired them, very aggressive when questioned. And took SDCI some many hrs to figure out yes they were paying for that work.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:04 PM

In my neighborhood I have had 3 instances in the last 6 months of tree removal where trees were being removed by unregistered tree service providers in 2 and the third done for a realtor by a landscape person.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:06 PM

That is a horrifying comment about chainsaws.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:07 PM

Yes! We have a Change.org petition asking that our system be set up the same way. In Portland, the Parks Department is the Tree Department. Simple!

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:07 PM

One report with lots of questions asked and pictures allowable to help make determination would work better.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:08 PM

Petition: [https://www.change.org/p/stand-up-seattle-demand-climate-action-to-halt-sdci-s-reckless-deforestation?original\\_footer\\_petition\\_id=9934862&algorithm=promoted&source\\_location=petition\\_footer&grid\\_position=1&pt=AVBldGI0aW9uAP%2FePwIAAAAZWrA%2BK0CcepmNzljMDVjNw%3D%3D](https://www.change.org/p/stand-up-seattle-demand-climate-action-to-halt-sdci-s-reckless-deforestation?original_footer_petition_id=9934862&algorithm=promoted&source_location=petition_footer&grid_position=1&pt=AVBldGI0aW9uAP%2FePwIAAAAZWrA%2BK0CcepmNzljMDVjNw%3D%3D)

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:09 PM

Portland tree removal approval is by their Parks Dept, unless it is in the building footprint - then their Construction Dept makes the decision. On construction projects Parks Dept oversees tree removal

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:09 PM

Boston, Washington DC, New York City, and Portland all have independent urban forestry divisions.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:09 PM

val outside the Building footprint.

from Tina Cohen to everyone: 4:10 PM

The new ordinance puts the burden on homeowners but gives developers a pass regarding removals.

from Lia Hall to everyone: 4:13 PM

Yes we need to incentivize people who retain trees —prop tax break, utility bill break

from Lia Hall to everyone: 4:14 PM

Maintenance fund for low income

from kathy holzer to everyone: 4:15 PM

lots of trees, however, will be removed before they reach 12" dbh.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:15 PM

But, we could have gotten that protection by staying with the old ordinance and having a simple Director's Rule reducing the protected DSH:(

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:17 PM

Lia is right. This is happening. Herbicides and worse. I am helping neighbors dealing with this right now.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:18 PM

Also got tree replacement 12" DSH and larger which was not in old ordinance.

from kathy holzer to everyone: 4:18 PM

poisoning has always happened, but it used to be about the uphill neighbor's view. now maybe also homeowners

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:19 PM

I can take you to three trees going through this right now. I will contact WSDA--thank you Allen.

from kathy holzer to everyone: 4:23 PM

YES! agreed. you can't remove it so it has to fall over because there's no target. somebody has to dismantle the thing at some point. or the birch can't be removed until it's 3/4 dead and not climbable - now what?

someone risks their life if there's no bucket access

from kathy holzer to everyone: 4:27 PM

SDCI needs arborist field staff

from Jo Ann to everyone: 4:28 PM

THANK YOU SANDY SHETTLER

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:29 PM

Agree with Kathy--the Housing and Zoning inspectors SDCI sends have absolutely no idea what they are doing. I feel sorry for them, Our SDCI report shows one measuring DSH at 7-8 feet above the ground. I don't think it was intentional, they just had no training or guidance.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:31 PM

Portland collects about \$1 million a year in in-lieu fees. Been doing for 6 or more years

from kathy holzer to everyone: 4:32 PM

one of the presidents of Plant Amnesty board is a registered consulting arborist

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:32 PM

Portland has more limited on-site planting options, therefore the higher fee intake.

from Jessica Dixon to everyone: 4:33 PM

That discussion will have to include issues of current design standards: "ADUs and DADU's = lot sprawl"

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:35 PM

<https://friends.urbanforests.org/2020/11/27/portland-oregon-again-leading-the-way-on-stronger-tree-protection/> see in-lieu fees

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:40 PM

I love it!

from Tina Cohen to everyone: 4:40 PM

Add that the new regs need to be reviewed and modified

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:41 PM

Ordinance also misspelled I think--was that already caught?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:44 PM

Check out Portland, Oregon trust find in lieu fees here 7 years of reports. Last report was for \$1.8 million.

Future projects \$1.2 to \$1.6 million per fiscal year. <https://www.portland.gov/trees/tree-code-trust-fund-reports>

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:44 PM

Oh sorry that was my monitor! It looks great, including "ordinance":)

from Tina Cohen to everyone: 4:44 PM

Of course Strauss ignored the UFC comments!

**Public input (additional comments received):**

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 10:32 AM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan

<Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi

<Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin

<Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin

<Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby

<Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin

<Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle

<Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: Inside the tumultuous debate behind Seattle's tree ordinance

CAUTION: External Email

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-fe386682765b0ccb&q=1&e=408fca8a-46c4-4bf5-bdca-73017011ed40&u=https%3A%2F%2Fcrosscut.com%2Fenvironment%2F2023%2F09%2Finside-tumultuous-debate-behind-seattles-tree-ordinance>

for those of you not directly knowledgeable about recent events concerning the Tree Removal Ordinance - here's a key part of the story how Dan Strauss sold us out and what happened next, and how the Master Builders (MBAKS) are willing to completely exaggerate (or even lie outright in some cases) to get what they want.

as Danny Westneat pointed out in today's Seattle Times - business is yet again trying to buy the Seattle City Govt, albeit less blatantly this time around but buy them nonetheless:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/business-quietly-bigfoots-the-seattle-elections-this-time/>

kevin orme

Seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 6:26 AM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan

<Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi

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<Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle

<Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
Subject: What raising an orphaned owl taught me about our broken bond with nature

CAUTION: External Email

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/nov/02/carl-safina-orphaned-owl-taught-me-about-our-broken-bond-with-nature-aoe>

An essential reason why habitat, trees and urban greenspace are literally more important by the day in our city environments. It's not just about humans - it's just as much about those with no control over their environment save what we let them have. Which is increasingly nothing - pavement is forever.

kevin orme  
seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 6:14 AM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: Nonprofit Friends Of The Urban Forest Connects People Through 'Greening'

CAUTION: External Email

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/Nonprofit-Friends-Of-The-Urban-Forest-Connects-17689931.php>

"We don't do this work alone. Our collective impact model and our success depends on individuals and groups stepping up to volunteer, to donate financial support for our work and to advocate for their neighborhood and for their community. ... We are able to accomplish more working together, organized and with one common goal, than any of us would be [if] doing this all separately on our own."

One wonders why Seattle City govt is going the **\*\*opposite\*\*** way:

- allowing MBACKS and developers to clearcut lots (and enabling Dan Strauss to make it worse with the bad updates to the Tree Ordinance);
- making the Urban Forester position (still unfilled since this past Jan) largely a PR position for OSE without any authority,
- and turning a blind eye to corruption and blatant developer bias in SDCI for the past many, many years?

kevin orme  
Seattle



-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 11:09 AM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan

<Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi

<Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin

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<Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby

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<Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle

<Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: The Wilderness in Golden Gate Park: Notes of an 81-Year-Old Tree Hugger

CAUTION: External Email

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-27892e032fbc707c&q=1&e=721cff9f-8371-4a08-9f71-9699577e6474&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.counterpunch.org%2F2023%2F05%2F19%2Fthe-wilderness-in-golden-gate-park-notes-of-an-81-year-old-tree-hugger%2F>

not too unlike the endgame being played out in Lincoln Park at the moment in attempting to trade pickleball for bird and wildlife habitat (and their sanity, much less the nearby neighbors) - our city parks, big or small, are far too often taken for granted and treated like they can be just paved over or hacked up at the whims of our Parks dept or when someone comes along and wants some of the land? Much like our residential and street trees citywide, when you think about it..

kevin orme  
Seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 6:57 AM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan

<Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi

<Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin

<Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin

<Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby

<Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin

<Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle

<Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: Meet the tree tenders- These volunteers help keep their city streets green

CAUTION: External Email

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/home/2023/11/07/volunteers-caring-planting-street-trees/>

the majority of city residents believe in tree protection and enhancement as proven by three recent polls:

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-3f527d6a01232777&q=1&e=6682e564-ed69-4838-8d1b-9d360e5210fa&u=https%3A%2F%2Ftreepac.org%2F3401-2%2F>

- why can't the city support this and take control away from SDCI to PROTECT them from the likes of MBAKS, rogue tree companies and developers? As seen in the WPost article:

"It's funny how you appreciate things more when you don't have them," Tabet says.

kevin orme  
Seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 7:14 AM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>

Subject: How protecting trees can fight gentrification

CAUTION: External Email

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-7653978f314d5c4b&q=1&e=e9d64d78-6a21-4fd2-9cef-0e0fa378f248&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hcn.org%2Fissues%2F55.1%2Fsouth-social-justice-how-protecting-trees-can-fight-gentrification>

telling excerpt - that applies in spades to Seattle:

.....Forestry projects target neighborhoods that lack shade, which often have many low-income residents and residents of color, he said, but gentrification often happens faster in those areas than grant-writing, permitting and ecological restoration can keep up with.

"By the time we start doing the project, it feels like half the community is already gone. We're planting trees for wealthier people," he said. "The best way to have canopy is to keep the large trees that we have.".....

kevin orme  
seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Friday, November 10, 2023 7:26 AM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan

<Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>

Subject: Ancient and iconic, these trees are competing for 'Tree of the Year'

CAUTION: External Email

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/15/world/woodland-trust-tree-of-the-year-uk-c2e-spc-scn/index.html>

in the TreePAC SeaCCC candidate questionnaire, candidates were asked about their favorite tree in the city or when they were growing up. nearly all replied with a great story or anecdote - two candidates, one incumbent and one running for office - didn't bother to reply at all to the survey, however.

the way Seattle is going though, iconic trees like these may be all we have left soon if MBAKS and Marco Lowe continue to have their way and keep enabling the agency-wide corruption at SDCI recently reported on by the City Auditor: <https://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12380185&GUID=0A615009-684E-4670-9B9D-FA91113F32FE>

yet again, the choice is ours...

kevin orme  
Seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:13 AM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan

<Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi

<Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin

<Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin

<Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby

<Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin

<Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle

<Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees

<Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>

Subject: Deadliest year on record as Phoenix heat fatalities rise by 50%

CAUTION: External Email

[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/nov/11/phoenix-heat-deaths-record-climate-crisis?CMP=GTUS\\_email](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/nov/11/phoenix-heat-deaths-record-climate-crisis?CMP=GTUS_email)

don't think this can happen to us too? Keep mowing all the trees and greenspace down for developer greed and see how that works out for you. We're about to get a mostly new Seattle City Council - let's do the right thing this coming year instead of turning a blind eye and letting Marco Lowe and MBAKS dictate our future? Pavement is forever and heat islands know no borders.

kevin orme  
Seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 7:22 AM  
To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>  
Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>  
Subject: As climate change progresses, trees in cities struggle (in Seattle)

CAUTION: External Email

<https://apnews.com/article/science-trees-seattle-washington-conifers-7b4428ccddcb05904f478d97b6c4a570>

of course, keeping them healthy is hard enough without MBACKS, Marco Lowe and greedy developers mowing them down while the SeaCC and Mayor look the other way.... :(

kevin orme  
Seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:56 PM  
To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>  
Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>  
Subject: Same old story in Snohomish County...greed wins, trees lose.

CAUTION: External Email

Frognal Estates property could get new owner

<https://www.heraldnet.com/news/frognal-estates-property-could-get-new-owner/>

<https://www.king5.com/article/tech/science/environment/neighbors-want-trees-re-planted-after-clear-cut-if-development-fails/281-01470d4c-ad4e-47b1-90bb-44936263f226>

Developer (literally) bulldozes their way through forest, mows down opposition (and forest) with only one purpose - greed; then overextends themselves and looks to get out of their obligations (and worse - who will put the trees back as the 'development' slides down the hill (literally) into bankruptcy? No. One.

But thanks to Marco Lowe, MBAKS and compliant members of the Seattle City Council this past May - we get the same privilege here - Yay!

kevin orme  
Seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 6:31 AM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan

<Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi

<Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin

<Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin

<Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby

<Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin

<Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle

<Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees

<Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>

Subject: The Urban Heat Island Effect: A Growing Threat to Human Health in Tacoma.

CAUTION: External Email

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-36959f1e4b097f9c&q=1&e=855aae7c-107f-48bd-8e24-541cd8b6cbcd&u=https%3A%2F%2Ftacomatreefoundation.org%2Fblog%2Furbanheatislandtacoma>

Here's how Tacoma are responding to the summer 2021 heat wave - while we put our heads in the sand and continue to clearcut to pad Legacy Capital and similar developer pockets of profit.

Tacoma gets it - why can't we?

kevin orme  
Seattle

**From:** MICHAEL OXMAN <michaeloxman@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Saturday, November 18, 2023 12:30 PM

**To:** dmoehring@consultant.com; stevezemke@msn.com; artartart@seanet.com; Sandy Shettler <sshettler@msn.com>; sgsc-board@googlegroups.com; Stuart Niven <tree.protection.activist@gmail.com>; Suzanne Grant <suzgrant206@gmail.com>; solarhound@gmail.com; Sarajane Siegfriedt <sarajane3h@comcast.net>; Susan Su <susanfsu@gmail.com>; penni cocking <artpcocking@gmail.com>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Andrea Starbird <andrea@seattlearboristassociation.org>; alj@consultant.com; Lakehart, Ali <Ali.Lakehart@seattle.gov>; Dominguez, Edward <edward.dominguez@audubon.org>; Elaine Ike <elaineike@hotmail.com>; Executive Director PlantAmnesty

<executivedirector@plantamnesty.org>; heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>; ivyhaley@msn.com; Isis Charest <isis.charest@gmail.com>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; June BlueSpruce <jbluespruce@gmail.com>; James Davis <jamesdavis1400@gmail.com>; janetway@yahoo.com; jessica.marden@runbox.com; John McNulty <johnm4502@gmail.com>; Josh Morris <joshm@seattleaudubon.org>; Jessica Dixon-Horton <bardjess@msn.com>; jmmoty@gmail.com; Jon Lisbin <me@jonlisbin.com>; Katy Griffith <katygr@msn.com>; Kersti Muul <kersti.e.muul@gmail.com>; knute.berger@crosscut.com; laila <laila.suidan@gmail.com>; Lois Martin <lamartin1@me.com>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Lia H <liayaranon@gmail.com>; lmapes@seattletimes.com; leftymanu@comcast.net; mahlness@halcyon.com; Mary Fleck <maryfleckws@gmail.com>; mobaskin@earthlink.net; Michael Ruby <mruby@envirometrics.com>; mmanous@me.com; Rundquist, Nolan <Nolan.Rundquist@seattle.gov>; Claudia M. Newman Henry <newman@bnd-law.com>; Nadine <nadinechasemorgan@gmail.com>; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; Nancy D. Rottle <nrottle@u.washington.edu>; Nancy Morris <morriscodenancy@protonmail.com>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; Peggy Sturdivant <peggysturdivant@gmail.com>; Projectlorax@runbox.com; pr@robinsonnews.com; Ruth Williams <ruthalice@comcast.net>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; tina@tinacohen.com; Tristan Fields <tristan.fields@gmail.com>; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; Becca Neumann <ufc.pos4@gmail.com>; michaeloxman@comcast.net

**Subject:** Tree Budget Amendments for 2024

**CAUTION: External Email**

Highlights from the city budget document at: [CB 120708 - Amendment Group A Packet v2 \(legistar.com\)](#)

*This Council Budget Action adds 3.0 FTE to the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) to support administration of a five-year \$12 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service*

*"Trees 4 Seattle {Seattle Public Utilities} currently lacks the resources to proactively engage with communities about tree care and stewardship, particularly those who are most impacted by climate and environmental injustice. "*

*"To date in 2023, the average response time for an initial non-emergency inspection is approximately 64 calendar days.*

*SDCI estimates that as many as 12 additional staff would be needed to return to 2018 performance levels."*

*"OPCD and SDCI are requested to develop compliance and effectiveness monitoring processes and to provide regular updates to the public and Council on topics such as, but not limited to: tree removal, replacement trees, preservation of trees on lots undergoing development, tree-related complaints, and the in-lieu fee."*

Some of the amendments are in dollars, and some are in SLI's to request more information by July 31st, 2024

Here's what was passed this week. The following info is also in the attached text file.

These amendment items were approved in the Seattle 2024 budget as part of the Consent Calendar of the Budget Committee on November 14, 2023. The full budget is slated for a vote on November 22nd.

OSE-802-A

Add \$50,000 GF to OSE for urban forestry-related community engagement

SPONSORS

Alex Pedersen, Teresa Mosqueda

DESCRIPTION

This Council Budget Action (CBA) adds \$50,000 GF (one-time) to the Office of Sustainability and Environment

(OSE) to develop, in collaboration with the City's Urban Forestry Management Team, a citywide urban forestry outreach and communication strategy to increase community care for trees. This should include, but not be limited to, providing information related to regulations, volunteer opportunities, tree care, and incentives. Efforts should prioritize considerations relevant to environmental justice and Native American communities. This is one of the priority items included in Seattle's 2020 Urban Forest Management Plan's Action Agenda.

Several years ago, the City established Trees for Seattle (T4S) as the brand for urban forestry efforts to help coordinate interdepartmental work and communication with the public. This has helped to make it easier for community members to contact City departments about trees and receive information about urban forestry-related events and other relevant information from various departments. However, T4S currently lacks the resources to proactively engage with communities about tree care and stewardship, particularly those who are most impacted by climate and environmental injustice. This funding will allow the City to begin such efforts in 2024.

This CBA does not impact the projected ongoing operating deficit in the GF beginning in the 2025-2026 biennium.

ATTACHMENT: No

Staff: Yolanda Ho Page 1 of 2

2024 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

Packet Page 230 of 284

TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME

Dept BSL BCL Year Revenue Expenditure

OSE Office of Sustainability and Environment

00100-BO-SE-X1000 2024 \$50,000

2024 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

OPCD-002S-A

Request that OPCD and SDCI develop a monitoring and evaluation plan for trees on private property

SPONSORS

Alex Pedersen, Lisa Herbold, Dan Strauss

DESCRIPTION

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) requests that the Office of Planning of Community Development (OPCD) and Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) develop a plan to monitor and evaluate the impacts of the City's regulations for trees on private property to ensure that they support the City's goals for tree canopy cover, environmental justice, and climate resilience. The Council passed Ordinance 126821 in May 2023 to update these regulations, which went into effect on July 30, 2023.

The City's goals are to strive to achieve at least 30 percent tree canopy cover by 2037 and 40 percent over time; these were adopted by Seattle's 2007 Urban Forest Management Plan and included in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan. The City's 2021 Tree Canopy Assessment revealed that Seattle's tree canopy cover had decreased from 28.6 percent in 2016 to 28.1 percent in 2021, a net loss equivalent to 255 acres of tree canopy. Further, neighborhoods that experienced greater than average citywide canopy cover loss tended to be those that started with less canopy cover and have been most impacted by racial and economic injustice. The analysis also found that a disproportionate amount of Seattle's tree canopy cover was located in the Neighborhood Residential management unit (which largely aligns with Neighborhood Residential (NR) zones); while it comprised 39 percent of Seattle's land area, it contained nearly half of the city's total canopy cover.

Ordinance 126821 included the following key changes:

- Increasing regulations for smaller trees and requiring replacement of more trees that are removed on lots undergoing development;
- Further restricting tree removal on lots that are developed;

- Establishing a new fee-in-lieu of planting option; and
- Creating a new development area standard in Lowrise, Midrise, commercial and Seattle Mixed zones to simplify SDCI's process for determining whether trees may be removed on lots undergoing development.

These changes are intended to support the City's tree canopy cover target while also taking into consideration other goals related to housing production, environmental equity, and climate resilience.

Staff: Yolanda Ho Page 1 of 2

2024 STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Packet Page 223 of 284

To ensure that the regulations are advancing the City's goals, OPCD and SDCI are requested to develop compliance and effectiveness monitoring processes and to provide regular updates to the public and Council on topics such as, but not limited to: tree removal, replacement trees, preservation of trees on lots undergoing development, tree-related complaints, and the report requested in Attachment 1 to Ordinance 126821 related to the use of the in-lieu fee. These reports should be used to inform evaluation of the regulations and determine if changes should be made to regulations, implementation, or enforcement (see also SLI SDCI-802S-A related to options for improving complaint response times). This effort should also consider strategies for creating outreach materials to developers and the public that illustrate how different types of projects on various zones could be adapted to preserve trees on site. If additional resources are needed to produce such materials, this should be included with the plan.

As OPCD and SDCI develop a response to this SLI, they should engage with the Urban Forestry Commission, Green New Deal Oversight Board, and the Office of Sustainability and Environment. OPCD and SDCI should submit the plan to the Land Use Committee, or successor committee, by July 1, 2024.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Land Use

DUE DATE: July 1, 2024

SDCI-802S-A

Request that SDCI provide options to improve complaint response times including off-hour emergency housing and tree cutting complaints

SPONSORS: Alex Pedersen

DESCRIPTION

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) requests that the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) provide a report on options for code enforcement staffing models to improve response times and increase staff availability to respond to weekend complaints. The report should identify options and needed resources for improving response times to achieve 2018 performance targets for construction, housing, and land use complaints while achieving same-day or 24-hour response times for emergency housing and tree cutting complaints, including complaints made on weekends.

In 2018 SDCI met most enforcement performance targets. Those targets included responding to nonemergency construction complaints within five days, housing complaints within seven days, and land use complaints within ten days. Since then, the volume of code enforcement complaints; response times to complaints; and the average time to resolve violations, where they have been found, have been increasing. Code enforcement staffing has not kept pace with demand. To date in 2023, the average response time for an initial non-emergency inspection is approximately 64 calendar days. Additionally, since 2020, the number of cases resolved through voluntary compliance, as opposed to enforced compliance, has decreased. SDCI estimates that as many as 12 additional staff would be needed to return to 2018 performance levels. The 2024 Proposed Budget Adjustments include a new TRAO-fee funded position and technology improvements, which may improve complaint response and resolution times.



The report should be submitted to the Land Use Committee, or successor committee, by June 28, 2024.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Land Use

DUE DATE: June 28, 2024

#### 2024 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

Packet Page 225 of 284

#### TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME

Dept BSL BCL Year Revenue Expenditure

OPCD Planning and Community Development

14500-BO-PC-X2P00 2024 \$130,000

Page 2 of 2

#### 2024 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

Packet Page 226 of 284

#### BALANCING SUMMARY

Fund 2024 Increase (Decrease) 2025 Increase (Decrease)

General Fund \$0

Total Budget Balance Effect \$0

V1

OSE-001-A

Add 3.0 FTE to OSE included in the Year End Supplemental ORD

SPONSORS: Teresa Mosqueda

#### DESCRIPTION

This Council Budget Action adds 3.0 FTE to the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) to support administration of a five-year \$12 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service) to create programs and policies that address urban forestry community engagement and planning, tree planting and stewardship, natural area restoration, and youth leadership and job training. The positions are funded by this grant and included in the Year End Supplemental ORD; this technical amendment is necessary to make the positions ongoing in OSE's budget through 2028. The three positions are: 1.0 FTE Grant Initiative Manager (Strategic Advisor 2), 1.0 FTE Community Engagement Coordinator (Planning & Development Specialist, Sr), and 1.0 FTE Finance & Data Management Lead (Finance Analyst, Sr), all of which will sunset in December 2028.

ATTACHMENT: No

#### POSITIONS

Dept BCL Year Position Title Positions FTE

OSE 00100-BO-SE-X1000 2024 Fin Anlyst,Sr 1 1.0

OSE 00100-BO-SE-X1000 2024 Plng&Dev Spec,Sr 1 1.0

OSE 00100-BO-SE-X1000 2024 StratAdvsr2,General

Govt

1 1.0

Staff: Yolanda Ho Page 1 of 1

#### 2024 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

Packet Page 227 of 284

#### BALANCING SUMMARY

Fund 2024 Increase (Decrease) 2025 Increase (Decrease)

General Fund \$0

Other Funds \$(30,000)

Total Budget Balance Effect \$(30,000)

V2

OSE-801-A

Add \$30,000 JumpStart Fund to OSE for additional outreach and engagement for the Tree Canopy Equity and Resilience Plan

SPONSORS: Teresa Mosqueda, Tammy Morales

DESCRIPTION

This Council Budget Action (CBA) adds \$30,000 JumpStart Fund (one-time) to the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) to support additional outreach and engagement for the forthcoming Tree Canopy Equity and Resilience Plan. This will bring the total amount of JumpStart Green New Deal funding for developing the plan to \$180,000, including \$150,000 JumpStart Fund (one-time) appropriated for this purpose in OSE's 2023 Adopted Budget.

To create the forthcoming Tree Canopy Equity and Resilience Plan, OSE intends to engage with City departments and community-based organizations to identify strategies and locations for planting, growing, and maintaining trees on private and public land and in the right-of-way, with a focus on lowcanopy neighborhoods in environmental justice priority areas. The plan will build on the findings of the 2021 Tree Canopy Cover Assessment and help the City qualify for future public and private funding opportunities that support the resilience of the tree canopy.

OSE has not yet initiated work on the plan, pending hiring of the Senior Urban Forestry Advisor who will lead plan development, and the department intends to request that the \$150,000 from the 2023 Adopted Budget be carried forward to 2024. This additional appropriation is intended to provide more resources to ensure that the plan is developed with extensive community engagement, with a particular focus on residents in environmental justice priority areas.

The financial plan for the JumpStart Fund included in the 2024 Proposed Budget shows a positive unrestricted fund balance in 2025 and beyond. This CBA will not impact the sustainability of the fund in the future.

Staff: Yolanda Ho Page 1 of 2

2024 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

Packet Page 228 of 284

TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME

Dept BSL BCL Year Revenue Expenditure

OSE Office of Sustainability  
and Environment

14500-BO-SE-X1000 2024 \$30,000

ATTACHMENT: No

Page 2 of 2

2024 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

Packet Page 229 of 284

BALANCING SUMMARY

Fund 2024 Increase (Decrease) 2025 Increase (Decrease)

General Fund \$(50,000)

Total Budget Balance Effect \$(50,000)

V2

OSE-802-A

Add \$50,000 GF to OSE for urban forestry-related community engagement

SPONSORS

Alex Pedersen, Teresa Mosqueda

DESCRIPTION

This Council Budget Action (CBA) adds \$50,000 GF (one-time) to the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) to develop, in collaboration with the City's Urban Forestry Management Team, a citywide urban forestry outreach and communication strategy to increase community care for trees. This should include, but not be limited to, providing information related to regulations, volunteer opportunities, tree care, and incentives. Efforts should prioritize considerations relevant to environmental justice and Native American communities. This is one of the priority items included in Seattle's 2020 Urban Forest Management Plan's Action Agenda.

Several years ago, the City established Trees for Seattle (T4S) as the brand for urban forestry efforts to help coordinate interdepartmental work and communication with the public. This has helped to make it easier for community members to contact City departments about trees and receive information about urban forestry-related events and other relevant information from various departments. However, T4S currently lacks the resources to proactively engage with communities about tree care and stewardship, particularly those who are most impacted by climate and environmental injustice. This funding will allow the City to begin such efforts in 2024.

This CBA does not impact the projected ongoing operating deficit in the GF beginning in the 2025-2026 biennium.

ATTACHMENT: No

Staff: Yolanda Ho Page 1 of 2

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 12:46 PM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>

Subject: Uforest Specialization School: feedback from the students

CAUTION: External Email

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-56eab376f0a320b2&q=1&e=92e2c429-08ae-462a-97dc-af4e0e10f5f7&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.uforest.eu%2Fnews%2Fproject-updates%2Fspecialization-school-feedback%2F>

engaging students and other interested residents early on can reap rewards in both protecting and enhancing urban forests. And most importantly - proving to elected officials (and in Seattle, especially the unelected ones) that people really do care and want to protect them.

kevin orme  
Seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:02 PM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin

<Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>

Subject: Peter Martin spent decades guzzling water around Lāhainā. Then came the fire.

CAUTION: External Email

<https://grist.org/indigenous/developer-peter-martin-west-maui-water-wildfire>

the ultimate end of what happens when you let the rich (developers, McMansions, Private Equity, house flippers) dictate what your housing and resources policies are - then they sue to keep them when you realize your massive mistake. Until we get Developer and McMansion money OUT of City Hall, that's never going to change.

kevin orme  
Seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 7:34 AM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan

<Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi

<Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin

<Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin

<Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby

<Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin

<Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle

<Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees

<Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>

Subject: Oak Island tree canopy study shows improvement, concerns

CAUTION: External Email

[https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-c9bc6aa8a6ef763a&q=1&e=47e687c0-0f1d-480b-ae14-5d6a8458b488&u=https%3A%2F%2Fstateportpilot.com%2Fnews%2Farticle\\_1bb64bc4-8ef4-11ee-b206-1ba04c382256.html](https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-c9bc6aa8a6ef763a&q=1&e=47e687c0-0f1d-480b-ae14-5d6a8458b488&u=https%3A%2F%2Fstateportpilot.com%2Fnews%2Farticle_1bb64bc4-8ef4-11ee-b206-1ba04c382256.html)

"..... there certainly is room for concern. We see increased stormwater issues, even from property to property, that didn't previously exist. Erosion continues. We know the benefit of trees."

but does Seattle? Actions speak louder than words.

kevin orme  
Seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 5:17 AM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>

Subject: How Do Trees Reduce Stormwater and Flooding? (PennState)

CAUTION: External Email

<https://extension.psu.edu/how-do-trees-reduce-stormwater-and-flooding>

if watching a 7 minute video helps Seattle better protect its trees for the stormwater runoff protection they provide, please do it.

Need more detail? read here:

Urban Forests & Stormwater Management:

Water retention, infiltration, and transpiration (US Forest Service)

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/srs/products/compasslive/urban-forests-stormwater-management>

kevin orme  
Seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 8:05 AM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>

Subject: Making Urban Trees Count (Center for Watershed Protection)

CAUTION: External Email

more on stormwater and flooding protection via trees - shall we take action and preserve them? The beauty is - no new construction, just PROTECTION - think about how that helps an already over-burdened City Budget? Hmmm?

Making Urban Trees Count (Center for Watershed Protection)

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-921dd91a965d2b5f&q=1&e=d6fe8559-68ad-41d3-89a6-1683a3e5b988&u=https%3A%2F%2Fcwp.org%2Fmaking-urban-trees-count%2F>

"...the Center reviewed 159 publications to help answer the question "What is the effectiveness of urban tree planting for reducing runoff, nutrients and sediment?"

kevin orme  
Seattle