



City of Seattle
Urban Forestry Commission

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

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

Alicia Kellogg (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist) • **Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA)

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

Draft meeting notes

October 4, 2023, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 2488 602 9416

Meeting password: 1234

Attending

Commissioners

Becca Neumann – Co-Chair

Josh Morris – Co-Chair

Alicia Kellogg

David Baker

Nathan Collins

Logan Woodyard

Lia Hall

Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

Guests

Toby Thaler

Absent- Excused

Stuart Niven

Hao Liang

Jessica Hernandez

Jessica Jones

Public

Sandy Shettler

Steve Zemke

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: Becca called the meeting to order and offered a land acknowledgement.

Public comment:

Sandy Shettler noted that one thing that hasn't been tackled among the UFC's detailed work is where we are with the numbers. The groups she's involved with have been looking at the numbers of legally removed trees, illegally removed trees and trees that are part of vested projects, and determined that it looks like there will be around 4,000 trees removed in 2023.

Steve Zemke recommended in the budget recommendations to remind the Council that they approved four new positions with the tree ordinance; urge that they keep those positions in, given budget challenges.

Toby Thaler seconded the need to support the four positions.

Chair, Committees, and Coordinator report:

Patti noted that the retreat organized by the Center for Regenerative Solutions, for the Urban Heat-Urban Forestry Accelerator program, will be held next week in Cleveland, with representatives from the 16 participating community teams attending. Patti, Weston Brinkley and Miranda Perez from ECOSSE will be attending to represent the Seattle team.

Josh noted that he talked with Naomi Lewis from Councilmember Strauss's office about the recruitment/appointment process and she noted that CM Strauss is still considering putting together a resolution around continued work on the tree ordinance.

Adoption of August 2 and 16 meeting notes

Action: A motion to approve the August 2, 2023 meeting notes as written was made, seconded and approved.

Action: A motion to approve the August 16, 2023 meeting notes as written was made, seconded and approved.

Tree protection ordinance process updates and next steps

- CM Pedersen amendment ordinance support letter

Josh provided background on this, noting that a first draft of a support letter was discussed by the UFC at the previous meeting. Since then, the amendment has been pared back so that it just addresses the Culturally Modified Trees. It would add the requirement that when any Tier 2 tree is part of a development project the City has to check with the Department of Historical and Archaeological Preservation to verify whether the tree is on the list of known archaeological sites. If a tree is on the list, additional process would need to be initiated before it can be removed.

Josh reviewed the draft letter for the UFC to provide support for this amendment. Councilmember Pedersen provided some additional background around the ordinance process and this amendment, and Commissioners discussed and edited the letter.

Action: A motion to approve the letter in support of the tree ordinance amendment was made, seconded and approved.

- TPO subgroup report

- o Josh and Patti provided updates on the status of the joint letter from the UFC and the Green New Deal Oversight Board regarding establishment of a Climate Enhancement Task Force. The UFC approved the joint letter and the GNDOB's Executive Committee is reviewing it now because it has been updated since the GNDOB approved a draft letter in September.
- o The subgroup has been discussing possibilities for the UFC hosting some of its meetings out in community and also joining other community meetings. There is a spreadsheet started to note opportunities for meeting with community groups, and the slide deck that Josh and Lia

used for their visit to the Rainier Beach Community Club can be used as a starting point for a general slide deck UFC members can use for this.

- Josh noted that there are places in the work plan that UFC members haven't been able to get work done, including the Diversity and Equity Committee work, which is actually required per the UFC Bylaws. The subgroup discussed the possibility of reducing the regular UFC meetings to one per month and reserving another Wednesday for other/committee work. Patti will draft a revision to the bylaws to accommodate that.

City Proposed Budget Review

Josh reviewed the previous budget recommendations letter the UFC submitted earlier this year. He then provided an overview of his findings in reviewing the Proposed Budget published last week. The budget will be adopted by Council November 21, and proposed amendments are due October 20, so the UFC should make sure to get updated recommendations submitted far enough in advance of that.

Josh reviewed a document he started, compiling initial thoughts on what to include in the next recommendation letter. The UFC will hold a Special Meeting next Thursday, 4:00-5:00 p.m. to review and adopt recommendations.

Work Plan Review

Commissioners continued discussion on updates to the work plan. Suggestions/questions for various work plan items included:

- Tracking state legislation that potentially impacts tree issues here in Seattle; example: a potential code update related to wildland urban interface requirements for building construction.
- Regarding community engagement, there is need to identify what community members want to know/learn from the UFC.
- How to structure UFC meetings so they engage community in a better way than two hours of observing UFC work. Consult with GNDOB on how they run their meetings and involve community; develop recommendations for adapting UFC meetings and protocols.
- Potential to have subcommittee work on updating/streamlining work plan.

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:

Steve Zemke noted that OSE's Greenspace Blog included information on the budget; the UFC could use that as a resource for more budget information. The payment in lieu fund amounts are currently low for the estimated amounts going to SPR and SDOT; those should increase over time. He also calculated how much it would cost to plant enough trees to replace the 255 acres lost as calculated with the last canopy cover assessment, which would be \$62-88M. This reinforces that it is very important to retain the trees we have because it is very expensive to replace them.

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

Meeting chat:

from Alicia Kellogg she/her to everyone: 3:08 PM

Do we know how that number (4000 trees in 2023) measures up against other years?

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:18 PM

Thank you Alicia for that question and hopefully we'll be able to answer it over time. Here's a link to the Tree Action Seattle website's monthly tracker on notices of tree removals. (this excludes ROW removals, illegal removals and removals whose notices continue to be approved under the old code, which are paper only)

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:19 PM

<https://treeactionseattle.com/actions/eyes-and-ears-fall>

from Alicia Kellogg she/her to everyone: 3:21 PM

Thank you Sandy!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:25 PM

Thank you CM Pedersen for your hard work to both protect trees and recognize tribal sovereignty.

from Pedersen, Alex to everyone: 3:30 PM

Thank you, everyone, for all you do for our tree canopy and for our planet! You can reach out to Toby Thaler in my office for advice on TPO going forward and budget process.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:33 PM

Lia, thank you for leading this. I often hear people in the community asking about coming to meetings, ideally not during the late afternoon--with school pick-ups etc.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:35 PM

Yes, almost every meeting I go to is hybrid so it shouldn't be too hard:)

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:35 PM

South Park Neighborhood Association would appreciate a meeting. They meet in the evenings.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:37 PM

I have contacts with the South Park group and would glad to connect you

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:37 PM

1st Tues this Nov is Election Day

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:38 PM

I think having a real meeting is more valuable so they can see what kind of business is being conducted.

Better than an "info" program.

from Alicia Kellogg she/her to everyone: 3:44 PM

Georgetown Steam Plant?

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:44 PM

Yes! I will do that Patti, thank you.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:45 PM

What about Lake City? They are experiencing daily illegal tree removals in their urban heat island.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:46 PM

Seems meetings should relate to issues in their areas and having discussion and feedback.

from Lia Hall to everyone: 3:48 PM

I agree that making those existing community org connections is important ahead of meetings, but want to also loop general community members into our regular meetings as Sandy mentioned.

Also want to be conscientious of asking commissioners to take extra time outside of our regular meetings.

from Mary Manous, Cascadia Climate Action to everyone: 3:51 PM

WSU's Joey Hulbert is studying the health of forests

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:57 PM

The planting numbers pale in comparison to the annual losses.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:59 PM

Mayor's 2024 Mid-Biennial Budget Update Continues Seattle's Dedication to Community Driven initiatives for Climate Justice

New capacity in climate and environmental justice grantmaking and continued grantmaking to support community-led solutions to address racial, economic, and environmental injustice (\$2M).

Continued investment in Indigenous sustainability projects that honor Tribal sovereignty and advance Indigenous led approaches to climate action (\$2.6M.)

Completing the Tree Canopy Equity & Resilience Plan, a City-community roadmap to equitably meet Seattle's canopy goals and increase the climate resilience of the urban forest.

Continue investing in new tree planting in low canopy industrial neighborhoods at higher risk for extreme heat, pollution, and health disparities (\$300K).

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:59 PM

That is strategic Josh! Thank you for the hard work reviewing this.

from Alicia Kellogg she/her to everyone: 4:03 PM

stepping away for a phone call

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:05 PM

POSITION QUANTITY/TYPE ANNUAL COST FUND SOURCE

Land Use Environmental Analyst (permit reviewer) 1.0 FTE \$161,000 Fees

Inspection Services Site Inspector 1.0 FTE \$148,000 Fees

Land Use Management Systems Analyst Supervisor (tree tracking) 1.0 FTE \$167,000 Fees

Total 3.0 FTE \$476,000 Fees

from Alicia Kellogg she/her to everyone: 4:06 PM

back

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:07 PM

Education is key--even Burien did an extended PSA campaign when they passed a new tree ordinance. Seattle has not done anything except at TIP sheet and emails to their existing list as far as I know. That makes it hard for everyone.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:08 PM

What is status of urban forester position in OSE?

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:10 PM

I LOVE Trees 4 Neighborhoods!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:12 PM

This is appalling.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:12 PM

But it's predictable. The on-site option will be chosen most often, even if the trees will have no hope of ever becoming large.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:13 PM

During the TPO discussions, this estimate of around \$200k per year was estimate so it should be no surprise unfortunately.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:14 PM

Where is SDOT position that was proposed in Tree Ordinance process?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:15 PM

See above for 3 positions proposed in SDCI for Tree Ordinance work.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:17 PM

Thank you Steve!!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:19 PM

Good question Josh. Burien did it prior to implementation--they had a "grace period" Yes the Webinar is on the 14th

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:20 PM

9-11 am on 10/14 Wendy is the PR spokesperson for SDCI

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:20 PM

I'll get it!

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:20 PM

See above for Mayor Harrells proposed tree items in budget - was posted on OSE's blog Greenspace -

<https://greenspace.seattle.gov/2023/09/the-mayors-2024-mid-biennial-budget-update-continues-seattles-dedication-to-community-driven-initiatives-for-climate-justice/#sthash.JgFl2ftB.dpbs>

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:23 PM

<https://outlook.live.com/mail/0/inbox/id/AQMkADAwATcwMAItODBIMC1mOTezLTAWAi0wMAoARgAAA66pRmjZ7uVKtI8GawNoQggHACeMi7I5RIhJpFC9Z0UWJ44AAAIBDAAACeMi7I5RIhJpFC9Z0UWJ44ABsO51HoAAA A%3D>

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:23 PM

That's the link for the SDCI tree webinar

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:23 PM

in lieu fees are low now because vested properties undergoing development before ordinance passed are not required to pay in lieu fees. Portlands in lieu fees are generating about \$1 million dollars per year. after having been in place for about 5 years or so.

from Alicia Kellogg she/her to everyone: 4:24 PM

Sandy that link isn't working for me, it's prompting me to sign in to Microsoft Outlook

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:24 PM

Ouch let me try again:)

from Lia Hall to everyone: 4:25 PM

i can make it work

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:25 PM

<https://seattle.gov/sdci/about-us/stay-connected/public-meetings-and-events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D168742210>

from Alicia Kellogg she/her to everyone: 4:25 PM

Thanks Sandy, that works for me!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:26 PM

Oh good, sorry for the mixup!

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 4:27 PM

Thank you, Sandy!

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 4:28 PM

<https://www.seattle.gov/city-budget-office/budget-archives/2023-2024-proposed-budget>

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:37 PM

Thank you all for your hard work. I have to go to another meeting and will look forward to seeing you next time!

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 4:38 PM

I'm going to leave you all to your good work as well. Thanks very much for what you do.

from Logan Woodyard to everyone: 4:41 PM

I have to pop off to catch a ride home from the office! Will follow up on action items sent out in the email.

Public input (additional comments received):