Urban Forestry Implementation Partners
Urban Forest Management Plan Update Listening Session
9/25/18

<u>Staff present:</u>
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1. Background presentation
2. Questions on process / timeline for plan update
    - How can we have a conversation that is not limited to the urban forest?
    - How does Council's tree regulation update link with the plan update?
3. Listening session for future UFMP content
    a. The values below are meant to help guide the development of the new Urban Forest Management Plan. How would you add to / strengthen these values?
        i. Include a value to create an opportunity to work with schools.
        ii. Simplifying the values would make them more accessible for people. The simpler, the better.
        iii. Are these values or commitments?
        iv. Include collaboration, partnership, accountability.
        v. Livability is a value that captures several of the concepts included.
        vi. Instead of Value # 1 include community health, environmental health.
        vii. Include appropriately valuing trees.
        viii. Human health is first.
        ix. #4 include profession best management practices for tree crews, arborists.
        x. Data driven and scientific.
        xi. Equity – like that this concept is called out to engage diverse communities.
        xii. Include job development and skills development.
        xiii. How is the plan tied to funding? Build a clear plan laying out how to accomplish goals and identify where the gaps are.
        xiv. Highlight resilience and long-term thinking as a value. A commitment to the trees.

    b. What are the highest priority issues that you/your organization would like to see addressed in the new UFMP?
        i. Job creation as part of the Equity & Environment Initiative should be part of the plan.
        ii. More focus on maintenance. Need money and resources. Consider tree planting as part of the Operations & Maintenance budget. Fund ongoing tree care and volunteer support.
        iii. How much awareness is there around street trees?
        iv. Connectivity. This is an opportunity to have qualitative goals that might not be data-driven but more outcomes-based.
        v. Provide strategies to increase diversity and resilience of the urban forest.

vi. Is there a threshold of when a tree is a tree? There are areas that can only accommodate single trees.

vii. Consider the importance of the understory.

viii. Unimproved right-of-way provides an opportunity for high-quality understory plants.

ix. Acknowledge increased density. Recognize the value of natural areas for urban residents.

c. What specific goals or actions would you/your organization like to see included in the new UFMP?

i. Job training.

ii. Figure out what are some of the barriers.

iii. There is good guidance from National Audubon regarding different plants providing habitat for different birds.

iv. Figure out how the tree value piece is communicated. There are many benefits provided by trees that need to be valued: mental health, human health (they could support the advocacy message).

v. Give people tools where they live to create wildlife habitat in the city.

vi. SDOT could work on maintaining all the trees at the level of effort they put on Mercer Street.

vii. People should see green space as a valuable asset.

viii. Programs lich Youth Corps and DIRT Corps are very successful and encourage people to plant trees in their yards. A few dollars have a huge impact. Those programs are good leveraged investments.

ix. Pay people – make training programs longer than 8 weeks. Provide more long-term options.

x. Volunteers are not free. What does it take to have high-quality volunteer programs? Build partnerships.

xi. Create a database of non-profits that work in green space/urban forestry. They have a large combined budget. Act in concert in many initiatives with the one-forest concept. Agree on what needs to happen and enroll NGOs to come together with City government around a vision. This could be a great opportunity.

xii. It's a fun industry (a feel-good industry). Make the plan update fun so that it stands out and gets non-tree people to engage.

xiii. Everything stops at city limits – need to coordinate across city limits to engage in regional work.

xiv. Track and promote stories on urban forestry implementation projects.

d. What are your/your organization's goals for the next 5 years? How would you like to work with the City in the future?

i. Have impacts for urban forestry beyond city boundaries (like the Green Cities Partnership that goes from Everett to Kent).

     ii. Habitat connectivity is key. The neighborhood flyways campaign tells people what they can do to enhance connectivity for birds and make a difference.

     iii. Working on regional canopy assessment. This is a regional effort.

     iv. Support furthering science around tree health and mental health.

     v. Tree planting.

     vi. How are se supporting communities through grants and NGO resources?

     vii. Trees are showing signs of stress. Help everyone understand what's happening around climate change.

     viii. Long term thinking and commitment to trees as a valuable resource.

   e. How can the City better communicate with the general public?

     i. The plan could be an ongoing tool for neighborhood groups to share a vocabulary, goals, and actions to reinforce what the City is doing.

     ii. Like the concept of a single urban forest where all trees matter. Every tree is part of the urban forest.

     iii. Talk to the community about Increasing everyone's ability to enjoy the positive benefits of trees.

     iv. Enabling conditions. What enables communities to take care of trees in their neighborhoods? Focus on communicating this.

Draft Urban Forestry Values:

- ***Ecosystem and human health***: maximizing the mental health and human well-being, air quality, water quality, storm water runoff reduction, carbon sequestration, recreation, wildlife habitat, beauty, and other benefits of trees

- ***Commitment to equity***: including diverse perspectives and equitable distribution of urban forestry resources and program

- ***Community stewardship***: engaging the Seattle community, including residents and businesses, in appreciating and caring for the urban forest

- ***Tree health, human safety, and property protection***: keeping the urban forest healthy using best management practices with a focus on public and crew safety

- ***Good governance***: working in conjunction with other City and community goals such as transportation, utility provision, and housing