



SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

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

Hao Liang (Position 6 – Landscape Architect – ISA), Co-Chair

Alicia Kellogg (Position 2 – Urban Ecologist) • **David Baker** (Position 8 – Development)

Nathan Collins (Position 9 – Financial Analyst) • **Logan Woodyard** (Position 10 – Get Engaged)

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

June 12, 2024, 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: 2492 129 3719

Meeting password: 1234

Attending

Commissioners

Josh Morris – Co-Chair

Hao Liang, Co-Chair

Alicia Kellogg

David Baker

Logan Woodyard

Jessica Jones

Lia Hall

Absent- Excused

Becca Neumann – Co-Chair

Nathan Collins

Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

Guests

Public

Steve Zemke

Martha Baskin

Michael Oxman

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 he appreciates the work being done around the chat function and noted its value. He urged the UFC to review the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners' presentation on forestry in Parks that is available online; it could be helpful in UFC work moving forward. He recommends taking a close look at SDCI's Omnibus bill, particularly the provisions and updates around Tree Protection Areas.

Martha Baskin noted that the chat function is critical for people to be able to use. She expressed concern that the UFC was not updated on the SDCI Omnibus bill earlier. She questioned why the vacant UFC positions have not been filled.

Michael Oxman expressed appreciation for the UFC's volunteer work and noted the importance of filling the vacant positions. Regarding the Omnibus bill, he expressed the opinion that the Tree Protection Area is a critical topic. The tree ordinance currently is too rigid in this regard; more flexibility could retain more trees.

Chair, Committees, and Coordinator report:

Patti covered several topics:

- Chat function – the chat function will be available for this meeting. OSE received advice from the City Attorney's Office about its use and compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act that will be covered in the presentation later today. Any messages put into the chat will need to be read out to be in compliance with OPMA, if those messages are incorporated into UFC work. There will also be a bike rack developed for topics that come up in comment to make sure they are recorded in a place that can be followed up on for those things that Commissioners are interested in.
- Recruitments – OSE is very interested in beginning recruitment for the vacant UFC positions, and is working through the steps internal to the City that need to be done in order to begin the recruitment process. The UFC is not the only Board with vacant positions and delays in recruitments. The need to fill the UFC positions is a high priority and OSE is working hard to get the recruitment process initiated.
- Retreat – OSE is working to plan for and schedule a UFC retreat for this fall. This retreat will focus on grounding in the UFC values and goals, evaluation of UFC processes and procedures, and updating the work planning process. There will be more information on that as plans advance for it.
- Washington Community Forestry Council seeking members – The Washington Community Forestry Council is recruiting for up to five positions to start in January. There is a wide range of interests represented on the Council and professionals with non-traditional experience in urban forestry or natural resource management are encouraged to apply. The council is seeking to diversify its membership and welcomes new perspectives. They expect this recruitment to be open for about three months to give time for people to apply and to attract a robust pool of potential applicants to select from. Final recommendations for new members will be forwarded to the Commissioner of Public Lands later this fall.
- Climate Resilience Strategy – the WA Department of Ecology just released its Climate Resilience Strategy with opportunity for public comment. There are numerous references to forests and adaptation (community forestry, tree equity collaborative, watershed resilience program, beaver dam analogs, seedling supply, fire management and more) as well as an appendix from the Climate Impacts Group about measuring and evaluating resilience.

Hao provided the update that he will need to step down from his position on the UFC due to family needs. He expressed his appreciation for his experience on the UFC and noted that the July meeting will be his last meeting.

Adoption of May 8 meeting notes

Action: A motion to approve the May 8 meeting notes as written was made, seconded and approved.

Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections updates – Christy Carr, SDCI

Christy provided background information on SDCI's process for updating legislation through their Omnibus legislation process, and she walked through the items included in the Omnibus legislation. She provided information on SDCI's outreach materials, including the updates to their informational TIP sheets and new Director's Rules. She also introduced SDCI's new tree tracking data map and walked through how that works.

Questions and comments from Commissioners included:

- The tree protection area topic is confusing as to when it can or can't be modified; can clarity be provided on this?
- It was disappointing that the public comment period for the Omnibus legislation was at the same time as the Comp Plan comment period.
- Confirmation that Director's Rule 11-23, which addresses some unintended consequences related to tree protection area stemming from the new tree ordinance, is not moving forward to be finalized.
- Regarding the new tree tracking map, the symbol for "protected tree" includes trees that were not part of a project decision, so shouldn't be captured under that category; can the map be amended so that those trees have a different symbol?
- Can the map be used to note illegal tree removals (e.g. a tree that is supposed to be there is no longer there)?

Presentation debrief

Commissioners discussed bike rack items to revisit in the future:

- Spend more time on the two definitions of Tree Protection Area and when they are used.
- Updating the map to clarify the definition of "protected trees" and how the tree tracking data is visualized.

Boards and Commissions protocols and practices – OSE

Patti provided an overview of Seattle's Boards and Commissions, and reviewed OSE's work with three of these groups, including the Green New Deal Oversight Board, the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board, and the UFC. Patti noted that there are many aspects to how the city's Boards and Commissions do their work, and there will be more discussion on a broader range of protocols and practices at the UFC retreat later in the year. This presentation included one aspect of Boards and Commissions work and support, which is public participation and input. OSE has been doing research with other Boards and Commissions liaisons and with the City Attorney's Office and Patti shared some results of that research.

Comments from Commissioners included:

- Lia wondered what the impetus was for looking into the chat function issues; she noted that it seemed like it was an intent to overhaul how the UFC does its work and functions.
- Josh noted that he appreciates what is gained from the chat, but understands the challenge and the need to figure out how to do it legally.
- Lia noted that it is important to retain the ability of the public to weigh in and to add their expertise. She noted she would like to see a more diverse array of members of the public able to comment and participate.
- One suggestion is to include a public comment period for each agenda item.
- Logan noted that there are a lot of community voices and special interest groups providing their input and concerns, and Commissioners don't have the context to understand the priorities of each group weighing in. This can make it confusing, and she wonders if it can skew the thinking of the Commission to be hearing from the interest groups.

- Hao expressed appreciation for the robust conversation on this topic, given where he comes from. The UFC does encourage active participation of the public and advocating for their rights.

Subgroup reports

- **Diversity and Equity**

The group met since the last meeting; they continue to evaluate UFC actions and challenges and how they might be updated and addressed.

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:

Michael Oxman noted that he submitted a code compliance complaint and was told there is a 65-day waiting list for the investigator to look into the complaints. He wonders how much money has come in from payments-in-lieu and in fines. Regarding the tree protection area: arborist reports can only be done by certified arborists because it's complicated. He noted that the chat is multi-media.

Steve Zemke emphasized Sandy's note that the residential small lot zoning is not part of the Neighborhood Residential zone according to the maps; it is listed as a separate zone when you look at the maps. He noted that the tree protection information in different parts of the tree ordinance are inconsistent with each other. He noted that there are parts of the Director's Rule for Exceptional trees that are in conflict with the ordinance. He noted that the UFC subgroup meetings originally were open to public, and he urged folks to use discretion in using the chat as the UFC is deliberating.

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

Meeting chat:

from Lia Hall UFC13 to everyone: 3:17 PM

we'll miss you Hao! I understand the 2 small kid struggle though!

from David Gloger to everyone: 3:24 PM

How do you decide which issues brought up by residents are addressed in the amendments.

from David Gloger to everyone: 3:29 PM

Disappointing that the comment period for the omnibus legislation was during the same time as the comprehensive plan.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:31 PM

A note on the Tree Protection Area: Bellevue is poised to adopt a new tree code. They define this area in the same way, i.e. 1" radius to 1-ft area. However, they add a sentence that "it may instead be determined by a Qualified Tree Professional." This allows for site-specific and tree-specific design.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:31 PM

Question: why are there two definitions of TPA? What is the function?

from steve zemke to everyone: 3:33 PM

25.11.060 and 25.11.070 are in direct conflict

from steve zemke to everyone: 3:35 PM

25.11.070 applies during tree development which then allows no modification of TPA

from David Gloger to everyone: 3:35 PM

The 1 inch to 1 foot tree protection area determination seems to make it easier for a developer to cut down a tree; rather than using the dripline.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:36 PM

Agree with Steve. The public was hoping that statements which contradict each other in the code would be corrected in a clean-up bill. Otherwise, what is the point of "clean-up" if the contradiction remains?

from Hao Liang to everyone: 3:36 PM

<https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/2023/2023Docs/DDR112023082423.pdf>

from Martha Baskin to everyone: 3:39 PM

Please clarify the impetus for the Omnibus bill.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:45 PM

I have a question about illegal tree removals in ECAs. I understand this is now capped--under the new ordinance, as a fine of \$5k max. Whereas the old ordinance allowed the fine to include the value of the tree--exponentially more.

from Hao Liang to everyone: 3:50 PM

need to hop off for 20 mins, brb

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:54 PM

On the zoning map, RSL is completely different--listed as separate from Neighborhood Residential, not contained within it.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:56 PM

Please look at this zoning map. South Park is zones industrial. Within South Park there is no Neighborhood Residential. All of their residential is RSL:

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:56 PM

<https://seattle.gov/dpd/research/GIS/webplots/Smallzonemap.pdf>

from James Davis to everyone: 3:58 PM

Perhaps a schemata on how a green dot on map becomes a red x might be informative.

from Alicia Kellogg to everyone: 4:00 PM

I need to take off early today. Thanks Christy!

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:01 PM

Again smc 25.11.060 is in direct conflict with 25.11.070 in saving trees

from Hao Liang to everyone: 4:06 PM

I'm back

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:10 PM

Public comment on draft Director's Rule on Designation of Tier 2 trees is due on June 24th.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:12 PM

Director's Rule on Tier 2 trees is Director's Rules 7-24 <https://web.seattle.gov/dpd/dirrulesviewer/>

from David Gloger to everyone: 4:19 PM

I think that the Tier 2 DR is 7-2023

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 4:25 PM

What values and interests around public comment do you want to make sure are upheld and uplifted?

How can the UFC achieve those values while complying with OPMA and using best practices?

What other alternatives might there be?

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:29 PM

There is a name for Chat. It is called multi-media. Hope this helps.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:31 PM

I agree that the public chat is valuable. Many of the commissioners offer expertise in backgrounds other than urban forestry and can use the references and links in the chat are a way to resolve questions that come up.

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 4:32 PM

I'd like to see a formal opinion from City Law Dpt explaining how OPMA requires reading of all comments.

This is an instance where waiver of attorney-client privilege is warranted. IMHO.

from Martha Baskin to everyone: 4:33 PM

The UFC's role is to both represent and inform the public, to deny the public a role in the course of deliberations, negates that.

from David Gloger to everyone: 4:35 PM

Earlier presentations talked about the value of public input so don't deter it now.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:37 PM

People can click on chat and have it available for those on line to see.

from Barbara to everyone: 4:42 PM

I appreciate the chat and feels it truly allows public participation. It also seems to work for clarification when needed, without interrupting the meeting as a whole.

Public input (additional comments received):

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

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2024 9:24 PM

To: LEG_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>;

PCD_OneSeattleCompPlan <OneSeattleCompPlan@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@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>; Wong, Greg

<Greg.Wong@seattle.gov>; Nelson, Sara <Sara.Nelson@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>;

Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Hollingsworth, Joy <Joy.Hollingsworth@seattle.gov>; Kettle, Robert

<Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov>; Morales, Tammy <Tammy.Morales@seattle.gov>; Rivera, Maritza

<Maritza.Rivera@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Moore, Cathy

<Cathy.Moore@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Ko, Elaine <Elaine.Ko@seattle.gov>; Marx,

Heather <Heather.Marx@seattle.gov>; Gheisar, Leyla <Leyla.Gheisar@seattle.gov>; Turla, Alexis

<Alexis.Turla@seattle.gov>; Carey, Imani <imani.carey@seattle.gov>; Chow, Evelyn

<Evelyn.Chow@seattle.gov>; Bowers, Logan <Logan.Bowers@seattle.gov>; Altshuler, Alex

<Alex.Altshuler@seattle.gov>; Sykes, Wendy <Wendy.Sykes@seattle.gov>; Maxwell, Sasha

<Sasha.Maxwell@seattle.gov>; Thoreson, Hannah <Hannah.Thoreson@seattle.gov>; Aldrich, Newell

<Newell.Aldrich2@seattle.gov>; Enbysk, Amy <Amy.Enbysk@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate

<Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Rodriguez, Anthony <Anthony.Rodriguez@seattle.gov>; Smith, Steven (LEG)

<Steven.Smith@seattle.gov>; Duran, Rebecca <Rebecca.Duran@seattle.gov>; Lo, Brent

<Brent.Lo@seattle.gov>; Mohn, Jeremy <Jeremy.Mohn@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin

<Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; Beckerman, Melisa <Melisa.Beckerman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi

<Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>

Subject: Why every tree matters? It brings down temperature by 6-8°C

CAUTION: External Email

"With Ahmedabad getting roasted at 44.5 degrees Celcius on Saturday - the highest temperature recorded this season - it is a grim reminder of the fast pace at which the city has lost its trees. According to Indian State of Forest Report, Ahmedabad's green cover got curtailed by 47% between 2011 and 2021 from 17.9 sq km to 9.4 sq km."

so for our measures, that's 11.12 sq miles down to 5.84. And a temp diff of about 42 degrees F?!

We may tell ourselves that here in the PNW it can't get that bad - but that's because we still ****have**** trees (at the moment). But the more we pretend there's no problem and keep paving everything in sight- we know where that leads...

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-8184f3762bd500f2&q=1&e=c736487e-03bd-4961-9b7a-4f9b0ae95359&u=https%3A%2F%2Ftimesofindia.indiatimes.com%2Fcity%2Fahmedabad%2Fwhy-every-tree-matters-it-brings-down-temperature-by-6-8c%2Farticleshow%2F110243774.cms>

kevin orme

Seattle

From: Steve Zemke <stevezemke@msn.com>

Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:53 PM

To: PCD_OneSeattleCompPlan <OneSeattleCompPlan@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce

<Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Cc: Morales, Tammy <Tammy.Morales@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Hollingsworth, Joy <Joy.Hollingsworth@seattle.gov>; Saka, Rob <Rob.Saka@seattle.gov>; Rivera, Maritza <Maritza.Rivera@seattle.gov>; Moore, Cathy <Cathy.Moore@seattle.gov>; Kettle, Robert <Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov>; Woo, Tanya <Tanya.Woo@seattle.gov>; Nelson, Sara <Sara.Nelson@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>

Subject: Additional Comments on draft One Seattle Comprehensive Plan

CAUTION: External Email

1. Land Use Goal 4.8 Use **urban forest and** tree requirements to preserve and enhance Seattle's **environmental**, physical, aesthetic and cultural character and to enhance the value of trees in addressing **human health and safety, environmental justice, climate resiliency**, stormwater management, pollution reduction and heat island mitigation.
1. In the Climate and Environment Section, p 149, of the draft One Seattle Comprehensive Plan, the heading Tree Canopy, should be changed to **Urban Forest and** Tree Canopy.
2. Discussion - Seattle's **urban forest and** tree canopy is fundamental to our quality of life, especially as Seattle continues to grow and experiences the impacts of climate change. The urban forest consists of trees and associated understory plants and provides crucial ecosystem services, such as stormwater reduction, **climate resiliency, human health and safety**, air pollution removal, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and tree canopy area **and volume** that mitigates heat island impacts **and advances environmental equity**

Goal CE G12 Seattle has a healthy urban forest with a tree canopy that covers at least 30% of the land **by 2037, 40% over time and** which maximizes the environmental, economic, social, **human health and safety**, and climate related benefits of trees.

add goal CE12.10 **Strive to maximize tree retention and tree planting on both developed property and property being developed on both public and private land.**

Rationale for adding urban forest and most items above is legislative amendments noted in text below. **Highlighting is mine (SZ) for pointing out specific sections relevant to language additions proposed above. Underlined areas in E2SHB 1181 are new amendments added to the 2023 legislation.**

The Washington State Legislature in 2023 passed [E2SHB 1181](#) - *AN ACT Relating to improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's planning framework.*

Italicized text below is from E2SHB . Underlined items are amendments added to the Washington State Growth Management Act. It specifically refers to the use of the words "urban forests" as an element that must be addressed not just tree canopy. The highlighted areas point out the

*Section 1.(14) Climate change and resiliency. Ensure that comprehensive plans, development regulations, and regional policies, plans, and strategies under RCW 36.70A.210 and chapter 47.80 RCW adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate; support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled; **prepare for climate impact scenarios; foster resiliency to climate impacts and natural hazards; protect and enhance environmental, economic, and human health and safety; and advance environmental justice.** ...*

Section 3.(3) The comprehensive plan of a county or city that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall consist of a map or maps, and descriptive text covering objectives, principles, and standards used to develop the comprehensive plan. The plan shall be an internally consistent document and all elements

shall be consistent with the future land use map. A comprehensive plan shall be adopted and amended with public participation as provided in RCW 36.70A.140. Each comprehensive plan shall include a plan, scheme, or design for each of the following: (1) **A land use element designating the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of the uses of land**, where appropriate, for agriculture, timber production, housing, commerce, industry, recreation, **open spaces and green spaces, urban and community forests within the urban growth area**, general aviation airports, public utilities, public facilities, and other land uses. The land use element shall include population densities, building intensities, and estimates of future population growth. The land use element shall provide for protection of the quality and quantity of groundwater used for public water supplies. **The land use element must give special consideration to achieving environmental justice in its goals and policies, including efforts to avoid creating or worsening environmental health disparities.** Wherever possible, the land use element should consider utilizing urban planning approaches that promote physical activity and reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled within the jurisdiction, but without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the state. **Where applicable, the land use element shall review drainage, flooding, and stormwater runoff in the area and nearby jurisdictions and provide guidance for corrective actions to mitigate or cleanse those discharges that pollute waters of the state, including Puget Sound or waters entering Puget Sound.** The land use element must reduce and mitigate the risk to lives and property posed by wildfires by using land use planning tools, which may include, but are not limited to, adoption of portions or all of the wildland urban interface code developed by the international code council or developing building and maintenance standards consistent with the firewise USA program or similar program designed to reduce wildfire risk, reducing wildfire risks to residential development in high risk areas and the wildland urban interface area, separating human development from wildfire prone landscapes, and protecting existing residential development and infrastructure through community wildfire preparedness and fire adaptation measures.

Steve Zemke for
Friends of Seattle's Urban Forest and Tree PAC

From: MICHAEL OXMAN <michaeloxman@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 9:54 AM
To: Duran, Rebecca <Rebecca.Duran@seattle.gov>; Kettle, Robert <Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov>; LEG_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>
Cc: Myra Rintamaki <myrar2004@gmail.com>; Alyson Teeter <ateeter@gmail.com>; Cheronne Wong <cheronne.wong@seattlesymphony.org>; donald.lachman@westcare.com
Subject: Garden of Remembrance at Benaroya Hall Advisory Board

CAUTION: External Email

Howdy Councilmember Kettle,

Yesterday I wrote you a letter with 7 issues about how the Garden of Remembrance at Benaroya Hall is affected by the city's overall tree policy. Please see my letter below.

Today, (May 29th, 2024), the Seattle Times is running its 2nd editorial this week about the crisis with loss of tree canopy. "*The Emerald City deserves stronger tree protections*". [The Emerald City deserves stronger tree protections | The Seattle Times](#)

There are no downtown parks, and the distance is 2 miles from the park at the Space Needle to City Hall Park in Pioneer Square. The half-acre Garden of Remembrance is midway, and hardly replaces a 'Park', but it is all we have in a concrete wasteland of sterility. The waterfront construction projects replacing the viaduct are a financial black hole draining any money for other downtown projects.

I referenced a May 24th Seattle Times editorial. *"There is also an environmental crisis as neighborhoods lose trees and shade and quality of life."* [Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance: Rising above the canopy cacophony | The Seattle Times](#)

That same May 24th issue also ran a full-page story, *"Readers love grows on trees"*. (See attachments). [You, our readers, love trees. Here are some of your favorites | The Seattle Times](#)

The root of all the problems pointed out in the Seattle Times and my letter is the mistaken belief that the ecosystem does not make money. The dichotomy of 'quality of life' and 'financial growth' is a huge gap dominated by bean counters. Concrete is 'king', and soil for growing plants is being legislated out of existence in favor of new construction that can be accounted for in real estate sales. A classic debate between qualitative/quantitative arguments. The 5-page white paper by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission in 2021 analyzes this existential divide. [CF 322099.pdf \(seattle.gov\)](#)

The organizational structure of city staff working on urban forestry policy is in disarray, as of 2022, and the Chief Arborist position has never been hired. This supervisory position needs to be filled as one of the revisions of the tree ordinance. [CF 322462.pdf \(seattle.gov\)](#)

In October 2023, the Garden of Remembrance Advisory Board recommended to the Department of Finance and Administrative Services FAS that a Master Plan for the 25 year old garden be developed. This recommendation is buried in the minutes of a Zoom meeting in a Drop Box, and is not publicly accessible.

The Garden of Remembrance will never get new money for projects unless there is a Master Plan, just as the city's urban forestry policies will never get a fair foothold in the city budget process without the Natural Capital Assessment.

Down at city hall, there is a battle between the Mayor's office (staff) and the City Council. When the Council decided in 2020 to do a study of how much money is injected into the economy by the urban forest environment, COVID troubles stopped that project, which has never been undertaken. We need the Natural Capital Assessment to determine the financial value of our environment. [Seattle Should Count Its Ecological Assets - The Urbanist](#)

So, the Mayor's office benefits from not being made aware of the contribution to the community by the half-acre of trees in the Garden of Remembrance, because that pot of money will remain at the same maintenance level, and they won't have to shift things around.

One of the under-noticed points in today's Seattle Times editorial is the recommendation that consideration for landscaping be moved from the 'end of the development process, to the beginning'. Developers are desperate to be allowed to build without regard for dwindling tree canopy. [How Developers Helped Shape Seattle's New Tree Ordinance | Post Alley](#)

So, I hope Councilmember Kettle does take the Advisory Board up on the offer to conduct a tour of this beautiful downtown urban forest.

Arboreally yours,

Michael Oxman
ISA Certified Arborist #PN-0756A
(206) 949-8733

On 05/28/2024 8:31 PM PDT MICHAEL OXMAN <michaeloxman@comcast.net> wrote:

Howdy, Councilmember Kettle,

Today there was an online constituent meeting with your staff person, Rebecca, and 2 members of the city Advisory Board that I volunteer for.

I am sending my notes, because there wasn't enough time to discuss my 7 points.

- 1). There are 4 vacancies on the 13-member Seattle Urban Forestry Commission. Some have been empty for over than a year.
- 2). Please implement the Natural Capital Assessment, which was funded in the 2020 budget, but was cancelled due to COVID. [Seattle Should Count Its Ecological Assets - The Urbanist](#)
- 3). Please amend the 2023 Tree Ordinance, which contains many ecosystem-destroying provisions, including a maximum 15% tree amenity area.
- 4). Garden of Remembrance Advisory Board asked FAS for help developing a Master Plan in October, 2023. The 25-year-old concrete is crumbling. We request your presence on a site tour at Benaroya Hall.
- 5). Tree Czar staff position was requested by the Urban Forestry Commission for coordinating 9 different department's tree policies.
- 6). Tree inventory database should supplement the 2021 Canopy Cover Assessment.
- 7). Marco Lowe, Seattle Municipal Chief Operating Operator was claimed to have conflict of interest in yesterday's op-ed by Alex Fryer (May 27th, 2024) in the Seattle Times. [Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance: Rising above the canopy cacophony | The Seattle Times](#)

Thanks for listening.

Arboreally yours,

Michael Oxman
ISA Certified Arborist #PN-0756A
(206) 949-8733

On 05/28/2024 3:16 PM PDT DONALD & LESLIE LACHMAN <lachmand@comcast.net> wrote:

Good day Rebecca,

It was a pleasure seeing you again. As you can tell Michael and I like all of our advisory board members share a passion for downtown Seattle's only war memorial, the Garden of Remembrance

Additionally, it is also the only urban canopy in downtown Seattle offering a tranquil refuge to all from the increasing hot summers we are experiencing !

As I shared with you we are asking Bob and his Team after thoughtful consideration to be our working Champions at City Hall.

I will send you background documents and other information points that may be helpful

Best regards

Donald

PS

I love the picture used in our Memorial Day flyer 2024

From: Stuart Niven <panorarbor@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 5:33 PM

To: MartinWesterman <artartart@seanet.com>

Cc: Morales, Tammy <Tammy.Morales@seattle.gov>; Lowe, Marco <Marco.Lowe@seattle.gov>; Michael SGSC Oxman Trees <michaeloxman@comcast.net>; Steve Zemke <stevezemke@msn.com>; heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>; Kevin Orme <ovaltinelatte@outlook.com>; David M Moehring <dmoehrin@uw.edu>; Barbara Bernard <barbara_bernard@yahoo.com>; Jessica Dixon-Horton <bardjess@msn.com>; cdlegacy206@icloud.com; Cedar Bushue <cedar.bushue92@gmail.com>; Richard Ellison <climbwall@msn.com>; Dave Gloger <dgloger@comcast.net>; James Davis <jamesdavis1400@gmail.com>; Janet Way <janetway@yahoo.com>; June BlueSpruce <jbluespruce@gmail.com>; Katy Griffith <katygr@msn.com>; Kersti Muul <kersti.e.muul@gmail.com>; meeganmary@comcast.net; Martha Baskin <mobaskin@earthlink.net>; plantkingdom1@gmail.com; Ruth Alice Williams <ruthalice@comcast.net>; Sandy Shettler <sshettler@msn.com>; Victoria Nelson <johnvick@comcast.net>; John McNulty <johnm4502@gmail.com>; Mary Fleck <maryfleckws@gmail.com>; Woo, Tanya <Tanya.Woo@seattle.gov>; Rivera, Maritza <Maritza.Rivera@seattle.gov>; Moore, Cathy <Cathy.Moore@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; Emery, Chanda <Chanda.Emery@Seattle.gov>; Ho, Yolanda <Yolanda.Ho@Seattle.gov>; council@seattle.gov; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Josh Morris <joshm@birdsconnectsea.org>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

Subject: Re: Fill UFC Positions 1 , 3, 5 and 11 now for better city governance

CAUTION: External Email

Good afternoon Martin,

Thank you for this much needed reminder to Seattle City's Land Use Committee about the dire importance of filling the current and long standing vacant positions within the UFC, including that which I held for five and half years. It is beyond shocking that these positions remain vacant, and from my perspective, it is a clear indication of the intentions of Mayor Lowe and his MBACKS colleagues that are cleverly embedded within City Hall to help orchestrate the increasing ease at which development can take place within Seattle, regardless of the impact to the natural environment and the hard working folk that call Seattle home.

I will be putting together a statement which will be sent to several parts of City Hall, the UFC and various media outlets to provide my insights into my time serving on the UFC and the knowledge I gained of the systematic failures within City governance, including the Mayor's office, City Council, SDCI and OSE, to adequately respect and acknowledge the various iterations of appropriately selected experts serving on the UFC and their many recommendations, opinions and views on how trees and the natural environment in Seattle should be managed, as is the reason for the existence of the UFC in the first instance.

I remain appalled at the way CM Strauss, SDCI and OSE manipulated City Council and beyond, to accomplish the worst possible tree (removal) ordinance in the history of Seattle, and the way in which it happened must be explained, which I will be attempting to do so soon, so watch this space. In the meantime, stop playing games and fill the vacant UFC positions. One person at least has been waiting for almost a year to start working with the commission, having already been approved by the UFC Chairs! MBACKS's games are not clever; they are overtly childish and completely blatant, and those enabling them should be deeply ashamed and embarrassed.

The clock is ticking and with every strike, another tree falls.

Thank you and kind regards,

Stuart Niven, BA (Hons)

Arborist & Tree and Environmental Protection Advocate

www.panorarbor.com

[ISA Certified Arborist PN-7245A & Tree Risk Assessment Qualification \(TRAQ\)](#)

[Arborist on Seattle Audubon Society Conservation Committee](#) 2020 - 2023

[Arborist on Seattle's Urban Forestry Commission](#) 2018 - 2023

[SDCI Tree Service Provider LIC-TSP-18622](#)

[SDOT Registered Tree Service Provider #TSP - 208](#)

Licensed, Bonded & Insured [WA Lic# PANORL*852P1](#) (Click to link to WA L&I's Verify a Contractor Page)

[Verified contractor on Nextdoor \(Click to see neighbour's comments!\)](#)

On Wed, Apr 24, 2024 at 7:56 AM MartinWesterman <artartart@seanet.com> wrote:

Greetings Seattle leaders,

As city council Land Use Committee chair CM Morales, and as Mayor Harrell's deputy Mr. Lowe, I am wondering, as a former director of the Seattle Green Spaces Coalition, why you are withholding the appointments for four positions on the Urban Forestry Commission?

Positions 1 , 3, 5 and 11 remain vacant at the UFC, while a large number of individuals are qualified to serve the city there. Some have been selected, then rejected by development interests — a political derailment of what should be a non-partisan selection process based on individual merit, for what should be an independent commission that serves the best interests of the whole city.

Seattle's ecosystems provide this city with \$3-\$4 billion in benefits and savings every year. The Seattle Green Spaces Coalition has advocated since 2015 for the city to value those natural assets. And the Urban Forestry Commission is a key player in advising the Mayor and City Council on how to protect, manage and conserve its urban forest, plant, and animal assets.

Depriving the UFC of input from a range of qualified experts weakens the broad perspectives and knowledge the Mayor and City Council need to make good choices for our city now, and in our future. The UFC's comments on the new comprehensive plan are necessary and required.

Please fill these positions immediately, so that the UFC can do its job, and contribute to better city governance, ordinance drafting and policy-making by you and your colleagues.

All the best,

Martin Westerman / SGSC

From: dmoehring@consultant.com <dmoehring@consultant.com>

Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 7:27 AM

To: [SCI_Code_Compliance](mailto:SCI_Code_Compliance@seattle.gov) <SCI_Code_Compliance@seattle.gov>

Cc: Josh Morris <joshm@birdsconnectsea.org>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; ufclandscape@gmail.com

Subject: No trees ?? for 3606 35th Ave. W

CAUTION: External Email

Seattle Code requires trees to be retained or planted on Neighborhood Residential Zoned lots. Yet a new three dwelling development with a \$1.65M single-family residence, and \$\$ AADU , and \$\$ DADU for 3606 35th Ave W (currently on the market for sale) **has no trees!**

There were several trees on this property, but they were cleared as none of the existing trees met the threshold requirements back in August 2022. See attached arborist report.

The permit drawings show four trees to be jammed into the front yard... however, there are no trees. Just grass.

Please remedy this lack of City inspection and lack of tree enforcement immediately with the real estate agent: Adrian Chin at 206-407-5452; with the architect Kevin O'Leary at KOarchitecture, and city inspector, and SDCI approver issuing a permit on 12/9/2022. (6801183-CN)
The builder unknown... but on site Thursday.

Someone is not doing their job... and in this case, at least three entities are held unaccountable for the future of Seattle's canopy.

Thank you,

David Moehring AIA NCARB

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

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 7:01 AM

To: LEG_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>;

PCD_OneSeattleCompPlan <OneSeattleCompPlan@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@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>; Wong, Greg

<Greg.Wong@seattle.gov>; Nelson, Sara <Sara.Nelson@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>;

Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Hollingsworth, Joy <Joy.Hollingsworth@seattle.gov>; Kettle, Robert

<Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov>; Morales, Tammy <Tammy.Morales@seattle.gov>; Rivera, Maritza

<Maritza.Rivera@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Moore, Cathy

<Cathy.Moore@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Ko, Elaine <Elaine.Ko@seattle.gov>; Marx,

Heather <Heather.Marx@seattle.gov>; Gheisar, Leyla <Leyla.Gheisar@seattle.gov>; Turla, Alexis

<Alexis.Turla@seattle.gov>; Carey, Imani <imani.carey@seattle.gov>; Chow, Evelyn

<Evelyn.Chow@seattle.gov>; Bowers, Logan <Logan.Bowers@seattle.gov>; Altshuler, Alex

<Alex.Altshuler@seattle.gov>; Sykes, Wendy <Wendy.Sykes@seattle.gov>; Maxwell, Sasha

<Sasha.Maxwell@seattle.gov>; Thoreson, Hannah <Hannah.Thoreson@seattle.gov>; Aldrich, Newell

<Newell.Aldrich2@seattle.gov>; Enbysk, Amy <Amy.Enbysk@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate

<Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Rodriguez, Anthony <Anthony.Rodriguez@seattle.gov>; Smith, Steven (LEG)

<Steven.Smith@seattle.gov>; Duran, Rebecca <Rebecca.Duran@seattle.gov>; Lo, Brent

<Brent.Lo@seattle.gov>; Mohn, Jeremy <Jeremy.Mohn@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin

<Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; Beckerman, Melisa <Melisa.Beckerman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi

<Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Spotts, Greg <Greg.Spotts@seattle.gov>; Rundquist, Nolan

<Nolan.Rundquist@seattle.gov>; Bean, Katey <Katey.BEAN@seattle.gov>

Subject: Street trees vs urban heat in Tacoma

CAUTION: External Email

surely Seattle can do similar preservation and preventative work as Tacoma, who have far, far less trees than we do?

Tacoma Tree Foundation and GRIT are working with the city, much like the Urban Forestry Commission, TreePAC, Friends of Seattle's Urban Forest, TreeAction Seattle and Trees & People Coalition have been trying to do for the past several years now, but instead we get the Tree Removal Ordinance of last spring? Huh.

"...Air temperature varied by 2.57 °C, on average, across our study area, and the probability of daytime temperatures exceeding regulated high temperature thresholds was up to five times greater in locations with no canopy cover within 10m compared to those with 100% cover."

Street trees provide an opportunity to mitigate urban heat and reduce risk of high heat exposure:
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-024-51921-y>

kevin orme
Seattle

From: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 8, 2024 8:17 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Cc: ufclandscape@gmail.com; Josh Morris <joshm@birdsconnectsea.org>; Becca Neumann <ufc.pos4@gmail.com>
Subject: June 12th UFC agenda - SDCI review of Omnibus 7 weeks after start of public comment period
Importance: High

CAUTION: External Email

Dear Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator and Co-chairs,

Please share these thoughts given my work schedule does not allow providing public comment on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 between 3pm and 5pm.

Unfortunately, it appears from the agenda of this Tree Ordinance Omnibus, the UFC has once again not been consulted by SDCI. Instead, UFC is being approached on June 12th about the Omnibus only AFTER it has been shared with the public, mayor, and city council.

Public comment period was closed five weeks ago. SDCI does not appear to be sharing with the UFC the comments that they has received.

Will or has an explanation been provided to the understanding and consensus of the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) that [code SMC 3.72.010](#) will be practiced by all City agencies going forward as it has in the past, and an explanation to the circumstances since 2022 that have caused this law to be circumvented?

Will the agenda item of the OSE compare the legal parameters of this commission relative to other Seattle Commissions. For example, does the Seattle OPCD put forward policies to the public prior to consultation or recommendations from the Seattle Planning Commission?

Particularly, slide 4 admits the circumvented process with this Omnibus:

- *Environmental review (SEPA) for the code amendments is complete. The **comment period closed on May 9, 2024.***
- *City Council will hold a hearing on the proposed **omnibus amendments for adoption in the 3rd quarter of 2024.***

Why is this process relevant or even important? Should not, in fact, the SDCI staff be asking the Commission on Wednesday, "**What types of clarification via an Omnibus does the Urban Forestry Commission recommend to the 2023 Tree Ordinance?**" I do not see that inquiry in the slides shared with the agenda as one would expect given the code SMC3.72 describes.

Particularly, the **UFC** **input and advisement is required and needed for slide 6 of 15** ***. But the content of this slide is vague. How can a Commissioner comment on an overly general bullet point, as provided?

The slide 6 as shared makes no attempt to clarify what is being adjusted in the code with this Omnibus... or even explains how it is only minor in nature. SDCI staff may be asked to clarify what is being vaguely described perhaps by the support of easy to understand graphics so that both the public and the Commissioners may understand what is being covered/ included/ suggested by the issued Omnibus... before and after.

Some later slides cover SDCI Directors Rules.

Notably missing from the presentation is the proposed Directors Rule 2023-11 which would have avoided the 250% to 400% inflated size of Exceptional Tier 2 trees . See *September 6, 2023 meeting of the UFC*. Link [here](#).

Some of the Commissioners thought this Rule was implemented after UFC review. Instead it has been pulled as if it had been rejected by the UFC. This Rule is essential in order for Seattle to achieve a balance of both more density and achieving a 30% canopy - or 1000 additional canopy acres - within the next 13 years.



As a clear example of inflated tree size, included within this message is the architect's submission of the **50-inch DSH Western Red Cedar** with a 60-foot diameter canopy located at 3003 88th Ave NE. The 2023 code inflates the measured size of this tree from its actual 60-foot dripline to a theoretical 100-foot area of lot coverage, so that the architect may claim that this Tier 2 tree in no way may be retained while providing a house, an AADU, and a garage studio apartment. Even more alarming is that the prior code allowed up to a 35% encroachment of the outer critical root zone area, whereas this inflated tree drip-line method allows 0% encroachment into the inflated tree area.

Sincerely,
David Moehring AIA NCARB

=====

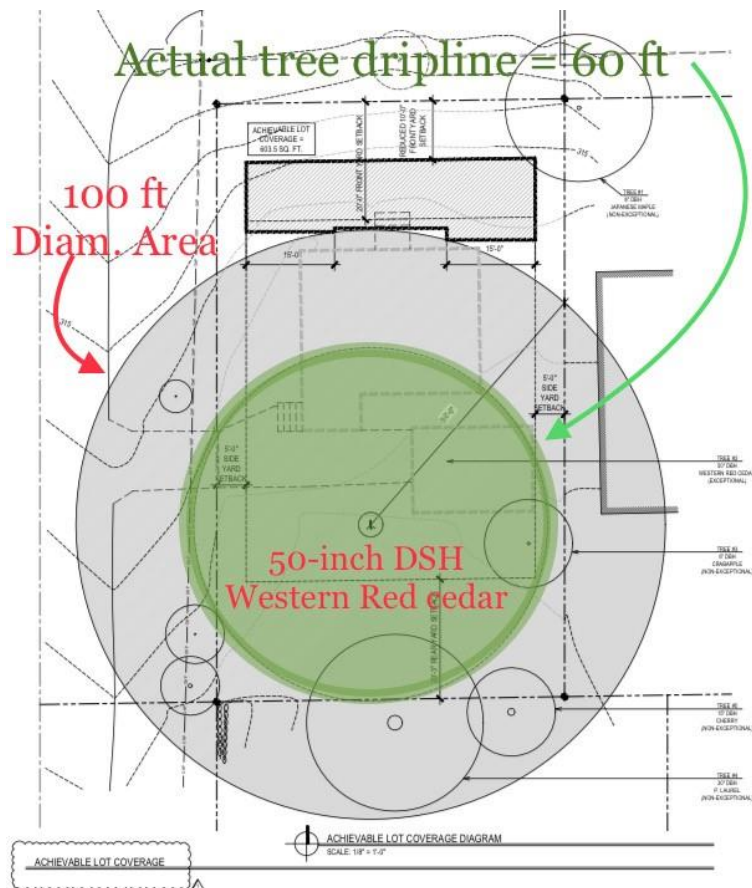
***** What does this really mean on Slide 6 of 15 states:**

"25.11.060 Requirements for trees when development is proposed -- Changes to section 25.11.060 to provide corrected reference to indicate which portion of the Tree Protection Area may be reduced by the Director consistent with the language in Ordinance 126821."

"25.11.070 Tree protection on sites undergoing development in Neighborhood Residential, Lowrise, Midrise, commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones:

- Subsection 25.11.070.A.2 to provide clarity around reducing yards and setbacks in order to voluntarily protect Tier 1,2,3 and 4 trees.
- Subsection 25.11.070.A.3 address the calculation of maximum lot coverage and that minimum width of structure that must be able to be achieved in order to determine of a tree may be removed.
- Subsection 25.11.070.B.2.b to clarify that developments identified are for low income housing meeting the definition in Title 23."

=====

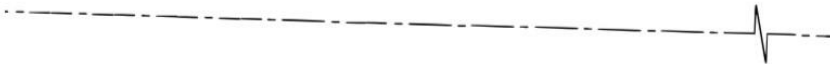


60 ft dripline increased to 100 ft tree area using 2023 Tree removal Method. Directors Rule 11-2023 stopped from correcting a bad ordinance provision.
Plan Set Consolidated Summary Report - 3003...

TREE IDENTIFICATION TABLE

SOURCE: ANDY CROSSETT #PN-7375A, TREE FROG, LLC.

I.D. #	DIAMETER	TREE NAME	BOTANICAL NAME
1	8"	JAPANESE MAPLE	ACER PALMATUM
2	50"	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA
3	6"	FLOWERING CRABAPPLE	MALUS SP.
4	~30"	PORUGUESE LAUREL	PRUNUS LUSITANICA
5	~15"	FLOWERING CHERRY	PRUNUS SERRULATA



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

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 1:22 PM

To: LEG_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>;

PCD_OneSeattleCompPlan <OneSeattleCompPlan@seattle.gov>

Cc: Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn

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<Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Spotts, Greg <Greg.Spotts@seattle.gov>; Rundquist, Nolan

<Nolan.Rundquist@seattle.gov>; Bean, Katey <Katey.BEAN@seattle.gov>

Subject: Re: Street trees vs urban heat in Tacoma - webinar June 26, 12-1pm

CAUTION: External Email

it sure would be nice if some from the SeaCC and/or their staff can attend this webinar and truly see what we have been talking about in the tree advocate community? Tacoma has MUCH more pavement than Seattle

does, but are working much harder at putting back the canopy - can't we simply PROTECT our canopy to avoid being put in the same place?

Lunch and Learn | Rooted: Urban Forestry in Focus <https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-c83e84007d7ed5c0&q=1&e=f317bb2a-9bda-4dfd-ad35-2395d6b32239&u=https%3A%2F%2Ftacomatreefoundation.org%2Fcalendar%2Frooted>

What is an urban forest? And what are the questions that arise when we set out to grow a city's forest?

In this lunch and learn webinar, Lisa Kenny, Community Trees Program Coordinator, will help us understand the intersection of trees across environmental and public health disciplines. You will hear strategies for urban forest management, fascinating tree facts, and how TTF and Urban Forestry partners are working in partnerships to advance the City's goals in upcoming projects.

Stick around until the end for resources that will be valuable for anyone who cares about trees and Tacoma, from the tree-curious to the self-declared tree advocate.

kevin orme
Seattle