

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Matt Mega, Chair • John Small, Vice-Chair • Nancy Bird • Gordon Bradley
John Floberg • John Hushagen • Jeff Reibman • Peg Staeheli

April 6, 2011

Urban Forest Interdepartmental Team
c/o Sandra Pinto de Bader
Office of Sustainability and Environment
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2748
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Urban Forest IDT,

Thank you for your commitment to Seattle's urban forest. As you know better than most, balancing the need for high quality delivery of services in an urban environment while protecting trees can be a daunting challenge. Hazard trees need to be removed, power lines cleared, and trenches dug, to name a few. I am also sure you are well versed in the politics of tree removal and the powerful emotions that can surface when tree removal is proposed.

As the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) moves into its second year, we want to acknowledge all the work that you do in support of Seattle's trees. The UFC is looking forward to strengthening its partnership with the IDT.

The UFC feels it is important to open and maintain as many communication channels and partnerships as possible. We already work closely with the Office of Sustainability and Environment and have had numerous discussions with other City Departments on key urban forest issues. We feel it is important to coordinate efforts with the IDT to better understand each other's workload and more importantly where we can leverage each other's activities for a stronger urban forest.

We would like to ask the Urban Forest IDT to join us in a strong partnership to ensure a comprehensive and effective approach to urban forest protection and enhancement in Seattle. We would like to propose a half-day planning meeting in the fall to review 2012 agendas and goals, including the UFMP update and other action items; to establish a structure for consistent exchange of information; and to find ways to support each other in moving issues forward in our collective effort to accomplish the Urban Forest Management Plan goals.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Mega". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matt Mega, Chair
Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

cc: Glen Allen – SCL
Sara Calvillo-Hoffman - FAS
Shane Dewald - SDOT
Jana Dilley – OSE
Beth Duncan – Seattle Center
Rou Francis – SDOT
Cheryl Fraser - Parks
Deb Heiden – SPU
Mark Mead – Parks
Darren Morgan – SDOT
David Mutchler – SCL
Nolan Rundquist – SDOT
Sandra Pinto de Bader – OSE
Brent Schmidt – SCL
David Selk – Zoo
Brennon Staley – DPD
Joe Starstead - SPU
Eric Sterner – Seattle Center

Sandra Pinto de Bader, Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator
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www.seattle.gov/trees/UFcommission.htm