

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Weston Brinkley, Chair • Joanna Nelson de Flores, Vice-Chair
Tom Early • Megan Herzog • Craig Johnson
Sarah Rehder • Sandra Whiting • Andrew Zellers • Steve Zemke

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

January 10, 2018

Meeting Notes

Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 2750 (27th floor)
700 5th Avenue, Seattle

Attending

Commissioners

Joanna Nelson de Flores – vice-chair
Craig Johnson
Tom Early
Megan Herzog
Sarah Rehder
Sandra Whiting
Andrew Zellers
Steve Zemke

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE

Public

None

Absent- Excused

Weston Brinkley– chair

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>

Call to order

Joanna called the meeting to order.

Public comment

None

SDCI DR 2017-21 recommendation

ACTION: A motion to approve the letter of recommendation as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

The Commission discussed the new iteration of the letter.

Commissioners acknowledged that the UFC was leaning towards not getting into the minutiae of the DR and instead encourage the City to make changes to the tree protection code.

TreePAC had a meeting about the DR and Steve shared the highlights: consider impacts on climate change, equity issues around tree removal in highly polluted areas. Consider creative factors besides value of the tree.

The UFC could say make it simple and consider other issues. In developing a new way to penalize people and calculate a fine, to include other issues into the valuation process.

Make a map based on existing canopy cover levels. If the tree comes out of an area with low canopy, then add a weighing factor (with an explanation why).

Recommend going at 100% (unless we have other documentation that proves it's not 100%) so the onus is not on the City. Make it simpler.

Tree appraisal process – is dictated by the ISA NW based on species alone. With elements such as quality, health, etc. The appraiser can then adjust them downward. Can they be adjusted upward based on location? That would be included as part of the location piece of the formula.

Other municipalities consider a tree not to be hazardous if it was removed. The tree owner would have to prove that the tree was hazardous.

Sandra will polish up and share with Weston and Joanna before

Welcome letter to the Mayor – move to next meeting

2017 Annual Report and transmittal letter – move to next meeting

2018 Work Plan – move to next meeting

Schmitz Park donation letter – move to next meeting

Public comment

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

Public input:

From: Joyce Moty [mailto:jmmoty@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 12:40 PM

To: Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>

Cc: Jenny Durkan <jenny.durkan@seattle.com>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>; Juarez, Debora <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>; Sawant, Kshama <Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov>; Gonzalez, Lorena <Lorena.Gonzalez@seattle.gov>; Johnson, Rob <Rob.Johnson@seattle.gov>; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>

Subject: Comments: SDCI Director's Rule 21-2017

Comments on SDCI - Director's Rule 21-2017

NO NET LOSS OF TREES IN SEATTLE

Trees are intrinsic to the mental and physical health of Seattle residents, especially in the current go-go no-holds-barred development that this city is experiencing. Our citizens should be able to experience the benefits of trees in the neighborhoods where they live.

SDCI must change from a complaint system to a permit system to address the removal of trees. The current **complaint system does not work** to protect and preserve mature and exceptional trees.

A permit system should have a registry of approved arborists who can render an accurate and objective assessment on proposed tree removals and fines.

The director's rule must proscribe substantial fines for illegal tree removals based on the professional arborist's assessment.

The SDCI must exercise their right to utilize a permit process for tree removal (similar to SDOT)... and clarify the tree removal permit requirements within the Director's Rule.

Now is the time to act. When citizens are concerned that we are losing trees, it is time to act to save what is left.

Sincerely,

Joyce Moty

TreePAC board member